



Ponoka  
Agricultural  
Society

# 2020 News Letter

Challenging BUT Not Impossible .....

....To do great deeds to inspire, support, and create vitality in our urban and rural community.

.. To use our resources to work collaboratively with like minded groups to gather people in meaningful ways.

CANCELLED

Yes, the August 2020 Ponoka Community Fair was cancelled due to COVID, but continue your passions and hone your skills. Fair 2021 will offer up the competition and the showcase of talent and enthusiasm that we missed in 2020.

In spite of this pandemic, the Board of Directors has worked to explore and collaborate so that the Ponoka Ag Society can *inspire, support and create vitality*.

## 1. Collaboration Pays Off in a New Project: How Does Your Garden Grow?

FCSS and the Ponoka Ag Society will provide:

### Seeds & Gardening Tips



In the spring, as the snow was melting, PAS partnered with Ponoka FCSS to provide seeds, tomato plants, and dirt to over 130 gardeners! "How Does Your Garden Grow" was a huge success and with lots of rain and hot weather those new and seasoned gardeners are enjoying their fresh produce and flowers. There is nothing like color in your yard and fresh garden veggies in your kitchen! Special thanks to Shelly Van Eaton & FCSS, and to our



"Garden Tips" writers: Fred & Doreen Broska, Lesley Pohl, and Anita H. at UFA.



**2. Scholarship Opportunities:** Post secondary is never cheap! Local students (between the ages of 17 and 21) enrolling in a trade, diploma or degree program this fall are invited to apply for one of two \$500 scholarships. Check the website at [ponokaagsociety.ca](http://ponokaagsociety.ca) for criteria and application form. Deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a very underutilized opportunity, so check it out!

**3. Black Elk Cutting and the Ponoka Ag Society** partner again for the 9<sup>th</sup> year to host a premier cutting event September 8 - 13. This event traditionally attracts competitors from across western North America and has a huge positive economic impact on cattle ranchers and local businesses. For six days the Calnash Ag Event Centre, new mezzanine and concession will be open to spectators and participants. Admission is free but all participants and spectators are asked follow good COVID protocols of social distancing, hand washing, and sanitizing. Masks are not required but enthusiastic support is!

Though the American cutters will be absent the competition will be fierce and the arena will be busy each day! Check it out!

## 4. PAS continues to support vitality and the community!

Since January 2020, we have provided funding support for:

4-H Public Speaking Competitions



The Garden Project



The Ag Camp Herb Planting



New mezzanine & lights  
at Calnash Ag Centre



Crestomere Rink - Netting

\*\* Funding Request Forms on our website.

**5. A Greener Ag Event Centre:** Through collaboration, tenacity, and commitment to our Vision of “doing great things in our community”, PAS was able to secure an Energy Efficiency Grant to be used at the Ag Event Centre. “Greener” more energy efficient lights and appliances will be installed by local contractors and an energy efficient building will help ensure sustainability and affordability for users in years to come. To embrace this 2018 grant opportunity from the province and to support a greener world was a no-brainer!

**6. Members Gave Direction:** At the January AGM, PAS members asked their board to find ways to work more effectively with organizations like the Black Elk Cutting Shows and the Calnash Ag Event Centre and to explore other similar opportunities. We have done that and will continue to do so.

**7. The Ponoka Agricultural Society receives the Century Award!**



The Ponoka Ag Society has not been sidelined by COVID-19 any more than it was during the Depression, WWI & WWII, BSE, Stock Market crashes or bad weather! PAS has been active in the Ponoka area since 1903, with the first Fair being held in 1904!

In January of this year Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry presented to PAS the Century Award! This award is a tribute to all of the men and women who, for more than 100 years, **volunteered** to plan, deliberate, organize, build, and fund raise as they explored new opportunities and took on new challenges.

**To the decades of Ponoka Ag Society members and volunteers..., this award is for you! Thank you and well done!**

**And YES! We will celebrate when the time is right!**

**8. Administrivia:** A key responsibility of the Board of Directors of Ag Societies is to set, and review, policies that help guide the Society in *what* they do and *how* they do it. The 2020 Board has been diligent as well as re-doing and updating the PAS Bylaws so that they are in accordance with the new Ag Societies Act & Regulations (July 1, 2019). All Alberta Ag Societies are required to have AGM member approved bylaws by 2022. We will be ready!

**9. Virtual Ag Conferences & Info:**

- 1. **Farm Forum Event:** Nov. 9 & 10, 2020      2. **Advancing Women in Agriculture** – Nov. 24 & 25 ,2020  
 Cost for either conference is \$250.00/person.      Check PAS website for possible funding.

- 2. **Farm Credit Corporation (FCC): Great online articles and news letters.**



Our thoughts and prayers go out to David Abt and his family. We are reminded that the business of agriculture can be a dangerous one. Be vigilant and we challenge our members to identify even one thing that they could do that would improve safety on the farm.

Over the years, David, Shelley and their families have been involved volunteers with the Ponoka Ag Society and again our thoughts are with them at this time of recovery.

A “Go Fund Me” site has been set up and updates are posted there. Just Google!

Check out [www.ponokaagsociety.ca](http://www.ponokaagsociety.ca) for more information, scholarship and funding request forms, volunteer, board, and membership opportunities and up-dates.

<b>2020 Board</b>	<b>Tammy Henkelman (P.)</b>	<b>Dale Olsen (V.P.)</b>	<b>Joanne Volk (T.)</b>	<b>Lauraine Weir (S.)</b>
	<b>Shanon Archibald</b>	<b>Miles Crandall</b>	<b>Doug Hosler</b>	<b>Willie Klimec</b>
	<b>Jolynn Pugh</b>	<b>Lyle Reid</b>	<b>Darren Schwieger</b>	<b>Joyce Winter</b>



If you have questions, need application forms, want to get involved as a Director, can volunteer at our next event (Black Elk Cutting Show goes September 8 – 13, 2020) .....

- check out the website at: [www.ponokaagsociety.ca](http://www.ponokaagsociety.ca)
- send us an email at: [ponokaagsociety4043@gmail.com](mailto:ponokaagsociety4043@gmail.com)
- talk to a Board member.