

# Venture Projects 2016

## Saskatchewan's Equine Expo Continues to Grow

An event that is becoming iconic in the Saskatchewan equine industry is the Saskatchewan Equine Expo which took place at Saskatoon Prairieland Park's Ag Centre February 12 – 14.

A new feature presented by The Saskatchewan Horse Federation, focused on educational activities, complemented the arena events of the 2016 Equine Expo. These activities were directed to youth, however there was something for everyone. Whether you are a beginner horse owner, a want-to-be owner, or an already converted horse enthusiast, the educational booth provided something of interest.

Interactive displays and demonstrations by the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on topics of interest ran throughout the Expo. The public learned more about the breeds, viewed a live action and cheered on their favourite Battle of the Breeds team. They learned about saddles, correctly fitting tack, blankets and harness, and practised bandaging a leg. For something a little different, a "Horse Bits" trivia challenge tested participant's equine knowledge.

Certainly one of the most talked about and audience appealing components of the event was the Trainer's Challenge, presented by NAERIC. The audience was captivated by the horsemanship skills of three professional trainers, as they worked a young horse through its initial training. This year's competitors included Seth Abrahamson from Broderick, SK, Slade Mutton, Bienfait, SK, and our first female competitor, Kateri Cowley from Calgary, AB. After 4 days of training, Seth Abrahamson was announced as the 2016 Trainer's Challenge winner. Seth was presented with a beautiful hand-made buckle from Bill Wilm from St. Brieux, SK. Horsemen of all skill levels enjoyed a wide variety of clinics held throughout the weekend. The feature presenter was Jonathan Field. Jonathan took all the theory, skills and experiences from his life with horses and integrated them into his own method of teaching people how to become one with their horses.



In the arena Jonathan Field presented "Re-starting Horses – Key Tips to Clean Up or Avoid the Most Common Training Issues". Jonathan's seminar sessions in the Information Theatre included:

- 1 - Horses I've known... Stories and Lessons from a Life Lived with Horses
- 2 - The Art of Liberty Training, the Big Picture Benefits for You and Your Horse

### 3 - Jonathan Field Horsemanship Training Scale and 5 Course Pathway

Jonathan refers to his program as Inspired by Horses™ because it is the horses that inspired him to develop it. It is a program designed with the horse in mind through every step while developing the relationship between horse and human. Teaching you to think the way a horse thinks keeps your horse interested in you, allowing you to gain access to something very special - the ultimate relationship with a horse.

A Cowboy Dressage Clinic was held daily at the Saskatchewan Equine Expo, presented by Lyn Ringrose Moe. Lyn is accomplished in many disciplines but her passion is the sport of dressage where she has successfully competed, trained and coached to the FEI levels of the sport. Lyn is considered the ultimate expert in Cowboy Dressage. She resides at the Sliding J Ranch in Acampo, California.

Connie Dorsch, from Weyburn is well known in the Hunter/

Jumper world in Canada and conducted a 2 day clinic prior to the weekend Expo. During the Expo Connie provided daily demonstrations in Hunter Under Saddle and Equitation on the Flat classes.

The Cowtown, Battle of the Breeds consisted of 9 teams this year. Participants competed in barrel racing, trail, compulsory pattern and jumping components over the three days. Team Quarter Horse won the competition for the 3rd year in a row. The Battle of the Breeds is only one of the exciting events that occurred Friday & Saturday evenings at the Extravaganza. Attendees were fully entertained with The Flying C's Trick Riders, Cowboy Dressage, Musical Freestyle Demo, and Barrel Racing, and Jumping demonstrations.

Throughout the weekend the Western College of Veterinary Medicine conducted seminars and demonstrations in both the Ag Centre and in the Information Theatre relating to current equine issues. These seminars and demonstrations were based on three pillars: The Equine Limb; The Digestive System and Heard Health.

Prairieland Park's Trade and Convention Centre hosted the trade show utilizing some 50,000 square feet of space. Attendees had the opportunity to see everything from horse trailers and stalls to western art, décor and the very latest in equine technology, products and services. Prairieland Park is pleased to present The Saskatchewan Equine Expo in partnership with the Equine Health Research Council of the WCVM and the Saskatchewan Horse Federation.





