



Western Stock Growers' Association

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

WSGA SUMMER MEETING

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the WSGA Summer Meeting!

The Western Stock Growers' Association Summer Meeting

WHEN: August 1 and 2, 2012

**WHERE: Benchmark Angus Ranch,
Warner, Alberta**

More details and registration form will follow shortly including cost, directions, nearby accommodations and itinerary of events. You may arrive on July 31 at Benchmark with your trailer as dry camping will be available.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, commented on the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior:

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship."

I truly believe that we must do our part to hold our governments accountable and to mentor whomever we can have influence upon. The WSGA will continue to lobby both the party in power and the opposition on behalf of livestock producers and our members.

So with that glimpse into the future from the past it brings us to the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede. The WSGA has a long history with the Stampede with many WSGA members and directors having served on both boards. I encourage one and all to partake of all the Stampede has to offer and to meet with us at our Summer meeting at the Munton's in Warner where we will explore lessons of the past with an eye on the future.

*Phil Rowland
President*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calgary Stampede: July 6 to 15. Come out and celebrate the 100th Anniversary!

Golf with Ted Menzies, MP: July 12 Bridges Golf Course in Claresholm

Alberta Cattle Feeders Association Member Outreach Meetings:

- July 9, Highmark Renewables Inc, Vegreville
- July 19, The HUB, Coaldale.

International Livestock Congress: August 15, Calgary

WSGA OFFICE CHANGES

On January 1, the WSGA made the decision to give up the bricks and mortar office in Calgary in favour of a virtual office. This move into the 21st century was to better serve our constituents and enables us to move our board meetings to locations across the province. This gets us out to the people who are the backbone of the association, the members. It also spends our resources on brain trust instead of bricks and mortar.

The WSGA is moving forward with the development of a virtual office with two important changes. The first is the hiring of a new manager in Lindsye Dunbar. Lindsye comes from a background in agriculture, having grown up on a farm outside of Pincher Creek.

A graduate of the University of Alberta's agriculture program, Lindsye's past experience includes working for a communications company specializing in agriculture. With her experience in communications coupled with her passion for agriculture, Lindsye will be a definite asset to the WSGA. She is excited to be working for the WSGA and looks forward to hearing from and / or meeting the members. Please don't hesitate to contact her at the WSGA office.

The second of the important changes mentioned is the procurement of a mailbox as a permanent address for the WSGA. Please update your address books with the new address for the WSGA:

Box 179
#14 – 900 Village Lane
Okotoks, AB. T1S 1Z6

CHECK-OFF

Check-off for activity from January 1 to June 31 is coming up. Application reimbursement must be made by July 31. You will find the necessary form for application included and it is available on our website.

Please consider forwarding all or a portion of your check-off dollars to the WSGA. Your Executive and Directors work on a voluntary basis and often travel significant distances without reimbursement. Membership contributions are used for research projects and / or participation in studies with other organizations in our industry. This along with increasing our communications to improve the visibility of the WSGA in the industry as a voice for stock growers and also general costs included in meetings and operations takes a considerable amount of funds.

Your support, along with being deeply appreciated, will be receipted as a voluntary membership contribution so you can use it for tax purposes.

BMO FARM FAMILY AWARDS

WSGA President among the winners

Every year, the Calgary Stampede and BMO Bank of Montreal recognize outstanding farm families in southern Alberta. The awards program was created to promote a renewed urban-rural relationship and to recognize outstanding southern Alberta farm families who best typify the value of the family farmer to our society. The program, specifically, focuses on recognizing the contribution to the enhancement of quality of life as a family unit. Each year, the Alberta agriculture service

board representatives in southern Alberta nominate one family. The families are brought to the Stampede for the BMO Farm Family Awards, which include a reception, greeting from Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, brunch, awards presentation, and family photograph session. The winning families are then treated to an afternoon Stampede Rodeo performance. The 2012 BMO Farm Family Awards will be held on Monday, July 9 at the Palomino Room in the BMO Centre.

Congratulations to all who were nominated for the BMO Farm Family Award!! The following is a list of the winners for 2012:

Farm Name	Family Name	Nominated by
Bauer Family	Norman & Jean Bauer	Cypress County
Bricker Family	David & Phyllis Bricker	Mountain View County
Red Wing Farms Ltd.	Allan & Ramona Chiliak	Special Area #3
Hogg Farms	Bruce, Drann, Norris, Devinn Hogg	Kneehill County
Irwin Ranches	Julia, Todd & John Irwin	County of Newell
Dry Coulee	Doug Jensen Family	MD of Taber
Krooshoop Farms Ltd	Theo & Regina Krooshoop	County of Forty Mile
Leeds Family	Charles & Doug Leeds & Families	MD of Willow Creek
Madge Farms Ltd	Phil & Judy Madge	Special Area #2
Mason Farm Ltd.	Barry & Dawn Mason	Starland County
McCann Farm	Donald & Marlene McCann	County of Lethbridge
Mowat Farm	George Mowat Family	MD of Pincher Creek
Oritz Farm	William Ortiz Family	County of Vulcan
Redel Farm Ltd.	Barry Redel Family	Special Area #4
Rowland Farm	Phil Rowland Family	MD of Foothills
Rowney Families	Dennis & David Rowney & Families	Rocky View County
Schmitt Family Farm	Cameron & Janelle Schmitt	County of Warner
Tower Ranches	Terry Tower and Family	Wheatland County
Webster Family Ranch	Barry Webster & Family	Cardston County
Mapiatow Ranches	Glen & Betty Wideman	MD of Ranchland