



# Agri-News

May 11, 2009

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## 2009 4-H Premier's Award Winner

Rosie Templeton is the winner of the Alberta 4-H Program's most prestigious award. Templeton was chosen from among 90 of the provinces top 4-H members to receive the Premier's award during the 52nd annual 4-H Selections program at Olds College, May 1 to 4, 2009.

"Agriculture is a vital part of Alberta's economy and for over 90 years, 4-H has played an important role working with the youth in our rural communities," said Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta. "Through their various programs and training courses, 4-H is helping prepare and develop talented and committed young men and women to become the future agricultural and business leaders of our province."

"Participants in 4-H excel in the areas of leadership and teamwork thanks to the experiences they gain through their clubs. These skills will allow them to continuing building on the strong agriculture heritage of our province," said George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. "The government is proud to be helping to build legacies, support rural communities and develop future leaders through our continued involvement with the 4-H program."

Templeton, a seven-year 4-H veteran and member of the Readymade 4-H Beef and South Country Judging Clubs, has realized many goals during her 4-H career. Most recently, her exceptional communications skills resulted in her being named 2009 Provincial Public Speaking champion, while her discernment and awareness earned her the title of Regional Judging Champion. She is the recipient of a Platinum Award of Excellence, and has held every position on her club's 4-H Executive, from club reporter to president. As Premier's Award winner, Templeton's passion for the 4-H program will serve her well as she acts as a representative for 4-H on a provincial level.

"It is a great honour to receive such a prestigious award. This proves that the opportunities of 4-H members are endless, and I cannot wait to see where this position takes me," said Templeton.

In addition to the Premier's Award announcement, 41 senior-aged members were chosen to represent 4-H at major

*Cont'd on page 2*

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### ***This Week***

<b><i>2009 4-H Premier's Award Winner</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>Provincial 4-H Selections Award Trips</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>
<b><i>Integrated Pest Management</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>New Grant Programs Help Alberta's Livestock and Meat Industry Move Forward</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b><i>Presentations – an Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications' Competition</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>Agri-News Briefs</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>

educational programs throughout Canada and the United States during the 2009/10 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 6,564 members and 2,175 leaders participating in close to 400 clubs across the province. For more information, visit [www.4h.ab.ca](http://www.4h.ab.ca) or contact the provincial 4-H office at 780-422-4444.

**Note:** A photo of Rosie Templeton is available on the *Agriculture News* webpage at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/agrinews](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/agrinews)

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## **Provincial 4-H Selections Award Trips**

A total of 39 trips were awarded at the 2009 4-H Selections Program.

4-H Ambassadors Group – 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**

Rosie Templeton, Coaldale  
Jesse Wall, Stirling

### **Calgary Region**

Jared Hunter, Didsbury  
Avery Parkinson, Airdrie

### **West Central Region**

Alynn Hagstrom, New Norway  
Amy Schoenknecht, Hay Lakes

### **East Central Region**

Lindsey Grover, Stettler  
Kennan Hedley, Consort

### **Northeast Region**

Ian Brousseau, St. Paul  
Matthew Yakemchuk, Hairy Hill

### **Northwest Region**

Reanne Andersen, Busby  
Kristina Huisman, Barrhead

### **Peace Region**

Jennifer Alexandre, Falher  
Kristy Oatway, Woking

## **Description of Selections Award Trips**

**Montana 4-H Congress**, Bozeman, Montana – sponsored by Calgary Stampede. 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:

- Lindsey Grover, Stettler
- Cody Harrison, Claresholm
- Kennan Hedley, Consort
- Avery Parkinson, Airdrie

**National 4-H Citizenship Seminar**, Ottawa, Ontario – sponsored by 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. Recipients:

- Ted Andrew, Youngstown
- Alyssa Bergo, Ardmore
- Talisa Chelick, Hines Creek
- Alison Ditner, Evansburg
- Stacey Domolewski, Taber
- Haley Scott, Lacombe
- Katelyn Smith, Coronation
- Edith Wouters, Innisfail

**National 4-H Conference**, Toronto, Ontario – sponsored by 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. Recipients:

- Danielle Charron, Mannville
- Jamie-Lee Danielsen, Delia
- Lindsey Douglas, Delburne
- Kristina Huisman, Barrhead
- Jared Hunter, Didsbury
- Michelle Leslie, Sedgewick
- Amy Schoenknecht, Hay Lakes
- Matthew Yakemchuk, Hairy Hill

**California 4-H Exchange**, California – sponsored by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and 4-H Program Trust. 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:

- Keanan Mahoney, Clyde
- Jordyn Prior, Irma

**4-H Alberta/Northwest Territories Agriculture Development Tour** – sponsored by ITS Travel and 4-H Program Trust. 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:

- Reanne Andersen, Busby
- Ilona Bastiaansen, Bow Island
- Colin Blanchette, Vimy
- Ian Brousseau, St. Paul
- Kaylie Bruner, Evansburg
- Dustin Coleman, Innisfail
- Alynn Hagstrom, New Norway
- Brittney Matejka, Ponoka
- Hayden Miller, Calgary
- Hal Nixdorff, Airdrie
- Robyn Ockerman, Lindbergh
- Kasey Reber, Woking
- Laura Shuttleworth, Balzac
- Samantha Sperber, Rimbey
- Matthew Viste, Hanna
- Jesse Wall, Stirling

