

Venture Projects 2017

Biggar Fair Days a Big Success

The Biggar Agricultural Society put together a Venture Project for a new event outside their fair. The event was called the Biggar and District Fair Days. Below you will find the final reports from the event – including the report on the minor baseball portion, which was also included in the Fair Days.

Biggar and District Fair Days was an incredible success! Trailers started pulling into the valley Thursday night with precious cargo, kids, horses, dogs and excited competitors alike. The weekend festivities formally started on Friday July 14th in the morning with open riding. The Little Buckaroo Rodeo ran from 12-2 pm. The kids, parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles and spectators cheered on the fun. Events for the kids such as barrel racing on real horses, stick horse race for those children who did not ride, weiner race, egg race, roping were just some of the activities at the kids rodeo. After the kids rodeo we rolled into the first go round of the Biggar Bucks Barrel Race. Supper was served compliments of Kelly's Kitchen in our booth at the valley. Delicious hot food was waiting for the tired competitors. The kid's cabaret was the next event on the list for Friday. The cabaret was from 7-9 in the Quonset with a DJ, sparkle tattoos, flashing disco lights, treats, games and all the fun you can pack into two hours.



Saturday July started with a pancake breakfast, setting up for the trade fair and homemade goods competition. Biggar Bucks Futurity event ran at 10am with the Derby following at 11am. The children's games, face painting, sparkle tattoos, bouncy castle and hockey tournament were busily happening in the Quonset for the non competitors. Unfortunately there were no entries for the car show due to the gravel road entry to the valley. At 1 pm the big event, Biggar Buck's Slot Race began. The entry fees were large for the opportunity to compete for some cash! The competitors did not disappoint the crowd. New arena records were set in our arena this weekend, high level competitors from all over the province graced the valley presence. We were thrilled to host such rodeo royalty in our little valley. We had past Canadian Champions, multiple Canadian Finalist Qualifiers and many other talented riders and trainers competing in the multiple events

offered. Over 200 entries in the futurity, derby, slot races, 4D jackpot, team barrel race, youth and peewee events. Saturday night beach volley and a social were held after the 1st go round awards were presented. Sunday started with a Bacon and egger breakfast for anyone interested and then on to the second round of the futurity and derby. Crowds had the opportunity to see the upcoming horse and rider talent. At noon we crowned the winner of our Fair Queen competition. This years queen of the valley is Miss Ashley Heather. At 1 pm the second slot race began with great excitement for all competing and watching the amazing jockey and horse combos. Donnie Phillips, announcer added to the fun and entertainment all weekend long. He is a fan favorite. The last event on the weekend agenda was the short go qualifiers from the 4D jackpot. The top 12 in each category, 1D, 2D, 3D, and 4D were offered an opportunity to compete for cash and prizes.



We had incredible feedback and response to our event. Many competitors and spectators asked if this would become a yearly event. When the winter months are upon our little committee we will see if our energy is rejuvenated to start the planning stages of something else big for Biggar! All of the other activities in the valley aside from the barrel racing were engaged and appreciated by many people. We would definitely plan an event where there is something for everyone once again.

In addition to the rodeo there was also the Biggar Minor Ball's Portion, with the report from Lisa Haynes.

Biggar was host to the 2017 U14 girls provincial "C" Championships with over 10 teams in attendance. The teams were from Biggar, Redvers, Swift Current, Esterhazy, Humbolt, Turtleford, Kindersley, Unity, Macklin and Tisdale. The weekend was a huge success with around 500 people on site each day. The weather was beautiful and the diamonds were in perfect shape. It was a great opportunity to showcase our community and everything we have to offer. There were many comments from the other teams saying how great the community, facilities and hospitality was and how they were impressed with how such a small town could host such a 1st class event and put many of the bigger centres to shame. It was a great opportunity to partner with the Rec Valley and offer more events for the people to partake in while in town. We saw many cowboy hats at the diamonds and people were taking advantage of being able to take in both great events while in the area, we also had people checking out the maps on how to get to the valley and the schedule of events so we know the ball players were popping back and forth too. It also has helped strengthen our relationship with the Biggar Rec Valley and was a great partnership with another very important volunteer group in our community. We would like to thank SAASE and the Biggar Rec Valley for us to partner on this event with them and be able to take part in the Venture grant. Without the support our event would not have been such a huge success and we would not have been able to raise the much needed funds to help make improvements to our facilities. Great partnerships make great things happen!