# Biggar Hosts Huge KCRA Rodeo and Cultural Days

The Biggar Recreation Valley Association was looking to put together a fun, family oriented weekend to expand their fair, as well as attract more people into their valley site. The opportunity arose to put on their first KCRA rodeo (Keyakow Cowboys Rodeo Association), and to work with new groups on bringing more people into the community. The KCRA has a First Nations focus, and is a family association promoting the appreciation of First Nations culture. They also booked various entertainers to perform throughout the weekend with music and dancing, as well as great food.

The result - despite torrential rains - was a tremendous success. The rodeo had over 500 entries a day, bringing many rodeo participants



and families from all over. The Biggar Rec Valley volunteers had done a lot of preparation and worked really hard to get the right mix of sand and soil in the arena to have premium conditions no matter what the weather, ensuring the rodeo could take place. As part of the rodeo the 2016 Rodeo Queen and Princess were crowned. 2015 Rodeo queen Carly Ellis crowned 2016 Rodeo Queen Anissa Silbernagel and Princess Ashley Heather.

In addition to the rodeo many other events took place on the Canada Day weekend throughout Biggar. There was beach, which turned into mud volleyball, there was beading, jiggling, as well as great music and entertainers all weekend. The community, numerous partners including the town of Biggar really got behind the event. As is usually the case it could not have been done without the army of volunteers it takes to put an event of this size and make it the success it was.

Everyone who attended had a great time, with tremendous positive feedback through facebook, email and other social media responses. What a great way to celebrate Canada Day, and the Biggar Recreation Valley Association are already making plans for next year.

# P.A. Exhibition Food Extravaganza

The Prince Albert Exhibition were looking for a new family event for the early summer and came up with the Prince Albert Feastival. The event was a resounding success, and received funding from the SAASE Venture Project fund. The SAASE Venture Project program assists Agricultural Societies by supplying seed money to help out with starting a new event or enhancing an existing event. Below are 2 articles from the Prince Albert Herald - one before the event explaining how it came about and the other with the results.

The Prince Albert Exhibition Association kicks off its inaugural three-day Feastival The Prince Albert Exhibition is decked out with eight food vendors serving about 50 different dishes for the organization's inaugural Feastival.

The event is the brainchild of Prince Albert Exhibition Association board member Linda Grimard. The seed of an idea was planted few years ago, when the Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce cancelled their annual Taste of Prince Albert event, which featured the dishes of various local restaurants and caterers alongside live music.

The Chamber approached the Prince Albert Exhibition Association to take on the annual foods-centred event, but it wasn't a good fit at the time. Now, Grimard notes, they've found a way. Seeking a new pre-Prince Albert Exhibition Summer Festival event for the early summer, they found themselves revisit the food and live music-centred Taste of Prince Albert idea. Adding chuckwagon races, a bouncy castle and trade show to the mix, they found what they hope will be a winning formula for their inaugural Feastival.

"It's a real family event," Grimard said, noting near the end of Friday's activities that most everything has turned out well thus far. That is, except for the chuckwagon races, which were cancelled for Friday. "If it was a light shower they could have probably dealt with it, but that was a downpour," she described.

The grandstand race track will be pumped dry by 4 p.m. on Saturday, at which time the races are set to begin. Races will also take place on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. The balance of activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission to the Feastival is free, however admission to the chuckwagon events is \$5, with those six years of age and younger free.

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Despite a few nervous moments early on, organizers say the inaugural FEASTival food extravaganza was a resounding success. Event co-ordinator Linda Grimard said they were pleased to see how much support the inaugural event received from the community. Plans are already in the works to hold the event again next year.





The first-time event was held over three days at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre last weekend, and event co-ordinator Linda Grimard said the positive feedback means it will return for another year.

“Yes, it’s a go for sure,” she said. “We actually had very good feedback from everybody and we’ll just make a few changes, maybe add a few things to the whole weekend there, and go with that.” Grimard said the end result was a good one, but the weekend started on a difficult note. Rainy conditions forced the cancellation of some events on Friday, which had organizers crossing their fingers for good weather the rest of the way. “Until it actually got started, yes it was a little nerve-wracking,” Grimard chuckled.

However, sunny conditions prevailed for most of the weekend, with only a few scattered showers here and there. Grimard said it was encouraging to see a strong turnout on Saturday, especially from young families. “It ended up being a really good family event. Saturday morning the families were all coming in with the strollers and the kids behind them and stuff like that and then we had a great turnout at the grandstand to for anyone who wanted to see the horses run, so it was a packed house.”

