



May 5, 2008

Strathmore teen named 4-H Premier's Award winner

Olds... The Alberta 4-H Program's most prestigious award has been presented to Myranda Stewart of Strathmore during the 51st annual 4-H Selections Program at Olds College, May 2-5. Stewart was chosen from among 90 of the province's top 4-H members as the 2008 Premier's Award winner.

"Building a stronger Alberta is about investing in our future. And that means investing in our youth," said Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta. "We are fortunate to have dedicated young people in this province, like those involved in 4-H. It's their bright ideas and actions that will continue to make this province a place people are proud to call home."



Richard Marz, MLA Olds, Didsbury and Three Hills presents Myranda Stewart with the Premier's Award trophy

George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Food said, "4-H is about helping Alberta's young people grow into self-reliant, confident and successful individuals who will be the future leaders of our agriculture industry. There is no doubt that this year's award winner is all of these things and more. The government is proud to continue its strong support of the 4-H Program, which contributes so much to our rural communities."

Stewart, a 17-year-old high school student, has stood out in Alberta's 4-H program, demonstrating the highest standards of leadership, communication and personal development skills. Throughout her nine years in 4-H, she has held numerous executive position in her club while excelling as a District Key Member.

"The Premier's Award selection process was by far my best 4-H experience," said Stewart. "The system for selecting the recipient is, in itself, the greatest and most valuable experience I have gained."

In addition to the Premier's Award announcement, 45 4-H members were chosen to represent 4-H at major educational programs throughout Canada and the United States over the 2008/09 year. Fourteen 4-H Ambassadors were also selected to serve a two-year term promoting 4-H and youth involvement in Alberta.

4-H is Alberta's longest running rural youth program with 6692 members and 2,300 leaders participating in close to 400 clubs across the province. For more information, visit www.4h.ab.ca or contact the provincial 4-H office at 780-422-4444.

Editors' note: Backgrounder on Selections Program attached.



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Provincial 4-H Selections Award Trips

The following pages outline the 45 trips awarded at the Selections Program.

4-H Ambassadors Group

Back row l to r: Heather Polasek, Sexsmith; Kari Bergerud, Edgerton; Stacey Benjamin, Stettler; Cody Coleman, Innisfail; Dean Kosheiff, Fairview; Luke Wrubleski, New Sarepta; Josh Foot, Red Willow; Owen Burdek, Lac La Biche
Front row l to r: Stephanie Parker, Lethbridge; Brittany Miller, Calmar; Lindsey Meredith, Claresholm; Myranda Stewart, Strathmore; Jenna Huot, Vimy; Adeleen Bayes, Trochu

4-H Ambassadors exemplify the leadership, communication and personal development skills for which Alberta's 4-H program is recognized. Their role is to promote 4-H to members and non-members.



Southern Region

Lindsey Meredith, Claresholm
Stephanie Parker, Lethbridge

Calgary Region

Adeleen Bayes, Trochu
Myranda Stewart, Strathmore

West Central Region

Cody Coleman, Innisfail
Luke Wrubleski, New Sarepta

East Central Region

Stacey Benjamin, Stettler
Josh Foot, Red Willow

Northeast Region

Kari Bergerud, Edgerton
Owen Burdek, Lac La Biche

Northwest Region

Jenna Huot, Vimy
Brittany Miller, Calmar

Peace Region

Dean Kosheiff, Fairview
Heather Polasek, Sexsmith

Description of Selections Award Trips

The Royal Bank 4-H Interprovincial Exchange

Sponsor: The Royal Bank of Canada

Five delegates meet in Calgary for a send-off banquet before departing to their host provinces. During the exchange, they experience the lifestyles and customs of another province by exchanging ideas and developing a better understanding and appreciation of other Canadians. Delegates will also have the experience of hosting a delegate from another province.

Recipients: Stacey Benjamin, Stettler
Carla McDonald, Stony Plain
Krystal Stone, Kitscoty

Back row l to r: Amber Shuttleworth, Balzac; Andrew McCrae, Vermilion; Stacey Benjamin, Stettler, Bob Bolten
Front row l to r: Krystal Stone, Kitscoty; Carla McDonald, Stony Plain



