Agribition INSIDER

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Canadian Western Agribition held its 45th Annual General Meeting on April 7, reporting increased profits and electing the 2016/2017 Board of Directors. With a number of new members to the Board, we look forward to new ideas and opportunities for Agribition!

We had outstanding attendance at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 7. Thank you to those who attended and a sincere congratulations to those long-serving volunteers who received pins, as well as all other award recipients.

The summer will be spent planning the 2016 show and we are excited to see some positive changes.

I hope to see you at the show in November!

Stewart Stone
President of Canadian Western Agribition

Introducing the 2016 Canadian Western Agribition Board of Directors

Back Row (L to R): Carla Schmitt*, Blake MacMillan (Executive Member at Large), Bryce Thompson (Executive Member at Large)*, Stewart Stone (President), Bruce Holmquist (Vice-President), Reed Andrew (Past President), Chris Lees (Executive Member at Large)*, Barry Young

Front Row (L to R): Marty Kratochvil*, Michael Latimer, Jodi Banks, Courtney MacDougall, Doug Fee*, Kim Hextall*, Curtis Kuchinka, Levi Jackson*

Missing: Bryon Burnett, Rich Harries, Ross Macdonald*, Deb Niekamp, Kim Onrait

*Board of Directors elected on April 7, 2016 to serve a two year term (others are Directors serving the second of their two year term)

A Record-Breaking Year

At their Annual General Meeting on April 7, CWA announced a record profit from operations of $844,606 and a provincial economic impact of $56 million annually. Other noteable achievements include:

- Highest attendance in six years with over 130,000 visitors
- For the first time since 1975, overall livestock sales reached $3.4 million and purebred beef sales exceeded $2 million
- Record trade show and sponsorship revenues
- 25 per cent increase in active international buyers
- Record rodeo attendance of 23,560 fans

Community Recognition

Adding to the show's banner year, CWA was recognized at a couple of events in the Regina community. On April 1, CWA was recognized for marketing and promotional achievement at the Paragon Business Excellence Awards. On April 14, CWA was awarded Marquee Event of the Year at the Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala. This award means a lot to our organization, especially because the 2015 show was our most successful show in many years. We broke records in livestock, trade show and rodeo, so being recognized for these achievements by the business community and tourism industry is a prestigious honour.

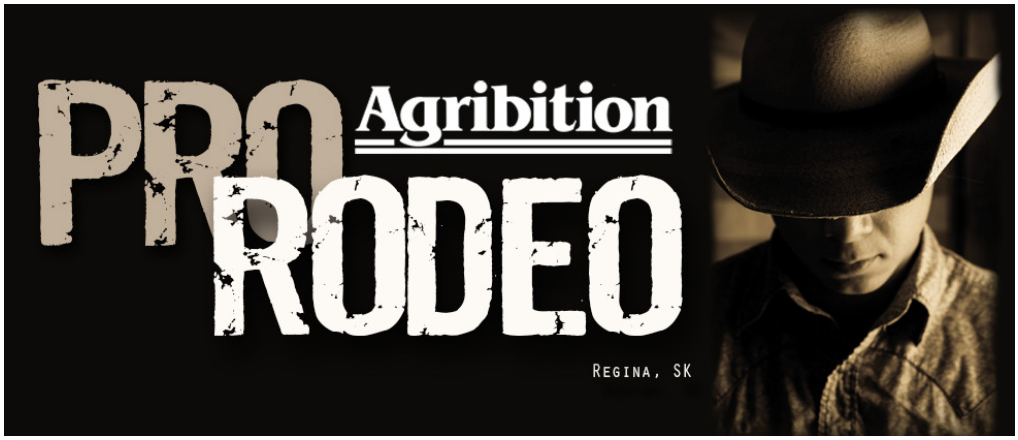
Back Row (L to R): Shawna Fuchs, Livestock & Rodeo Manager; Nicole Bissonnette, Fulfillment Coordinator; Brady Kapovic, Sponsorship Manager; Randi Seitz, Livestock Event Coordinator; Sarah Novak, Marketing Manager
Front Row (L to R): Marty Seymour, CEO; Corey Sentes, Controller
Missing: Corey Hoskins, Trade Show Manager

Agribition Joins the Pro Rodeo Circuit

CWA and CPRA partner to bring the pro rodeo to Regina

CWA is excited to partner with the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) to host the "Agribition Pro Rodeo". The four performance rodeo will take place November 23 - 26, and is the first pro rodeo of its kind in Saskatchewan.

The event will feature 16 top athletes from each of the seven major events who will be divided into two pools of eight competing in two performances each.



The roster will be based on the Pro Rodeo Canada standings at the end of the 2016 regular season and will be the inaugural event of the 2017 schedule. Top professional competitors from around the world will battle for $100,000 in prize money, giving rodeo fans in Saskatchewan high energy, action-packed rodeo to enjoy.

What's new at the 2016 show?

Programming, buildings, rodeo, and more!