A few changes will be made to next year’s event, although at this point Grimard said they haven’t decided what they will be. They would like to introduce more outdoor events for next year, but all plans are still in the discussion stage. “We’re just talking it over now that it’s gone by,” she explained. “Until we have another meeting to organize it, there’s nothing final.” Grimard didn’t have a final attendance count for FEASTival as a whole, although she did say more than 800 attended the chuckwagon races over the weekend. She added that it was encouraging to see so many residents take a chance on a new event.

“We’re really happy that Prince Albert came and helped make our first annual FEASTival a success.”





# Saskatchewan Beef Expo 2016

Prairieland Park Ag Centre hosted 66 4H members and their parents for a weekend of education and competition at the 3rd Annual Saskatchewan Beef Expo, April 8th – 10th.

The focus of this year's event was individual and team judging. Industry experts instructed participants in three divisions – Junior, Intermediate and Senior, on how to properly assess a beef animal. The ability to evaluate animals for conformation and soundness as well as breed traits are important skills as these young people will someday be establishing herds of their own. Given the changes



Senior members participate in “Speak up for Beef” station



Judge Kelsey Dust speaks to junior participants before they begin the Team Judging Competition



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.

Following the demonstrations, individuals were given the opportunity to judge a class of animals and were required to use a microphone to provide their reasons for placings to the audience. Judge Krista Dust gave an overall summary at the end of the day, providing further advice and praising the participants for their good work.

Also taking place throughout the day were concurrent sessions by industry experts in the fields of advocacy, animal care, safe handling of livestock, animal health and an outstanding presentation by the SunWest School Division on opportunities for distance learning.

On day 2 participants had the opportunity to participate in show ring competitions including Market Steer, Heifer and Showmanship classes.



**Junior members prepare judging cards.**



**Participants gather for end of day wrap up from Judge Krista Erixon**



**HeiferClass**



# Lloydminster Hosts Saskatchewan Open Farm Day

Lloydminster hosted the first Saskatchewan Open Farm Day on August 7. Agricultural education is very important, and the Lloydminster Exhibition is to be congratulated on this project. The Saskatchewan Open Farm Day was supported by the SAASE Venture Project Program - below is the writeup that was contributed by the Lloydminster Exhibition.

The first annual Saskatchewan Open Farm Day was a huge success. The day started out with farm tours to various farms in the Lloydminster, SK area. The tours began at the Lloydminster Exhibition parking lot, leaving at 10:00am. The following was our tour schedule (timing is approximate):

10:00 am	Board Buses – Depart to T'n'C Alpaca Farm
10:40 am	Tour T'n'C Alpaca Farm – included a tour of the barn, pasture, and store
11:30 am	Board Buses – Depart to Greenwood Limousin and Angus
12:20 am	Tour Greenwood Limousin and Angus – included a tour of the pasture, corrals, and calving barn
1:00 pm	Board Buses – Depart to Lower Shannon Farms
1:15 pm	Tour Lower Shannon Farms – included a tour of the greenhouse, grow tunnels, and pastures (pigs and goats)
2:15 pm	Board Buses – Depart to Lloydminster Exhibition

With the help of Lakeland College we had two buses to take on the tours and both buses were full! We had 50 people join us as we toured Saskatchewan farms. The many children who were present enjoyed the tours and took away important information about where their food comes from and how it is produced. We wrapped up the day with a gourmet meal in a rural Saskatchewan setting. The secret rural location for the meal was very exciting for the individuals who attended. The







meal consisted of dishes made with ingredients from the local producers we visited on the tours. Our Red Seal Chef prepared the feast. There were a limited number of tickets available (50) for purchase at a price of \$100. We hosted the meal as a long table dinner under a tent.

Our goal was to sell 50 tickets to the meal. We ended up selling 28 and giving two producers two complimentary tickets each. Our local MLA, Colleen Young, was invited to attend our gourmet meal which she accepted; as well as, SAASE President Vern Bexson and his wife Lori. The majority of the meal was sourced locally, with most ingredients coming from Lower Shannon Farms.

Overall, the day was a wonderful success and was enjoyed by both producers and attendees. The producers were very excited to share their products with consumers as well as share their production process. Those who attended the tour discovered new places to visit and purchase locally grown/produced items from. Everyone who attended the gourmet meal left with full bellies and memories of a unique and delicious evening.