Fairmede Celebrates 125th Anniversary

July 29th, 2017 – A day that will go down in history for the Fairmede Agricultural Society, as we celebrated the Society’s 125th Anniversary. We are very proud to have been able to stay active this long. Our success is because of the hard work of the volunteers that the Society has always been able to depend on to help us through the years.

Our day began with a trail ride. Seventeen riders started out from the Fairmede Ag grounds at 8:00 am and trekked through the valley and hillsides of the Little Pipestone Creek, through the fields and onto the old road allowances for approximately 6 miles. It ended back at the Fair grounds for lunch.

Our Church Service at 1:00 pm was held at the old Fairmede Church. A Cowboy Church service was lead by Lorne Bonk , and Darren Fisk and his daughter Morgan supplied the music and led the singing. Darren is the General Leader of the Fairmede 4-H Beef Club.

After church it was back to the Fair Grounds for our opening ceremonies. Dignitaries Steven Bonk MLA for Moosomin Constituency, Glen Duck, Executive Director of SAASE, Cheryl Branvold President of the Fairmede Ag Society and Rhonda Hall, Secretary-Treasurer of the Society rode into the grounds on a wagon drawn by a team of horses owned by Wayne Grose. Cheryl Welcomed our special guests and those attending our Anniversary Celebrations. Glen Duck from SAASE & MLA, Steven Bonk, each brought greetings of congratulations.

Two special signs were unveiled as well. The first sign was for “The Gathering Place”, and is to recognize the new building that the Society built in 2015. This building is for the people who come to our fair or other gatherings, to have shelter from the sun or the rain, to watch the day’s activities, a place to sit and visit and have lunch. The Second sign was donated by George Hodgins, a former resident of the Fairmede District, and this sign is to replace the old one that hangs on the South side of the Fairmede School. It reads - “Fairmede S.D. No. 134. S.E. ¼ S. 14 - T.13 - R.1 W.2nd”.

Following the opening ceremonies, the beer gardens were opened and guests sat in The Gathering Place & in a tented area and visited with family and friends, some of who had come from as far away as Courtney, BC, Regina, Weyburn, Wolsely, and the surrounding towns. Darren & Morgan Fisk entertained once again, much to the pleasure of their audience. . The Louis & Karen Hebert family provided a bouncy tent for the kids to play in. Horse & wagon rides were also available as well. There was something for all ages.





A catered supper was served by Shelley & David Slykhuis from Carlyle. Two cakes were served as dessert – one was decorated with a copy of the first meeting minutes of the Fairmede Ag Society dated August 29th, 1892, and the second cake showed a photograph of the 1908 directors of the Society, the oldest photo that we have.

This year’s prize list book was “Dedicated to the Leaders of our Community, who in 1892 came together to form an Agricultural Society; And to all of the Volunteers, Participants & Visitors – Past & Present, Who Have Generously Rallied Together To Make the Fairmede Agricultural Society & its Fair, An Ongoing Success for 125 years.” We look forward to many more!

Submitted by the Fairmede Agricultural Society



Back Row (L to R): Gordon Fisk, Murray Doane, Louis Hebert, Darren Fisk, Gordon Clements.
 Middle Row (L to R): Betty Wyatt, Linda Fisk, Kathy Doane, Karen Hebert, Darlene Fisk, Marie Clements, Joanne & Hudson Clements.
 Seated (L to R): Pat Clements, Cheryl Branvold, Darlene Doane, Rhonda Hall, Jase Clements.

Colonial Days Goes Extreme with Bulls and Bikes



Over 3,000 people packed the Lloydminster Exhibition grandstand for Newcart's Canadian Extreme ABBI Bulls & Bikes Show! The show was one of SAASE's latest Venture Projects and was a huge success.

This incredible event combines the daring stunts of dirt bike riders with an amazing bull bucking event! This unique show encourages you to root for the bull, not the bull-rider as ABBI Canada (American Bucking Bull Inc) is choosing the best of these bulls to buck at the Calgary Stampede! The Futurity Rides took place in the afternoon. The 2 year old bulls had dummy riders placed on them for a 4 second period. The bulls were each given a score based on how they performed. The main show took place in the evening as the full grown bulls bucked real riders. The bucking bulls alternated with the extreme freestyle riders, who jumped the bucking chutes while performing some unbelievable stunts. Top bull riders from the Canadian circuit competed trying to ride some of the rankest bulls that Canadian rodeo contractors had to offer. The bulls clearly won, with only 2 qualifying rides taking place. In between the bull riding 3 of the worlds top freestyle motorcycle riders thrilled the crowds by performing stunts while jumping over the bull riding chutes.

