



July 16, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

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## Youth livestock show boosts scholarship total to \$50,000

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CALGARY – Andie Hadway revels in the rural.

Hadway, 15, has grown up on the family farm, a seed stock and cow/calf operation, east of Didsbury, Alta., and the agricultural way of life is near and dear to her heart.

"I want to stay involved in the farm, and go to school maybe to become a vet or to go into agricultural business," says Hadway. "If I'm not playing soccer in Calgary, I'm at the farm doing work outside, whether it's cutting grass, sorting cows, helping out in the yard with our seed operations. I'm pretty involved.

"It's just the learning experience. You gain a lot of qualities working on the farm. You learn about hard work, about working with other people, about how to make a living off agriculture."

The Calgary Stampede's International Youth Livestock Show can help her realize those dreams. Hadway was one of five young leading lights of the agriculture industry, aged in the intermediate (12 to 14) category, who were presented Saturday with a \$1,000 post-secondary IYLS scholarship.

In all, the Stampede nearly doubled the number of annual IYLS scholarship recipients, to 48, and boosted the total scholarship value to \$50,000, from \$35,000, with help from sponsors CCS Corporation, ConocoPhillips, WA Ranches, Ted and Enid Jansen, Enbridge Inc., the Elmer and Ona Hansen Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Calgary Stampede Foundation. The scholarship recipients were introduced and recognized on Saturday night during the evening Grandstand Show at Stampede Park.

For the second straight year, the International Youth Livestock Show is part of a collaboration between the Stampede and the Olds Agricultural Society entitled Summer Synergy. The integrated, week-long show, which concluded on Friday, July 15 at Olds, drew an estimated 350 competitors and about 600 head of livestock from all over Western Canada. The majority of the 2011 Summer Synergy event – which included a youth marketing competition, a multi-species judging competition, conformation, showmanship, and show team judging – took place in Olds, beginning Sunday, July 10. Youths exhibited animals in three species classes – sheep, dairy, or beef – and Stampede International Youth scholarship interviews were held on Stampede Park on Saturday.

"Our marketing component has existed for many years, but this year there was a much more focused approach on strategic marketing techniques," said Tracy Lundago, who chairs the Stampede's International Youth Livestock committee. "For example, the seniors (aged 15 to 20) did an agriculture advocacy blog over the past 60 days.

"And what's really exciting for us is the qualities exhibited among all the scholarship winners," added Lundago.

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“Whether they’re 9 or 19 years old, they have a tremendous amount of leadership, exemplary communications skills, and truly the will to succeed. They’re a great group of kids that share those commonalities. They’re great livestock producers, all-around.”

Elsewhere, youth champions were crowned on Monday under the Big Top to conclude the four-day Calgary Stampede four-day International Youth Heavy Horse Show.

Ten senior-aged IYLS participants from across Alberta – Dakota Wilson of Bashaw (beef), Kolby Heaven of Mayerthorpe (beef), Keltey Whelan of Irricana (beef), Tyler Dietrech of Forestburg (beef), Cameron Olson of Rocky View (beef), Jaclyn Hunter of Lacombe (dairy), Tessa Nybo of Sundre (beef), Samantha Sperber of Ponoka (beef), Sawyer Dayley of Carstairs (beef), and Arisjan Appel of Spruce View (dairy) – were awarded \$2,000 scholarships, while 17 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to Becky Domolewski of Taber (beef), Michael Haeni of Didsbury (dairy), Rosie Templeton of Coaldale (beef), Jessica Sperber of Ponoka (beef), Samuel Haeni of Didsbury (dairy), Katelyn Crest of Barrhead (dairy), Margriet Appel of Spruce View (dairy), Adriane Good of Brooks (sheep), Sarah Nixdorff of Irricana (Beef), Ruth Schuepbach of Claresholm (beef), Lars Iversen of Olds (dairy), Marleen Palsson of Rockyford (sheep), Jenalee Blackhurst of Rimbey (beef), Katelyn Dietrich of Forestburg (beef), Hal Nixdorff of Airdrie (beef), Carling Matejka of Ponoka (beef), and Wyatt Hanson of Airdrie (beef).

In the intermediate category, five young Albertans – Hadway (beef), Brandon Hertz of Duchess (beef), Coleman Nixdorff of Airdrie (beef), Cayley Peltzer of Rosemary (beef/sheep), and Dakota Townsend of Sylvan Lake (beef) – earned \$1,000 IYLS scholarships, while 10 scholarships in the amount of \$500 were awarded to Jared Couch of Balzac (beef), Shallaine Daley of Carstairs (beef), Kathryn Dolliver of Stettler (beef), Candace Fankhanel of Stettler (beef), Cassidy Vanden Berg of Lethbridge (sheep), Haylea Jones of Carstairs (beef), Cassidy Matthews of Cochrane (beef), Megan McLeod of Cochrane (beef), Colton McMahon of Forestburg (beef), and Nick Rutley of Didsbury (dairy).

For the first time, juniors (aged 9 to 11) were also part of the mix, with six participants – Colin Fankhanel of Stettler (beef), Brandon Fraser of Cochrane (beef), Josie Hadway of Didsbury (beef), Wacey Townsend of Sylvan Lake (beef), Heidi Tymko of Roydale (beef), and Shaelyne Williamson of Coaldale (sheep) – earning scholarships in the amount of \$500.

Another important element of the Summer Synergy effort was the second annual International Youth Livestock Supreme Championship, folded into the Stampede’s UFA Steer Classic on Saturday, July 16.

Four young competitors who displayed exceptional conformation and presentation of their respective species projects were crowned under the Stampede’s Big Top in various classes – Supreme Purebred Beef Champion (Laurie Morash of Bassano), Supreme Commercial Beef Champion (Kyle Dodgson of Sangudo), Supreme Dairy Champion (Jaclyn Hunter of Lacombe), and Supreme Sheep Champion (Peltzer).

The four were selected from about two dozen champions who earned a winner’s ribbon leading up to the Stampede – either at 4-H on Parade, from May 27 to 29 at the Stampede; the Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show, in Olds, from July 10 to 12; the Provincial 4-H Dairy Show, in Olds, from July 13 to 15; or the Summer Synergy show.



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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit [www.calgarystampede.com](http://www.calgarystampede.com).

