

## Farm families honoured at Lethbridge Exhibition President's reception dinner

Aug. 19, 2014

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

“Alberta’s farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our great province. For more than a century, their pioneering spirit and hard work have paved the way for a thriving agriculture sector and a vibrant rural Alberta. I congratulate all of the families who are receiving awards this year and thank them for their continued dedication to agriculture in our province.”

- Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Recipients of the Century Farm and Ranch Award are presented with a bronze plaque to commemorate their significant achievement. A total of 65 families are being recognized across the province this year. This includes 12 families who will be recognized in Lethbridge on Aug. 19.

“It’s wonderful that the government recognizes farm families for all their hard work. This award prompted a reunion which brought 86 family members to our farm to help us celebrate and proudly display the bronze plaque in our yard.”

– Betty Lodermeier of Milk River, award recipient

Since the Century Farm and Ranch Awards began in 1993, more than 1,400 families have received plaques. A full list of the Century Farm and Ranch Award recipients can be found on the Agriculture and Rural Development [website](#).

Today, agriculture continues to be the province’s largest renewable industry, with more than 43,000 farms totalling 50.5 million acres.

Under the [Building Alberta Plan](#), our government is investing in families and communities, living within our means, and opening new markets for Alberta's resources to ensure we're able to fund the services Albertans told us matter most to them. We will continue to deliver the responsible change Albertans voted for.

**Editor’s note:** Photos from the Lethbridge event will posted on [Flickr](#) for media use. Interviews with families can be arranged.

### Media inquiries

Jeanna Friedley

[jeanna.friedley@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jeanna.friedley@gov.ab.ca)

780-719-8391

Communications

Agriculture and Rural Development

## **Backgrounder – Century Farm and Ranch Award recipients available for interviews**

Andersen-Hamilton Family of Seven Persons

Comstock Family of Rosebud

Lodermeier Family of Milk River

Strang Family of Claresholm

Svanes Family of Picture Butte

Ulrich Family of Schuler

Volk Family of Burdett

Wilson Family of Gleichen

Wylie Family of De Winton

Ziegenhagel Family of Walsh south