This project is a three year initiative, with the end result being the first of its kind in Canada - The Canadian Heritage Classic and Futurity. This rough stock event is directly tied to putting Canadian bucking bull stock contractors on the top of their industry. There is an educational component to the program as well as the obvious entertainment. During the show both the rural and urban sectors that were in the stands were told the story and history of Canadian bucking bull development. Video screens on each side arena, as well as the announcer told the story, as well as showing stats



on both the bulls and riders.

Years 1 and 2 of the event will be called Canada's Extreme Bikes and Bulls, and will lead up to the Canadian Heritage Classic Futurity in year 3. In 2019 there will be well over 100 bulls bucking in the competition and approximately \$100,000.00 in prize money. The event will be the highest paying bull futurity in Canada, putting the Canadian Heritage Classic and Futurity on the map North America-wide. The top 3 bulls will automatically be given a spot in the bullriding finals held in Las Vegas each year - this has never been done before.

With the success of the first year - the Lloydminster Exhibition, stock contractors, riders and fans are already looking forward to the Extreme Bulls and Bikes competition that will be happening at next year's Colonial days in Lloydminster



Record Attendance at the 6th Annual Saskatchewan Equine Expo at Prairieland Park

The Equine Expo is an outstanding example of what SAASE's Venture Project program is for. The Equine Expo continues to grow and is truly one of Saskatchewan's highlights as far as equine events. Below is a press release from Prairieland Park on this year's show.

Prairieland Park organizers and the Saskatchewan Equine Expo committee would like to thank their partners The Saskatchewan Horse Federation and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, along with all the sponsors, the media and volunteers that helped to make the 6th Annual Saskatchewan Equine Expo such an amazing success.

The 6th Annual Equine Expo achieved a record attendance with 11,725 people taking in the 4 day show. The Saskatchewan Equine Expo showcases many elements of the Equine industry through demonstrations, clinics, competitions, awards and an industry trade show.

We'd like to thank our three incredible trainers for their entertaining performances, and congratulate Kade Mills from Sundre, Alberta being named the winner of the NAERIC Trainer Challenge. Both Glenn Stewart and Dale Clearwater captivated the audience demonstrating their expertise in Natural Horsemanship demonstrations and a Working Cow Horse clinic this year. Congratulations to our winner of the Ultimate Cow Horse Competition, Geoff Hoar, Red Deer Country, Alberta. The Battle of the Breeds was a highlight for the audience watching 6 breeds compete in 4 events to determine the overall winner – Team Quarter Horse was awarded 1st place, followed by Team Arabian in 2nd place and Team Andalusian in 3rd place.

“The weather definitely cooperated with us this year and we are so pleased that the 6th Equine Expo again attracted such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable crowd”, commented Lori Cates, Agriculture Manager



Canora Adds Music Festival to Fair

The Venture Project Program is there to help out SAASE members with seed money to start a new event or to enhance an existing event. Canora expanded their fair and added some new community partners to their event. Below was submitted by Canora Agricultural Society on their event.

Once again the Canora Agricultural Society had a successful race weekend! It started off with slo pitch on Saturday and continued onto Sunday with 12 teams participating. Both days also included chariot and chuckwagon races, jr and sr gymkhana, show and shine car show, 8 horse hitch, beer gardens and a great concession on grounds. To keep the kiddies busy and entertained we had bouncers, kids games and on Saturday a pet show! Something new we added this year and turned out to be a great success with a few wrinkles to iron out was a music festival. Our local music society helped organized local bands to showcase their talent throughout both days and on Sat evening we had a bigger band come in and play at the beer gardens. We heard great feedback and like I said a few quirks to figure out but overall the weekend was a huge success!



Saskatchewan Beef Expo 2017

PrairieLand Park Ag Centre hosted 89 4H members and their parents for a weekend of education and competition at the 4th Annual Saskatchewan Beef Expo, April 7th – 9th.