# Stoughton Ag Society Relocates Shows

The Stoughton Agricultural Society had a big challenge this year, as the Stoughton Town Hall - where they normally held their Summer show and Fall Horticultural Show and Tea had been torn down. As a result they were forced to move their summer fair show to the skating rink, and the Fall Horticultural Show and Tea to the Stoughton Drop-In Centre. In order to ensure that the community of Stoughton knew of the new locations the Stoughton Agricultural Society approached SAASE about helping them out with signage that they would be able to use to promote the new locations of their events.

The Stoughton Ag. Society came up with the idea of using sandwich boards. Because of the new locations they would need a new way to mount their displays, as well as being able to use them to promote the new locations - it would work out great because the sandwich boards would have a dual purpose. As is the case with all of our communities, the Stoughton Ag. Society was able to find a retired volunteer who was able to build the sandwich boards for them.

In addition to the signage the Ag. Society was also able to use them to display photos and posters for their school section and junior categories. Entries were up at both events, with many new entries. The RM is also helping out, as they are providing storage for the new menu boards, which will be a big help.





# Venture Project Funding Ramps Up Rosthern Town and Country Fair

The Rosthern Agricultural Society made some big changes to their Fair this past year and applied to SAASE for Venture Project funding to help out. Below is the article submitted by the Rosthern Agricultural Society.

For several years, the Rosthern Agricultural Society has been striving to improve, grow and breathe new life into the annual Town and Country Fair. Older than the town of Rosthern itself, the Ag Society has seen some hills and valleys in success over the last 117 years and the last 50+ years there has been some type of organized fair that has also seen some good years and some

lean years. With the swell of the age of technology, we work hard to keep that warm, small town, country feel and put a special emphasis on the Town and Country Fair as we watch other country fairs around the province get downsized or eliminated altogether.

In 2015, we decided that bringing back the Kakeyow Cowboys Rodeo Association (KCRA) rodeo in 2016 would add to the Town and Country Fair exponentially so we applied for the New Ventures grant through SAASE to make this possible. Bringing in the KCRA rodeo involves a very large list of expenses the Ag Society couldn't otherwise handle on our own...the New Ventures grant was the extra money that would start the domino effect of success. The benefits of this process was evident to us in the very first hour of the Town and Country Fair with a flood of gate activity that volunteers had trouble keeping up with and packed stands at the rodeo every single second something was happening at the arena. It was glaringly obvious we had made a good decision bringing back the rodeo!

There are 11 separate sets of bleachers that hold about 60 people each at the Rosthern fair grounds and it was standing







room only for each and every event throughout the weekend; something every fair struggles with and something we haven't seen in a number of years. This doubled the gate numbers, which doubled the gate dollar total, which all in turn brought more people to the many food booths, displays, rides and other activities. It was the literal definition of domino effect, one thing directly affecting another and we can't thank SAASE enough for this opportunity to bring this bigger and better experience to the people of the world.

World? But it's just a small town Saskatchewan fair! How does it affect the world? Rosthern is home to a very high percentage of newcomers from around the world and a private sponsor of the new arrivals made a point to comment how excited the families were to experience the rodeo for the first time. Bringing the KCRA rodeo to the Town and Country Fair acts as a cultural adventure for people who have never before experienced the unique rodeo culture. Rosthern, with its population of just over 1500, is home to about a dozen large families of newcomers and as a community, we strive to share our cultures with each other and foster an inclusive spirit in every event we put on. The New Ventures grant facilitates this amazing partnership.

We also heard from many participants of the KCRA rodeo that they were thrilled to have the fair happening alongside the rodeo so there was something to do in their downtime. It is a wonderful symbiotic relationship with the fair drawing people to the rodeo and the rodeo drawing people to the fair. This type of mutually beneficial relationship is something we strive to promote in the Rosthern area and the New Ventures grant helps us continue this.

Thank you. Two small words that encompass such a huge accomplishment. We are so thankful for the working relationship our Ag Society has with SAASE and the dedication and passion they have to help us be bigger and better. It is a testament to the wonderful groups throughout this province and the plans we have for the future. The New Ventures grant is the key to growing, it is the extra hand we needed to achieve yet another step in keeping our group alive and thriving and it is yet another way that SAASE assists these amazing projects and events. Here is to even more success in the future!