August 6, 2013

Families honoured at Camrose for 100-year commitment to agriculture

Pioneering Alberta families who have farmed and ranched the same land for 100 years or more are being recognized by the Government of Alberta with Century Farm and Ranch Awards.

“We are proud to celebrate the legacy of Albertans who have dedicated their lives to agriculture and who have helped shape this province into what it is today,” said Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “The strength and future success of our agriculture industry depends greatly on the hard work, ingenuity and determination of our farming families.”

Prior to the discovery of oil, agriculture was Alberta’s primary industry. Today, agriculture continues to be the province’s largest renewable industry, with more than 43,000 farms totaling 50.5 million acres.

Recipients of the Century Farm and Ranch Award are presented with a bronze plaque to commemorate their significant achievement. A total of 82 families are being recognized across the province this year. This includes families who were recognized at an awards luncheon in Camrose on August 3.

“This award marks an important achievement and a proud history of working our own land for our family,” said award recipient Gloria Wesley of Forestburg. “Four generations have farmed on this land now and I hope a fifth generation will take it over when the time comes.”

Since the Century Farm and Ranch Awards began in 1993, a total of 1,440 families have received plaques.

Our government was elected to keep building Alberta, to live within its means and to fight to open new markets for Alberta’s resources. We will continue to deliver the responsible change Albertans voted for.

- 30 -

**Backgrounder:** List of award recipients

**Editor’s note:** Photos from the Camrose event will posted on [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com) for media use. Interviews with families can be arranged.

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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Century Farm and Ranch Family Award Recipients

Jason and Kodi Anderson of Sexsmith
Todd and Lexi Balisky and Lynn and Albrecht Scheidegger of Sexsmith
Roger Bellingham of Bawlf
Joe and Glenda Biegel of Fairview
Roger and Heather Chevraux of Killam
Dwayne and Linda Forre of Bawlf
Darrell and Margaret Hinkey of Hardisty
John and Alida Kippers of Neerlandia
Donald P. Lozeron of Sexsmith
Frederick Daniel and Elaine Lyons of Westlock
Theresa and Peter Lysyk of Redwater
Johannes Mast of Barrhead
Eugene and Grace Messmer of Barrhead
Craig Tiemstra and Albert Tiemstra of Neerlandia
Gloria Wesley of Forestburg
George and Joan Young of Evansburg
Violet Zolkewski and son Troy Zolkewski of Thorhild

A full listing of 2012 Century Farm and Ranch Family award recipients can be found on the website at: http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/centuryfarm

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