

# Venture Projects 2015

## The Yorkton Co-op 4 H Drill Team



The Yorkton Co-Op 4 H Drill Team is a Venture project supported by SAASE and the Yorkton Exhibition. The team performed at the Summer fair and Grain Millers Harvest Showdown and was comprised of 14 - 15 4H members from 9 years old to 20 years old. The Yorkton Co-Op 4 H Drill Team practised each Sunday afternoon starting in May throughout the Summer. They were coached by Elwood & Donna Turner who are the 4 H Light Horse leaders. Members had to be 4 H members but could be enrolled in any 4 H project. The abilities of the riders and the horses varied from 2nd year riders to experienced riders and from green broke horses to show horses. During the practices you could notice huge improvements in both riders and horses as they learned to work together to complete the various manoeuvres.

The project taught the kids to work together with their horse as well as work as a member of a team. The members picked the music, had a president and treasurer and they had input into which manoeuvres were part of the performance. The Yorkton Exhibition sponsored the facilities for each practice, sound system, feed required while on the grounds, saddle pads and clothing. An added benefit to the Yorkton Exhibition was that we had youth entertainment at the Summer Fair, Chuck Wagon Races and Harvest Showdown. The Yorkton Exhibition feels there is an opportunity to expand this in Saskatchewan into a provincial event with competitions at fairs. Any fair could sponsor a team in their area. The Yorkton Exhibition is willing to host the first competition during 2015 if there is enough interested fairs. If any Agricultural Society is interested in starting a drill team program you can contact Shaun Morin from the Yorkton Exhibition for more information at 783-4800.



# Perdue Bull Riding a Huge Hit

The Perdue Agricultural Society took on a huge challenge by putting on a bull riding event this year. It was definitely a new event and with that the committee put in a Venture Project application, It was approved, as the purpose of the program is to assist in getting new events up and running by supplying seed money to relieve some of the financial risk. Below is an article written by Jodi Schellenberg on the event - with pictures credit to Tiffany Peters.

## Perdue Bull Riding a Huge Hit

It may be a small town but Perdue has a lot of heart, which was demonstrated during their bull riding event. The Perdue Bull Riding was held on the evening of July 25 at the Perdue South Ag Grounds in the large sand arena.

“This event was put on by our Ag Society basically to help raise funds for our community and for the Ag Society to do improvements on the grounds,” organizer Annaleigh LeBruno said. “We are a pretty agricultural-based community and bull riding tends to bring a lot of people out, so that’s why we chose to go this route.”

The event was a huge success, with more than 400 people cramming into the space to see the cowboys try for their eight seconds. A smaller ring was created inside the large sand arena, with bleachers set up around the ring for spectators.

“I do know that the stands were packed and there was basically standing room only,” LeBruno said. “A lot of people had to stand back and watch the big screen because there were so many people crowded around to watch.”

The grand prize winner was Josh Birks, who scored an 85.5 in the short go, LeBruno said. He was the only bull rider in the short go after competing in the long go, making him the winner of the entire event. “He was pretty happy to come to Perdue and I’m pretty sure they’ll be back.”

One of the biggest draws of the night was the half-time show – wild pony racing. “That was definitely a highlight of our event,” LeBruno said. “We had five teams come out and two teams actually rode the ponies.

“Because I am involved in 4-H, a couple of them were actually my 4-H kids from local clubs that I had just watched them show their calves,” she smiled. “They came out and did such a good job. They are excited to come back (next year). Many people talked about that and said that made the show. We will definitely have that back if we have the bull riding again.”

She said although they wanted a large crowd to attend, it was surprising to see so many people at the event. Since it was well-attended, LeBruno said they may make some changes next year. “We’re going to make the ring bigger, so we can add more seating (and) can accommodate the bigger crowd that we had,” she said. “We did expect to have lots of people ... We hoped for 400,



but we didn't know that many would come. "It was good to see but definitely plans to have more seating for next year and make it bigger and better."

This is the first time a bull riding event has been held in Perdue. LeBruno said there used to be a bull riding event in Asquith, another small community in the area. "It was a very successful event -- unfortunately, they lost their volunteer power. They ran out of people and time," she said. "We were approached by the same contractor. He is local and his name is Blain Fisen.



"He really wanted to see it happen because he is a local guy as well and was happy to do something in his community," she added. "He helped us through everything and actually helped us find some sponsorship, too."

The event was a huge success, thanks to the support of the organizing committee, the volunteers, the Perdue Ag Society, the bull riders and the spectators, she explained. "So many people were very happy to be there and really complimented us on what a great event and how well run it was," LeBruno said. "That is positive and encouraging for us as committee members to look at doing this event next year." They hope to make the bull riding an annual event. "We are obviously looking at the finances and how everything happened, but as you know the first year is normally more expensive," LeBruno said. "We'll work out all the kinks and hopefully be able to bring this event back."