Our educational focus this year was safe, low-stress livestock handling. The ultimate goal is to reduce deaths and injuries in both handlers and their livestock. The livestock handling demo started with a presentation on the safe handling of livestock followed by a short video. The participants then watched a live demonstration on moving cattle by using pressure points through a series of outdoor pens. The grooming session focused on animal care and show preparation.



Evaluating beef animals for conformation and structural correctness was featured again this year with two industry experts instructing the participants. Once the session was complete the participants were required to judge a class of animals and provide oral reasons for their placements to the judges. This event allows for the participants to improve their public speaking skills, and learn what to look for when selecting animals for their own herd.

With the changes in the industry in terms of genetics, breeds and new technology, it is apparent that education will be the cornerstone to ensure the stability of the beef industry in Saskatchewan. Judges Katie Wright and Virginia Peters each gave an overall summary at the end of the day, providing further advice and praising the participants for their good work.

On day 2 participants had the opportunity to participate in show ring competitions including Market Steer, Heifer and Showmanship classes. Saskatchewan Beef Expo continues to provide participants important education on the beef industry; team collaboration; and personal leadership skills. These participants are the future of Agriculture in Saskatchewan.



Harvest Showdown - Cooking Throw-Down

Saskatchewan's Agricultural Societies have always been looking for different ways to get youth involved at our events, as well as educate on agriculture. The Yorkton Exhibition came up with an innovative way to combine both, within this year's Harvest Showdown. Below you will find the report submitted by the Yorkton Exhibition for the Harvest Showdown - Cooking Throw-Down.

The first ever Harvest Showdown Cooking Throw-Down took place on Saturday, November 4th with introductions starting at 10:00am. Four

high-school teams were a part of this culinary competition which included two teams from Sacred Heart High School (Yorkton), Dreambuildes Learning Centre (Yorkton) and Bert Fox Community School (Fort Qu'appelle). Prior to coming to the competition, the students were able to practice and fine tune their recipes. We also matched each school up with one of our two master chef mentors Spencer Fuches and CV Sastry. The mentors met with each team prior to the competition to give them some tips and advice on their dishes and preparation.

Each of the teams had 1 hour and 45 minutes to prepare an entrée and a dessert. Each entrée and dessert featured beef or dairy along with other local ingredients. After cooking time was up, a random draw was done to determine who presented first to the judges panel. Each team presented their entrée and dessert and explained what was in their dishes along with why they chose them. Teams were scored according to taste, presentation and teamwork along with other aspects reflecting their dishes.



The afternoon consisted of each team doing a live presentation on why beef and dairy are important to Saskatchewan. Presentations also educated the judges and public on the health benefits of beef and dairy along with how producers are sustainable in each industry.



The entire competition far exceeded our expectations for the first year. We were amazed at how prepared and professional the teens were throughout the entire competition. We were also

pleased to see how creative the teams were in integrating local ingredients into their recipes – for example, one team included flax seeds in the graham cracker crust of their cheesecake. There was a great turnout for spectators at the event and we heard several positive comments regarding the competition. Based on the success this year, we predict that this competition will grow as word spreads about it amongst schools.

Along with SAASE, other partners for the Cooking Throw-Down included Farm Credit Canada, Oliv Tasting Room (Yorkton), Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, Mr. Mike's Steakhouse (Yorkton) and SaskMilk. The Ministry of Agriculture was an important partner in planning and implementation.

Thank-you to SAASE for supporting our Cooking Throw-Down through your Venture Project Grant!



Lancer Chokecherry Festival 2017

The Lancer Chokecherry Festival is an amazing event that has taken place over the past 47 years. Each year Lancer - a community of 60 people - welcome hundreds of people to the Festival. The Chokecherry Festival is a perfect example of what a community can do when they organize and work towards a common goal. SAASE helped out with some Venture Project funding - below is a report from this year's festival.

Another Thanksgiving - Another Chokecherry Festival (Our 47th year) Each year our Chokecherry Festival focuses on various aspects of community development. This year we focused on the young and young at heart.

The objective of the project was to encourage participation of community and surrounding communities in all our activities.

Our advertising included newspapers, posters, pamphlets and programs. The carnival like atmosphere was inviting and welcoming. As usual the breakfast, food fair and parade were a hit - lots of visiting and reminiscing. Due to inclement weather our attendance was down, but those who attended had a great time. Thanks to those who set up tents for protection from the weather. Thanks to SAASE for the financial support - it is much appreciated.

