

September 29, 2006

Alberta's cream of the crop named to 2006 Agriculture Hall of Fame

Edmonton... Three prominent Albertans will be inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame and honoured at an October 6 ceremony in Edmonton. This year's inductees are Dr. Robert Church of Airdrie, Frank Fallwell of Calgary, and Dr. Frank Robinson of Edmonton.

"Albertans are proud of the province's vibrant agriculture industry - one that owes its strength to the vision and energy of those who work hard to ensure its continued growth," said Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Doug Horner. "This year's inductees represent the spirit and community of the west, and are part of the driving force behind the past and future of agriculture in Alberta."

The inductees have demonstrated strong commitment to Alberta's rural community and agriculture industry. Each has served Alberta as a leader in some of the province's most active rural organizations.

Dr. Church's reputation as a leader and expert in the cattle genetics industry extends worldwide. Church was instrumental in the development of the Alberta Science and Research Authority and has authored more than 100 scientific publications in animal genetics and biotechnology. His knowledge and ability to communicate highly technical concepts to Albertans have helped bring new technologies to our industry, leading to more effective and innovative agricultural practices in Alberta.

Fallwell is known province-wide for his exceptional ability to forge innovative partnerships, build bridges between adversaries and put in motion initiatives that help Alberta's agriculture industry prosper. With more than 50 years in the agriculture sector, Fallwell has been seen as a driving force behind the success of organizations like the Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Growing Alberta, the Agriculture and Food Council and the Alberta Food Processors Association.

Dr. Robinson's enthusiasm and appreciation for Alberta's agriculture industry have been invaluable in attracting greater interest and involvement from Albertans. From students to seniors to poultry producers, Robinson's innovative teaching methods and abilities have helped Albertans reconnect with the province's agriculture industry and rural community. His broiler breeder research program is internationally recognized and his leadership led to the creation of the highly successful Alberta Poultry Research Centre.

The Agriculture Hall of Fame began inducting recipients in 1951 to recognize outstanding contributions to agriculture and a commitment to rural Alberta. The awards are presented every two years. This year's ceremony will take place at the Delta Edmonton South Hotel.

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For further information, contact:

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Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame

Created in 1951, the Agricultural Hall of Fame has recognized 117 men and women of Alberta who have made contributions that have significantly impacted Alberta's agricultural industry and rural community life. Each inductee has been an agricultural leader at the provincial, national or international level and has demonstrated leadership in farming, rural and/or commodity organizations, or in the food industry.

Three people outside the candidate's immediate family must nominate Hall of Fame candidates. A selection committee, consisting of agricultural industry representatives, evaluates each submission based on their significant contributions to agriculture and rural life as well as their strong personal qualities.

Hall of Fame inductions take place every two years at an official ceremony hosted by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. This year's ceremony will take place at the Delta Edmonton South Hotel on October 6, 2006 hosted by Doug Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong will be a speaker at the event.

For more information about the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame and this year's inductees please visit the Web site at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/halloffame.

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