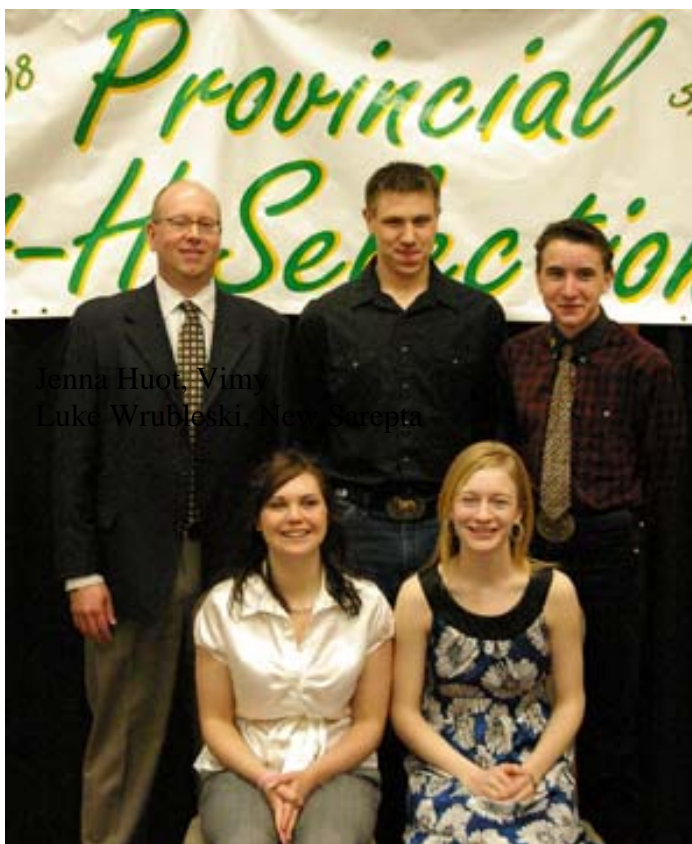
Montana 4-H Congress, Bozeman, Montana

Sponsor: Calgary Stampede and 4-H Program Trust

During the Congress, the four Alberta delegates will see Montana 4-Hers in action, and learn how 4-H operates in Montana. Delegates are invited to take part in seminars, workshops and discussions as well as observing various competitions.

Recipients: Adeleen Bayes, Trochu
Vance Kremp, Barrhead

Back row l to r: Aron Madson, Vance Kremp, Barrhead; Luke Wrubleski, New Sarepta
Front row l to r: Jenna Huot, Vimy; Adeleen Bayes, Trochu



National 4-H Citizenship Seminar, Ottawa, Ontario

Sponsor: Canadian 4-H Council

Eight delegates will join other 4-H members from each province for a seminar in Ottawa. Delegates will be involved in group discussions, lectures, and seminars dealing with Canadian government structure. They will have the opportunity to see the Parliament Buildings, attend a session at the House of Commons, visit Government House and tour the city of Ottawa.

Back row l to r: Lorne Howey, Fox Creek; Jerrid Driedger, Calgary; Scott Blahun, Mayerthorpe; Derrick Plante, St. Paul; Bob Boulton

Front row l to r: Kayla Tollefson, Camrose; Brianna Block, Rosalind; Lindsey Meredith, Claresholm; Jane Becker, Edson



Recipients: Jane Becker, Edson
Brianna Block, Rosalind
Lorne Howey, Fox Creek
Derrick Plante, St. Paul

Scott Blahun, Mayerthorpe
Jerrid Driedger, Calgary
Lindsey Meredith, Claresholm
Kayla Tollefson, Camrose

National 4-H Conference, Toronto, Ontario

Sponsor: Canadian 4-H Council

Eight Alberta delegates, along with delegates from the other nine provinces, the US and the United Kingdom will come together for six days in Toronto. This program deals with issues and concerns in Canadian agriculture relevant to senior 4-H members and involves group discussions, guest lecturers, and total group participation in a variety of sessions.

Back row l to r: Heather Harty, Foremost; Sarah Reich, Tomahawk; Kari Bergerud, Edgerton; Brittney Davies, Dapp; Jessica Ruskowsky, Wetaskiwin

Front row l to r: Heather Polasek, Sexsmith; Bob Boulton; Kevin Bolduc, Stavely; Stacey Kading, Cessford



Recipients: Kari Bergerud, Edgerton
Brittney Davies, Dapp
Stacey Kading, Cessford
Sarah Reich, Tomahawk

Kevin Bolduc, Stavely
Heather Harty, Foremost
Heather Polasek, Sexsmith
Jessica Ruskowsky, Wetaskiwin

California 4-H Exchange, California

Sponsor: Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

The delegates will travel to California to participate in the California Annual 4-H Leadership Conference as well as a possible host family stay prior to the conference. Delegates will experience 4-H programming in California, visit with 4-H members and exchange ideas. The leadership conference is designed with fun and learning in mind and is focused on developing leadership skills and discussing current issues that affect youth.

Recipients: Owen Burdek, Lac La Biche

Jennifer Danielsen, Delia

4-H Alberta/Northwest Territories

Agriculture Development Tour

Sponsors: ITS Travel and 4-H Program Trust

Back row l to r: Stephanie Parker, Lethbridge; Marina Matson, Bluffton; Mark Doolaege, Consort; Graham Brittain, Lacombe; Brad Nichiporik, Hotchkiss; Russel Gallelli, Crossfield; Travis Hanson, Airdrie; Nathan Sereda, Bow Island; Myranda Stewart, Strathmore; Marguerite Stark

Front row l to r: Jenna Huot, Vimy; Adeleen Bayes, Trochu



The 4-H Alberta/Northwest Territories

Agriculture Development Tour promotes the importance of agricultural products and by-products, as well as increase the awareness of the diversity of agriculture throughout Alberta and the NWT. An attempt will be made to purchase Alberta products where possible, visit agricultural processing and production facilities, and identify Alberta products that are available in the Northwest Territories. Members will also gain an appreciation of the culture and lifestyles of residents in different regions of Alberta and the NWT. Delegates will travel by bus and will camp throughout the trip.

