

NEWS RELEASE

EVENT DATES: JULY 7-17

For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Taste and touch the future in the Green Kitchen

Calgary—What do canola oil candles and hemp aprons have in common? They are both part of a new wave in biotechnology- on display in *Ag-tivity in the City* this year at the Calgary Stampede.

The Canola Learning Centre has added the ‘Green Kitchen’ to its display this year to make clear the confusing science behind the emerging biotechnology industry. Some of the items in this unique and earth- friendly kitchen are: cabinets made of wheat straw; countertops made from hemp; cutlery and carpets made from corn.

“This exhibit is the first of its kind in western Canada to give consumers a taste-and-touch experience of current biotech products, as well as those coming in the future,” says Simone Demers Collins, industry development officer for the Alberta Canola Producers.

The Canola Learning Centre, in partnership with Council for Biotechnology Information and BioProducts Canada, introduced the ‘Green Kitchen’ to explain the process behind creating these products, and to educate the public about the importance of searching for earth-friendly alternatives to many of our everyday items.

While visiting the Canola display, be sure to enter the draw for a miniature ride’em John Deere kids’ tractor.

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NEWS RELEASE**EVENT DATES: JULY 11-13**

For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Youth committee makes 2005 a year for change

2005 has been a year for change for a long-standing Calgary Exhibition and Stampede committee. The Junior Livestock Committee is now officially known as the International Youth Livestock Committee.

“We have as many as 100 students in three different age divisions,” says Heather Saucier, chair for the Calgary Stampede’s International Youth Livestock Committee. “With one of those age categories being junior (which includes ages nine to 12), the word junior in our committee title was just too confusing,” says Saucier. “We felt that the other two age categories are just as important to the competition, and didn’t want them to feel left out.”

The other two age divisions include intermediate competitors, ages 13 to 15, and seniors, 16 to 20 years of age.

This year the agriculture quiz has expanded. “We tested the senior members in 2004, and asked them general agriculture questions,” says Saucier. “It went over so well that we’ve expanded the test to include all age divisions of the Youth Livestock Competition. We want to encourage our competitors to learn about Canada’s and Alberta’s agriculture industry.

The quiz includes those general agriculture questions, as well as questions about herd health, animal anatomy, breeding, as well as general questions on the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede.

The Youth Livestock Committee encourages its competitors to show a beef, dairy, sheep or heavy horse animal and compete in the multi-judging competition. Competitors are also assigned an agri-food business, for which they must develop a marketing plan, complete with a budget. Final power point presentations are made to AVAC, who will make a final decision on which company will receive their funding. AVAC is an Alberta company that invests in projects that add value to agricultural products, then helps those entrepreneurs take the products to market.

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Youth Committee ...page 2

In addition to a major name change, the competition has a new sponsor in the Calgary Stampede Foundation and Ted and Enid Jansen, both long-time Stampede Volunteers. They have partnered together to offer five \$1000 and five \$500 scholarships to senior members enrolled in the competition.

The Youth Livestock Competition begins Monday, July 11 at 10 a.m. and runs through until the final awards presentation made at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13 in the Agriculture Pavilion on Stampede Park. The scholarships are presented to the winners on the evening of Wednesday, July 13 during the Chuckwagon races.

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NEWS RELEASE

EVENT DATES: JULY 9-10

For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Tractors and horses compete in pull-off

The Vintage and Antique Invitational Tractor Pull is adding a new element of excitement to its annual event – the Heavy Horse and Tractor Challenge.

In celebration of Alberta's Centennial and to recognize the tremendous value that horses have brought to agriculture over the past century, the competition will pit a team of heavy horses against vintage tractors.

“We wanted to pay tribute to the role that horses played from the early days of agriculture development in Alberta until now,” says Ed Braun, Farm Equipment Committee Chair. “They are such strong animals that I am sure they will give our antique tractors a run for their money.”

The event takes place in the Big Top Tent and will give both the horses and the tractor two attempts at pulling a 12-foot long heavy horse pull sled weighted down with up to 8,000 lbs. of concrete.