**National 4-H Skills Conference**, Brandon, Manitoba – sponsored by 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:

- Lynette Lastiwka, Willingdon
- Kasara Van Hecke, Busby

**U.S.A. National 4-H Conference**, Washington, DC – sponsored by Canadian 4-H Council. One Alberta delegate will attend the U.S. National 4-H Conference in Chevy Chase, Maryland with 250 American 4-H delegates. Participants enhance leadership skills, develop international friendships and build awareness of differences in two North American programs. Delegates have the opportunity to visit historical points of interest in Washington. Recipient:

- Rosie Templeton, Coaldale

There is also an alternate list for these trips, and 4-H members listed as alternates may be called upon to replace a delegate at any one of the above programs. Alternates:

- Jennifer Alexandre, Falher
- Janessa Brewin, Taber
- Robyn Fisher, Fairview
- Jolene Garber, Milk River
- Dana Kamlah, Lacombe
- Stacy Nichiporik, Hotchkiss
- Leanna Santangelo, Lethbridge
- Rebecca Tokariuk, Lethbridge
- Tessa Troock, Barrhead
- Leanne Wood, Spruce Grove

**Note:** Information and photos of individual trip winners are available to media by contacting the 4-H office at 780-422-4H4H (4444).

Contact: Marguerite Stark  
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403-948-8510

Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton

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## ***Integrated Pest Management***

Western Canadian agriculture spends billions of dollars annually on pesticides for crop production: for wild oat control alone, half a billion dollars is spent annually. Although pesticides are good and effective tools, indispensable with modern agriculture, they shouldn't be the only protection product being relied upon.

"Integrated pest management approaches the challenges to crop production using the widest possible range of solutions to problem pests," says Harry Brook, crop specialist at Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's Ag-Info Centre, Stettler. "First and foremost, the best thing you can do is use a varied crop rotation. Just the fact of growing cereals, oilseeds and pulse crops in the rotation does wonders in keeping down disease, insect and weed problems.

*Cont'd on page 4*

“Different crops are susceptible to different diseases, insects and weeds and keeping variety in the field keeps them from accumulating to damaging levels. Incorporating a winter cereal into a crop rotation further improves the health and competitiveness of crops by varying timing as well. For example, consider winter wheat crops where there is rarely a reason to spray for wild oats, and that’s because these crops are so far ahead of wild oats in the spring, the wild oats rarely affect yields.”

Different seeding times and rates can also improve crop competition. For almost all crops, early seeding is linked to higher yields, all other things being equal. As long as soil temperature is adequate for germination, early seeding gives the crop a head start on most weeds. Crops germinating and emerging ahead of weeds is one of the most important factors in limiting yield loss to weeds.

“A heavy seeding rate is an easy technique to improve crop competition,” says Brook. “More crop plants will cover the ground more efficiently and shade the ground. Many weeds require sunlight to germinate and cannot survive shade. Research done at Lacombe by Dr. Neil Harker and others has shown a dramatic improvement of barley competition over wild oats. In fact, using a combination early seeding, a competitive barley variety, heavier seeding rates and a tall variety resulted in a 70 times reduction of wild oat populations compared to a lower growing, lightly seeded, non-competitive barley.”

Canola emergence is a baffling case with only about 50 per cent of the seeds sown ever develop into mature plants. Canola is a small seed and has to be seeded shallow. “Modern seed drills can place seed more accurately than in the past,” says Brook. “Some recent research seems to point to excessively deep seeding as part of the reason for so few canola plants emerging. Higher seeding speed seems to throw up more dirt from the back shanks onto the front seed runs, effectively burying the seed. Shallow seeding is essential for canola to germinate, and even cereals benefit from being seeded at only one inch depth.”

Integrated weed management is a cropping system that integrates many simple actions to provide satisfactory pest control without breaking the bank. It isn’t so much a combination of new technologies, but using a variety of existing tools to achieve profitable returns.

“Pesticides are an integral part of the system, but they shouldn’t be overused,” says Brook. “Too great a reliance and use of existing pesticides will lead to greater problems with resistance and the elimination of those products from our tool box. Integrated pest management makes both economic sense and financial sense.”

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## **New Grant Programs Help Alberta’s Livestock and Meat Industry Move Forward**

A \$30-million catalyst package will spur innovation and diversification in Alberta’s livestock and meat industry.

The five new grant programs, being delivered by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) each have a specific focus:

- International Market Development Program
- Value-Added Market Development Program
- Research and Development Program
- Industry Development Program
- On-Farm Technology Adaptation Program

The programs will help achieve the goals of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Strategy (ALMS), a comprehensive plan designed to return the livestock and meat industry to profitability and competitiveness.

“This marks a major milestone for the strategy and new opportunities for our livestock and meat industry,” said George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. “The programs will help industry create a profitable and sustainable future by providing support for new initiatives and research that will increase our competitiveness in the global market.”