Recipients: Graham Brittain, Lacombe
Mark Doolaege, Consort
Russell Gallelli, Crossfield
Jennifer Jones, DeWinton
Marina Matson, Bluffton
Stephanie Parker, Lethbridge
Myranda Stewart, Strathmore
Krista Van Sickle, Onoway

Pamela Deagle, Consort
Chelsey Fulton, Carstairs
Travis Hanson, Airdrie
Rita-Marie Leask, Cremona
Brad Nichiporik, Hotchkiss
Nathan Sereda, Bow Island
Kristina Szybunka, Sangudo
Sarena Verbeek, Morinville

National 4-H Skills Conference, Brandon, Manitoba

Sponsor: Canadian 4-H Council

Eighteen delegates from across Canada will join senior 4-H members from Manitoba to explore how to identify, acquire, expand and market key skills that are valuable to gaining employment. Through interactive learning, delegates will identify and enhance the skills necessary to be successful in current and future job markets.

Recipients: Jocelyn Dowell, Carstairs
Miller, Calmar

Brittany



Alternate List

4-H members listed as an alternate may be called upon to replace a delegate at any one of the above programs.

Jennifer Alexandre, Falher
Sydney Budgeon, Crossfield
Kayla Getzinger, Stony Plain
Gina Lougheed, Red Deer
Josee Marcoux, McLennan
Amy Schoenknecht, Hay Lakes
Courtney Webb, Brooks

Colten Bodie, Coaldale
Cody Coleman, Innisfail
Dean Kosheiff, Fairview
Keanan Mahoney, Vimy
Emily Puch, Pincher Creek
Kasara Van Hecke, Busby

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Selections 2008

Front Row (L to r):

Cody Coleman, Hal Nixdorff, Vance Kremp, Dean Kosheiff, Stacey Benjamin, Russell Gallelli, Colton Bodie, Jerred Procee, Graham Brittain, Andrew McCrae, Brad Nichiporik, Clinton Grudecki, Matt Hodgson

1st Standing Row:

Vanessa Goodman (Facilitator), Leila Hickman (Facilitator), Lorne Howey, Rita-Marie Leask, Jessica Ruskowsky, Emily Puch, Krystal Stone, Sarah Morton, Jocelyn Dowell, Amy Schoenkecht, Krista Van Sickle, Jenna Logan, Jennifer Alexandre, Greg Borduzak (Jr. Staff)

2nd Standing Row:

Janet Kerr (Facilitator), Yvonne Yaremicio (Program Coordinator), Marina Matson, Gina Lougheed, Kristina Szybunka, Janessa Brewin, Stephanie Parker, Megan McBain-Tannas, Chelsey Fulton, Stacey Kading, Alexis McNeill, Sydney Brink, Jenna Huot, Jesse Wall, Pamela Deagle, Alexia Hoy (Jr. Staff)

3rd Standing Row:

Colleen Prefontaine (Facilitator), Ashley Eckel (Staff), Shelley Sayers (Facilitator), Owen Burdek, Leanne Wood, Myranda Stewart, Derrick Plante, Carla McDonald, Natalie Leask, Sarena Verbeek, Sydney Budgeon, Jennifer Jones, Kayla Tollefson, Jillian Wallace, Heather Harty, Stacey Williams

4th Standing Row:

Stacy Murray (Facilitator), Cole Andrew (Jr. Staff), Jolene Noble (Jr. Staff), Kristina Huisman, Amber Shuttleworth, Brianna Block, Daniel Dowell, Sarah Reich, Jennifer Daniels, Jerrid Driedger, Mark Doolaege, Jessica Martens, Tevis Shirliffe, Andrew Gray, Hayden Miller, Jeff Vatamaniuk

5th Standing Row:

Rob Smith (Facilitator), Kevin Bolduc, Scott Blahun, Evan Fletcher, Zach Konschuck, Heather Polasek, Nathan Sereda, Josee Marcoux, Samantha Drefs, Jane Becker, Josh Foot, Kari Bergerud, Garrett Fletcher, Travis Hanson, Dustin Coleman, Monica Trautman

6th Standing Row:

Cameron Horner (Facilitator), Kasara Van Hecke, Alyssa Bergo, Courtney Webb, Brittany Miller, Karla Ness, Kayla Getzinger, Addy Bayes, Lindsey Meredith, Brittney Davies, Carly Getzinger, Karly Bourbeau, Keanan Mahoney, Luke Wrubleski, Colin Blanchette