“We think the crowd will love it and it will raise the entertainment value of our show,” said Braun.

The Heavy Horse and Tractor Challenge will be held during half time on both days of the Tractor Pull which is being held in the Big Top Tent.

Saturday, July 9

- Vintage and Antique Invitational Tractor Pull starts at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 10

- Vintage and Antique Invitational Tractor Pull starts at 2:30 p.m.

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Contact: Ed Braun
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For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Ag-tivity in the City celebrates centennial and looks into future

Take a 100 year-old cowboy; some animals such as pigs, cows, and horses; a Survivor challenge and a 'Green' kitchen and put them all together. What do you have? *Ag-tivity in the City* at the 2005 Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.

As Alberta celebrates its centennial, *Ag-tivity* is paying tribute to the past, present and future.

The Past:

- Pawnee Bill and his appaloosa "Y" perform a Wild West show- just like the early days of the Calgary Stampede. Wayne Spears relives the past everyday as Pawnee Bill.
- An Oxen Hitch and Dump Cart show us how farmers and settlers would have worked as our province was born.

The Present:

- A Mock Auction for kids is held everyday- giving them a real life auction experience.
- Country Critters are back- the cute and furry animals that everyone loves have returned to Stampede.
- Seed Survivor leads kids of all ages through the essentials of successful growing- the interactive displays let the visitor in on Mother Nature's secrets.
- Clydesdales- an eight-horse hitch as well as a very unique couple- The Clyde and Pony Story.
- The Great Aggie Challenge: The Great Aggie Challenge presented by Devon Canada incorporates a board game and agriculture specific questions. Developed by 'Mad Science' it will elicit crowd cheering, antics by the quizmaster and his assistant, and fun rivalry by the contestants. Watch for this event three times daily on the Agrium Presentation Stage in *Ag-tivity in the City*.

The Future:

- Canola Learning's 'Green Kitchen' displays earth-friendly alternatives and introduces us to the future of some of our most common household items.
- Dieticians and Canola producers from across Western Canada will be at the Canola Learning Centre explaining how Nexera Canola, a new seed variety, produces Natreon canola oil, an oil low in saturated fats, with virtually zero trans fats.

Ag-tivity in the City sees some favourite friends returning this year. The swine, dairy and other commodity displays will be back. Llamas will be showcased as well as Bailey the Buffalo. Pigeon races will take place daily. Agrium Inc. is sponsoring the popular barn tours again this year.

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Contact: Bonnie Carruthers
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For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Outwit, outlast and outgrow- Agrium “Seed Survivor”

Test your knowledge and growing skills at “Seed Survivor”, Agrium’s hands-on event this year at *Ag-tivity in the City*. Kids of all ages will love this display, with its huge assortment of interactive centres.

“This exhibit is unique. It allows the viewer to speed through the growth cycle of a seed while illustrating how important water, light and nutrients are in growing healthy, productive plants,” says Agrium spokesperson Vanessa Farrelly. “It is a great opportunity for everyone to experience the growing process.”

The Video Spinner takes a variety of flower buds through the stages of blooming. Slow, fast or backwards, the spinner allows visitors to see what is going on with the flowers in their gardens. In another display, see and hear how the prairie reacts as a storm rolls in. And still another allows magnification of 100x of a soil sample, showing what lives in the earth and identifying its importance.

As well as the interactive displays, there will be other screens set up, so everyone can enjoy the activity as it happens.

This display is currently being used to develop new curriculum for our elementary and junior high schools, teaching children the importance of water, earth, energy and light when growing plants. There will be four main centres to showcase these important elements, with activities suitable for children five years of age and above. And be sure to check out the “Tower of Power”. Come down to *Ag-tivity in the City* and plant yourself in this fantastic exhibit.

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Contact: Doug Beever
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For immediate release
June 17, 2005

Stockyards and auctioneers commission print for Centennials

The province of Alberta and the Calgary Stockyards share something in common: both are celebrating their 100th birthdays in 2005.