As the show continues to grow, the programming continues to expand and change to offer something for everyone. Some of the major changes for the 2016 show include a new four-night professional rodeo, expanded Food Pavilion, Rodeo Performance Horse Sale, and Full Contact Jousting as an evening event. You will also have one last opportunity to say farwell to the Exhibition Stadium and the legendary Swamp, as we have a Farewell to The Swamp Cabaret Sequel on November 26 following the rodeo.

The demolition of old buildings on the property for this year is complete and the construction has begun. For the 2016 show, there will be temporary use of part of the new building which will be used for livestock stalling. From a visitor perspective, there will be very minimal changes. As exhibitors, there will be minor inconveniences, but for the most part the show will proceed business as usual. The construction of the International Business Centre will be completed for the 2017 show.

Hall of Fame

Merle Thomason, Marilyn Mountenay, and Ray Kneeland inducted into the Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame

Merle & Marilyn Harlton were raised on the family farm at Belle Plaine, SK. They grew up working closely with their grandfather, Charlie and father, George. They have embraced the Harlton Family tradition of dedicated community service, tireless volunteerism and a commitment to the development of top quality livestock. Merle and Marilyn have both been involved with Agribition since its inception, showing swine in the early years and purebred and commercial cattle at subsequent shows. They have served the organization in many capacities and on a number of different committees. The list of Merle and Marilyn's accomplishments and contributions far exceeds the information that has been provided. They continue to work in tandem on many of their projects and volunteer efforts and are still referred to as the "Harlton Twins" by many in the Agribition family. In recognition of their commitment and dedication to the business of agriculture and to Agribition, we are pleased to induct Merle Thomason and Marilyn Mountenay into the Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame.

Ray Kneeland has been as much of a fixture outside at Agribition as the cattle barns and The Swamp located inside. He has attended 42 out of the 45 years of the show. If you are walking through the barns, it is very easy to pick Ray out. The sight of the motorhome and tilt-table located between the cattle and horse barns is the sign that a very remarkable person is in attendance. His shuffling walk with the hitch in his step, head down focusing on where he's going, and swinging arms, point him out as a man on a mission. Ray has always been a huge supporter of youth ag programs and loves nothing more than when the 4-H kids start bringing their animals over to have their feet cleaned up. The best part to him is watching those young people grow into the farmers that he works with everyday. In recognition of his commitment and dedication to the business of agriculture and to Agribition, we are pleased to induct Ray Kneeland into the Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame.

Working Cowboy Award

Terry Hart Receives Tiny Simpson Memorial Working Cowboy Award

Barn Boss of the Year Award

Jim "Shiny" Hallberg Receives Barn Boss of the Year Award

Name: Jim Hallberg

Nickname: Shiny

Location: Weyburn, SK

Barn Boss History: Angus Barn Boss since 2006

2015 Long-Service Volunteer Awards

5 Years of Service

(L to R): Bryce Thompson, Harry Towes, Ray Lutz, Vic Peters, Andy Roesslein, Bryan Evans, Doug Fee, Elmer Eashappie, Jody Berglund, Nathan Trowell
Missing: Calvin Dovell, Curtis Kuchinka, Adam Lindenbach, Scott McCormack, Blair McIntosh, Isabel Sheltgen, Mike Stiefel

10 Years of Service

(L to R): Chris Lees, Dylan Grieve, Marj Siman, Doug Siman
Missing: Rick Byrne, Harold Grane, Grant Hamilton, Larry Hanson, Kent Stuart, Mark Vermeulen, Aaron Yorga

15 Years of Service

(L to R): Bill Lys, Mel Ostapovich, Geri Hack, Garth Neher

25 Years of Service

Larry Brack, Bruce Holmquist, Gordon Roger, Belinda Wagner

45 Years of Service

Ken Halvorson

20 Years of Service

(L to R): Tom Grieve
Missing: Garth Charlton, Clarence Manegre, Wilf Knelson, Ken Stovin

A special thank you to Kent Stuart for volunteering to take photographs of the award recipients and candid photos throughout the evening. Your enthusiasm and generosity is greatly appreciated!

Staff Announcements

Marty Seymour Departs from Canadian Western Agribition

Marty Seymour resigned as CEO, effective April 30, 2016 to pursue a new opportunity at Farm Credit Canada. Marty leaves Agribition in a better place than when he arrived. The staff and Board of Directors are grateful for the five years he has dedicated to improving Agribition and its connection to the community. Marty will be missed but we wish him nothing but the best in his new career.

"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."
– Marty Seymour
Agribition Class of 2016

Other Upcoming Events

June 15-17, 2016: Canada's Farm Progress Show
Evraz Place, Regina, SK

July 19-21, 2016: Ag in Motion
15 min. NW of Saskatoon, SK

Important Dates to Remember

August 5-7, 2016: Visit us at Regina Folk Festival

September 1, 2016: Livestock Entry System Opens

November 21-26, 2016: Canadian Western Agribition

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