Grants will help producers and their organizations accelerate international marketing, explore domestic markets, research environmental management, target consumer awareness or stimulate leading-edge research developments.

ALMA board chair Joe Makowecki said, “Our ALMA mandate is to act as a catalyst and these programs show our commitment to moving our \$4.3-billion livestock and livestock products industry forward.”

Applications for the new programs are now being accepted. For more information on the programs and the application process, visit the ALMA website at [alma.alberta.ca](http://alma.alberta.ca)

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## **Presentations – an Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications’ Competition**

On April 4, 2009, the success of Alberta 4-H’s communications’ program was exemplified by the 30 senior-aged 4-H members, who were in Vermilion to present and compete at the 7th Annual Provincial Presentations competition, which happens under the umbrella competition of Provincial Communications Competition.

From its beginning in 2003, members continue to impress and educate judges and audience members at Presentations. This year, members were presented on wide-ranging topics such as First-Aid, mummification and worms.

“Speaking in front of any audience is a challenge, but speaking to peers and family may very well be the hardest task of all, and yet, these members made it look all too easy,” said Cameron Horner, Alberta 4-H communications and marketing specialist and organizer of the Provincial Communications Competition.

For Megan Wolfinger, Presentations’ judge and communications advisor with AltaLink, it wasn’t just the confidence and ease with which members delivered their presentations, it was also the content that they served up. “I was extremely impressed at the quality of the presentations, and the range of topics that the members chose to tackle. 4-H has worked to develop some amazing young speakers, and is clearly an outstanding organization.”

After nearly three hours of competition, during which delegates are asked at least three questions in relation to their chosen topic, the 2009 top three were announced:

- third place was a tie between **Karli Keujer**, Lethbridge Coaldale 4-H Beef Club, who presented on “Colitis”, and **Michael Lawrence**, Moutainview 4-H Dairy Club, whose session topic was titled, “TB or not TB”

- second place was earned by New Pine Equine and Multi 4-H Club member **Samantha Pedersen**, who presented a “Wormy Affair”
- first place was awarded to **Jenalee Blackhurst**, Bits and Spurs Equine Youth 4-H Club and the Gilby 4-H Beef Club, for her entertaining “Daily Dairy” presentation.

“Actually, I set out to win at provincial communications shortly after joining the 4-H program seven years ago, just because I thought that way, I’d never have to do it again,” remembered a laughing Blackhurst. “But now that it’s been something that I’ve been working on for such a long time, I really just want to keep practicing and continuing to improve my presentation and public speaking skills.”

For Blackhurst and other 4-H members who have worked hard at advancing within 4-H’s communication program, these skills are already being put to good use. “I’ve been approached by Key Leaders who want me to put on Presentations’ workshops for the junior members in their clubs. Being asked to do this means a lot to me because it affirms what 4-H is all about: people helping people.”

The Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications competition is sponsored by AltaLink, and is co-sponsored by Agrium and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.

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## Agri-News Briefs

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### **Forest Insect and Disease Conference in Saskatoon**

The City of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment are hosting the **Forest Insect and Disease Conference** in Saskatoon, SK, on June 18 and 19, 2009. This workshop and seminar series will cover numerous invasive species concerns, such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, banded elm bark beetle, mountain pine beetle and Asian longhorned beetle, among others. The agenda includes information presentations and workshops on: management options for invasive forest pests, early detection and identification, pathway analyses and risk assessments, and the National Forest Pest Strategy. Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be available to help participants maintain ISA certification. In association with the conference, there will be a half-day workshop on June 19, 2009, that will provide practical field knowledge on how to identify various insect concerns. Early registration is recommended. For further information and to register, contact Geoff McLeod at 306-975-2537, [geoff.mcleod@saskatoon.ca](mailto:geoff.mcleod@saskatoon.ca), Jeff Boone at 306-975-3466, [jeff.boone@saskatoon.ca](mailto:jeff.boone@saskatoon.ca), or visit the Prairie Urban Forest Alliance website where a full agenda and registration information has been posted at [www.forestalliance.ca](http://www.forestalliance.ca)

### **ARECA's New Executive Director**

Ty Faechner has been appointed the new executive director of the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA). Over the past two years, Faechner has been research program manager for the council and has been involved in developing methods to monitor reclaimed industrial sites with GPS, assessing the costs of farming around midfield structures, doing field scale farm research and developing funding initiatives for farm training for Alberta producers. A professional agrologist and certified agricultural consultant, Faechner has worked for the Alberta Government and private business in the agriculture industry for 30 years. "We are confident that we have found the right person to lead ARECA into the future," said Gerald Kuefler, chairman of ARECA's board of directors. "Our member associations will continue to benefit from Ty's strong background in agricultural research, and his in-depth knowledge of our organization will ensure a smooth transition while at the same time bringing a fresh new vision to the work we are doing on behalf of producers throughout Alberta." For more information, contact Laura McNabb, communications program manager for ARECA at 780-416-6046 Ext. 12 or e-mail [mcnabb@areca.ab.ca](mailto:mcnabb@areca.ab.ca)