“To commemorate this special occasion Will Irvine, from the Calgary Stockyards, and a volunteer on the Calgary Stampede Auctioneer’s committee, decided to commission local artist Joe Friesen to draw a pencil sketch,” says Ron Ward, chair of the Calgary Stampede Auctioneer committee.

“The unique aspect is that 40 local area ranchers have donated an animal to be sold in the Brand Consignors Sale during the 2005 International Livestock Auctioneer Championship,” explains Ward. “Each consignor will receive a framed print that includes their ranch brand.”

The original 11” x 14” print will have the Calgary Stampede brand, the C lazy S, and will be auctioned off at 10:30 am in the Big Top Tent, on Saturday, July 16; the Consignors Sale then follows, featuring the top 10 auctioneer finalists. In addition to each competitor selling four animals, they must also auction off a ‘black box mystery item’, says Ward.

“Those items might include a fishing trip or a pass to a local area golf course. The finalists must be able to read the crowd to get those items sold,” says Ward. “It makes for fun and extra action in the event.”

A final print will be presented at the Auctioneer’s Reception to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to commemorate the Province’s centennial, starting at 5:00 p.m. at Rotary House.

The Calgary Stockyards have been a long time supporter of the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede, and each year have hosted the preliminary round of the International Livestock Auctioneer Championship. This year the Alberta Fed Beef Expo Judging begins on Friday, July 15 at 9:30 am in Strathmore.

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Contact: Ron Ward

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NEWS RELEASE**EVENT DATES: JULY 9, 11-13**

For immediate release
June 17, 2005

So many mini donkeys

The 2005 Calgary Exhibition & Stampede will bring together some of the biggest players in the miniature donkey world. Not only does the Stampede host the World Miniature Donkey Show, for the first time the National Miniature Donkey Association Show will also happen during the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.

"This is the first time the National show has been held outside of the United States," says Miniature Donkey Committee Chair Dave Larson. "Many American competitors already come up for the Worlds, this year the National show will be an even stronger draw."

One of the most prestigious donkey sales in North America also happens during the 10 days of Stampede. The Miniature Donkey Rocky Mountain Auction also draws enthusiasts up to Calgary in July. "The auction is definitely a big part of why many breeders come to Calgary for Stampede," says Larson. "Competitors can show and sell in one trip."

The sale happens the first Saturday of Stampede at the Cooke farm near Blackie, Alberta. And, it has an important charity focus. "We believe it's important to give back to our community," says Sharon Cooke, host of the auction. "Every year a miniature donkey gelding is auctioned off for STARS (air ambulance). To date the miniature donkey community has raised \$65,000 over the past 13 years for STARS. "The members of the miniature donkey community really support this and quite often the donkey is auctioned at five to seven times its value to raise money." These donkeys are also always entered in the classes at the Calgary Stampede Show so the public gets to see them in action.

The popularity of miniature donkeys continues to grow. They are friendly and affectionate, easy to care for and require less acreage than larger animals.

The World Miniature Donkey Show & National Miniature Donkey Show happens Monday, July 11 – Wednesday, July 13.

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Contact: David Larson
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Sharon Cooke
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NEWS RELEASE

EVENT DATES: JULY 7-10

For immediate release
June 17, 2005

World Champion returns to Stampede

Brian Coleman from Cremona, Alberta is the reigning Six Horse Hitch World Champ and he's coming back for more competition this year. "I'm bringing the same team back," says Coleman. "Right now we're training well and injury free, hopefully we'll stay that way."

Competition is fierce at the World Championships. Competitors come from across North America, from as far away as Wisconsin, Minnesota and Idaho.

Judges will be looking for teams that work well together, match in colour and size and have a lot of eye appeal. The horses have to have clear athletic ability and make smooth transitions.

The heavy horse show happens early in the 10-day event. Coleman will be "prepping" his team of Percherons right up until the big day. The barn doors of Coleman Ranch at Cremona will be open to media in advance of the Stampede for reporters looking to learn more about how a world champion team gets ready for the biggest competition of their lives.

