

SHOP, EAT, EXPERIENCE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THIS SUMMER

Fresh local food, family fun and good clean country air – what could be more appealing? This summer, groups of ag tourism operators all over Alberta are working together to bring some exciting events to the marketplace. Here is a peek at the multitude of ag tourism cluster activities and events coming to you from across the province.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA ag tourism experiences

GET OUTTA' TOWN Bus Tours

Get Outta' Town and eat local! Here is an opportunity to take a bus tour and experience the history and reality of agriculture in the Lethbridge area. Each ticket includes a meal made from fresh local ingredients. **TWO DAYS ONLY!**

Friday, August 15 (evening) – the A-MAZE-ing Vegetable Tour!

Saturday, August 16 (morning) – Hutterites and History Tour

Check out www.GOTLethbridge.ca for the details. Tickets are available at Global TV in Lethbridge.

DAMES ON THE RANGE

The “Dames on the Range” look forward to meeting you and giving you an offering of their own unique perspective of the landscape, natural beauty and ranching lifestyle of some of the oldest cattle country in Alberta along the eastern slopes of the Rockies. Different vacation packages and activities are available for you to explore. Check out www.damesontherange.com for more details.

FLAVOURS OF THE FOOTHILLS

The Flavours of the Foothills is a self guided country culinary driving tour located just south of the City of Calgary. It features three destinations, including Alberta's 1st honey winery, where you can experience the farm, learn about how their natural products are grown and harvested and enjoy tasty renditions of a wide variety of products. Participating farms are open to everyone throughout the season. Be sure to check out the 3rd Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, August 23rd. For more information, visit www.flavoursofthefoothills.com

CENTRAL ALBERTA ag tourism experiences

COUNTRY DRIVE

This year, 12 of our partners will be open on June 7th and 8th to showcase their farms at the Springtime Country Drive event. Enjoy a day of farm tours, children's activities, gift shopping, food festivals or just a quiet lunch enjoying the country views. Each stop will offer a unique experience. Check out www.countrydrive.ca for a detailed map and description or call 1.800.215.8946.

Be on the lookout for information on the Summertime Country Drive on August 2nd and 3rd.

BRUNCH ON THE BEACH

Brunch at the Beach will be held at the Gull Lake Centre on Saturday, August 16th from 10:30 to 3:00 pm. This event will be a celebration of the many agricultural producers located in the County of Lacombe, featuring the scrumptious brunch prepared by chef Tim Wood from the Eco Café at Pigeon Lake. There will also be an opportunity to purchase local product as well. Tickets are \$25/person and can be purchased from any of the following people:

Michelle Pierson 403.782.9672

Marcella Van Stryland 403.784.3519

Jeannette Jones 403.782.0301

EDMONTON AREA ag tourism experiences

RURAL RENDEZVOUS

Many unique country experiences can be found west of Edmonton. Enjoy your Rural Rendezvous experience by participating in a special event day or connect with operators during regular operating hours or by appointment. Special event days include:

Rural Rendezvous with Dad on Father's Day – Sunday, June 15th from 11 – 5 pm

Summer Rendezvous Event – Sunday, August 24th from 11 – 5 pm

Country Christmas Rendezvous – November 16 & 17 from 10 – 5 pm

Be sure to visit www.rrtour.ca for all the details.

EDMONTON'S COUNTRYSIDE features 4 exciting upcoming events. Check

www.edmontonscountryside.ca for the specifics.

Visit Edmonton's Countryside 2008 Guide

Hot off the press, the Visit Edmonton's Countryside 2008 Guide is bigger and better than ever! Still glossy and in full color with all-new photos, 68 pages team with intriguing ag-tourism operations, delightful day-trip destinations, and over 300 events to consider.

Greenhouses, tea houses, historic houses, train rides, boat rides, horse rides, garage sales, bake sales, art sales, festivals, fairs, family-run fun, petting farms, fruit farms and farm barns...just to name a few! There are so many places to go and people to see this year, visitors will have fun just deciding where to begin their adventures!

3rd Annual Mother's Day Weekend Spring Drive

Another very successful Spring Drive was held on the Mother's Day Weekend throughout Strathcona, Leduc, Parkland, and Sturgeon Counties. 21 greenhouse and garden-inspired destinations graced the map in the brochure and all reported a brisk weekend. The \$500 Spring Drive Shopping Spree was won by a Spruce Grove resident who was a third year attendee on the popular driving tour.

Country Soul Stroll

The 6th annual Country Soul Stroll promises to be yet another great self-guided driving tour in the Edmonton countryside with regional pancake breakfasts to kick off the popular event. The Counties of Sturgeon, Parkland, Leduc and Strathcona will all boast clusters of 6 to 17 stops along the way – guiding travelers with the easy to follow and colorful roadmap inside the fold-out brochure. New additions to the Stroll include more

historical sites, additional greenhouses, great eateries, artisans, U-picks and more. A \$500 Edmonton's Countryside Shopping Spree and Snap the Stroll Contest will once again add to the excitement of this award-winning event.

Country Christmas

Things will really be heating up this winter with an expanded vision and mission for Country Christmas 2008. The treasured weekend retreats at local bed & breakfasts will be available on various weekends throughout November with all of our favorites and some new additions from the Greater Edmonton Bed and Breakfast Association. As well, the 2008 brochure will be listing anything and everything to do with Christmas in the regions! Art Sales, craft sales, Santa Claus parades, Light-Up festivals, sleigh rides, and all things bright and beautiful for the season!

KALYNA/NORTH EAST ALBERTA ag tourism experiences

OPEN GATES ON 28

Just 1 hour east of Edmonton in the Smoky Lake area, you will find 3 different ag tourism operations who are part of the Open Gates on 28 promotions. Let us delight your senses with our authentic experiences, everything from berries, honey, market garden product to a petting zoo are available to discover throughout the summer. Be sure to check out www.kalynacountry.com/opengateson28 for more information.

DINE KALYNA

In celebration of our unique regional cuisine, a Gourmet Regional Dining Experience will take place on Thursday, August 7th from 5 –8pm, in conjunction with the Vegreville Country Fair. This will be your opportunity to sample product from Kalyna Country area producers that has been skilfully prepared and served by some of the best Executive Chefs from Edmonton and the surrounding area. Don't miss out – tickets are limited - visit www.kalynacountry.com/dinekalyna/ for further information or call 1.888.452.5962

Stay tuned as more and more ag tourism operators open their gates and invite you to shop, eat and experience local agricultural food products and services this summer.

Contact:

Carmen Andrew

Agriculture Agriculture and Rural Development

4920 – 51 Street

Red Deer Alberta CANADA

T4N 6K8

Phone: 403.340.5542

Email: Carmen.andrew@gov.ab.ca

Web Site: www.agtourism.ca