For more information or to arrange a time to go to Coleman Ranch call Brian Coleman at 637-3700.

Shows run Thursday July 7 to Sunday July 10.

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Contact: Pat Fisher (403) 934-4261
Cell: (403) 901-9301 during Stampede

CALGARY STAMPEDE 2005 AG BITES

Calgary Stampede hosts 26th World Championship Blacksmith Competition

The World Championship Blacksmith Competition is growing and gaining momentum around the world as it enters its 26th year. Many countries now host elimination rounds in their respective homeland to earn the right and honour to represent their country at the World's held during the Stampede. Approximately 18 teams from all over the world plan to attend this event in Calgary, including South Africa, New Zealand, Finland and of course Canada. The competition starts on Thursday, July 7 and wraps up on Sunday, July 10 with the Finals running at 10:00 a.m. in the Big Top Tent. Some of the features of this year's event are:

- **National Pride** – a Four Man Team Draft Horseshoeing Competition, where a team of four must prepare and shoe a draft horse. The competitors race against the clock to shoe one foot of these gentle giants.
Event happens on Friday, July 8 at 6:30 pm in the Big Top Tent
- **Potluck Creative Forging** – those competitors that are up for the challenge receive a variety of materials and limited amount of time to create a unique piece of art that will be auctioned later in the evening.
Event happens on Saturday, July 9 at 10:00 am in the Big Top Tent
- **Metal Art Showcase & Auction** – provides an opportunity to view and purchase interesting and dynamic pieces of metal art work that have been handcrafted in the blacksmith's fire and brought to you from artists around the world. The showcase is open by invitation only and the committee would like to extend an invitation to the media to attend. This event winds up with a live and silent auction.
Event happens on Saturday, July 9 at 6:00 pm in the Victoria Pavilion

For more information, contact Marshall Iles, Blacksmith Committee chair at (403) 254-6580, cell phone at (403) 850-3296 or by e-mail at unicornforge@shaw.ca.

Wild Angels Trick Riders to entertain crowds

Wild Angels, a team of two trick riders, are scheduled to entertain visitors during the Calgary Stampede. Vanessa Steinbach and Rae-Lynn Armstrong of Bassano, Alberta started riding when they were just two years old and they began trick riding at seven years of age. Now professional performers, Vanessa and Rae-Lynn will thrill audiences in the Big Top. The two talented riders have their own unique tricks and they work together to create an exciting program that delights the crowds.

Look for the Wild Angels on:

- Thursday, July 14 at 11:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. in the Big Top
- Friday, July 15 at 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Big Top

For more information, contact Vanessa or Aleta Steinback at (403) 641-4326.

CALGARY STAMPEDE 2005 AG BITES

Centennial brings historic oxen team and hitch to Stampede

As a special centennial guest, *Ag-tivity in the City* has invited an oxen team and dump cart to its tent this year. The dump cart is a later model of the Red River Cart, which was used by settlers coming out west. The oxen's partnership starts early. When they are a few months old, two oxen are paired together; one is lion (left) and one is bright (right). They are stalled, exercised and yoked together in this order; partners for life. "They are inseparable," says Barbara Fynn, who has had these oxen since they came out from Nova Scotia in 2003. There will also be information on the oxen's history, their custom made yoke and a daily demonstration of the oxen hitch and their skills, outside the *Ag-tivity in the City* tent between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Contact Bonnie Carruthers at (403) 261-0312 or bcarruthers@calgarystampede.com

Pigeons dash for cash

The Pigeon Races have been a highlight of the Calgary Stampede since 1998 and this year will be no exception. The "Rangeland Sky Derby" races will be run two times daily at 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm from July 8 to 16. For these nine days, these feathered athletes race from the Deerfoot Mall to Stampede Park in about 11 minutes. The 5:00 pm "Rangeland Sky Derby" race will be clocked and recorded on the sponsor leader board by the Pigeon Loft, located in *Ag-tivity in the City*. On Saturday, July 16, the bird with the fastest accumulated time will be declared the "Rangeland Sky Derby" winner. The final event in the Pigeon Race will be held on Sunday, July 17. The birds will fly 100 miles for the Futurity "Dash for Cash" race which will take place at 9:00 a.m. (start time is dependant on the weather). This \$3000 event is sure to attract many spectators. For more information, contact Sharon Yeast at (403) 261-9316 or by e-mail at syeast@calgarystampede.com.

CALGARY STAMPEDE 2005 AG BITES

Heavy Horse Teams move to beautiful music

Heavy Horse teams at the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede will once again be moving to beautiful music. The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra will perform with the heavy horses three times over the course of the show. "I love the way the horses respond to the music," says CPO Resident Conductor Rosemary Thomson. "We can hear them while we're playing. It's such a fantastic partnership that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world."

You can enjoy the sights and sounds of the Heavy Horse Show & Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra:

- Friday July 8 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday July 9 at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday July 10 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information contact Pat Fisher, Chair, Heavy Horse Committee at (403) 934-4261 or on his cell phone during Stampede at (403) 901-9301.

Heavy Horse Pull Auction is a sponsorship opportunity

Take in the beauty and power of the heavy horses at the Heavy Horse Pull Auction on Friday, July 15 at 12:30 pm in the Big Top. Teams of horses in the light, middle and heavy weight competitions will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The winning bidders can drape their company "tarp" on the team and the same signage will hang above the team's stall in the barn. The auction was created four years ago to increase local awareness and interest in heavy horse competitions while at the same time raising funds for the Heavy Horse Committee.

Come watch these beautiful, powerful teams in action.

- Friday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m. – Horse Pull - Light Weights (Big Top)
- Saturday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. – Horse Pull – Middle Weights (Big Top)
- Sunday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. – Horse Pull – Heavy Weights (Big Top)

For more information, please contact Terry Bailey at home (403) 280-0149 or by cell at (403) 862-4946.

CALGARY STAMPEDE 2005 AG BITES

Wild West comes alive with Express Clydesdale Hitch and Pawnee Bill

This year at the Calgary Stampede, visitors will see the Wild West re-enacted. As part of the 'Express Personnel Clydesdales Display', Pawnee Bill is coming to town. Throughout Stampede, Pawnee Bill (also known as Wayne Spears), and his appaloosa "Y" will celebrate our province's centennial by performing a show from the same era, dressed in period costume. Another part of the Express Display is the "Clyde and Pony Story". Pony, a 17 year-old black and white pony, has raised Clyde (a full size, seven year-old Clydesdale) from his youth, and both consider the little guy 'Boss'. Kids can get in on the action and get in the saddle to test-drive these unique individuals. Of course, the Express Hitch is a must see event. Every evening from July 12-17th, eight Clydesdales will showcase their skill and strength at a special demonstration, the Express Hitch. The Clydesdales will also be on the grounds throughout Stampede, so stop by *Ag-tivity in the City* and say hello.

Contact Bonnie Carruthers at (403) 261-0312 or bcarruthers@calgarystampede.com

Contact Ag Media by e-mail

This year, the Agriculture Media Committee is going online with a new e-mail address that will be active for the 10 days of Stampede. E-mail us at agmedia@calgarystampede.com from Thursday, July 7 to Sunday, July 17, 2005. You will also still be able to reach us by phone or fax as you have in past years. We are located in the Southwest corner, Agriculture Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of the Stampede.

The contents of this press kit are available in Word, PDF and text formats at:

www.stampedeagriculture.com

Just click on the media link to access this 2005 Ag Media Press Kit.

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Members of our committee are:

Alana Lunn (Chairperson), Leanne Niblock (Vice-Chair), Tracey Feist, Lynette Lefsrud, Allison McKinnon, Annemarie Pedersen, Debbie Verbonac, and Laura Laing.