

# History of agriculture in Strathcona County:

## Advances in agriculture

Research conducted by J. Ross and Associates for Strathcona County in 2011

### Introduction

Built in a rural setting by an early settler and serving for decades as a farm homestead, Bremner House offers a window into the evolving role of agriculture in the surrounding region and beyond. This section of the Bremner House website covers the following topics.

Early farming	Animal care and markets	Advances in agriculture
<p>Farming in the 1880s, when the first settlers arrived to the area around Bremner House, was quite different from today. Changing governance, equipment, techniques and global forces all combined to make agriculture in what is now Strathcona County a shifting landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soils</li> <li>Jurisdiction</li> <li>Reserve lands</li> <li>Early farms</li> <li>Hay</li> <li>Threshing</li> <li>Tractors</li> <li>War and the Depression</li> </ul>	<p>Many early settlers raised a variety of livestock as a hedge against downturn or disease in any one commodity. Both farmers and government experts took steps to improve herd quality in hope of opening doors to export markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poultry</li> <li>Swine</li> <li>Sheep</li> <li>Horses</li> <li>Cattle, beef and dairy</li> <li>Creameries</li> <li>Herd improvement programs</li> <li>Apiculture</li> </ul>	<p>From earliest days, farm men and women formed organizations to improve their buying power, enhance their advocacy and learn new techniques. The stakes became higher in recent decades as farms became larger and less diversified, evolving into agribusinesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in agribusiness</li> <li>Farm organizations</li> <li>4-H Club</li> <li>Farm Women’s Union of Alberta</li> <li>Edmonton Agricultural Society</li> <li>Royal Agricultural Winter Fair</li> <li>Agricultural colleges</li> <li>Farm Journals</li> <li>Insurance</li> </ul>

Research Disclaimer: This material is historical in nature and as such cannot be considered exhaustive. While researchers were diligent and attentive to detail, Strathcona County does not warrant that all the information in this document is completely accurate and/or suitable for any particular purpose. This information is not intended to replace the users’ own research of the primary records. Should you notice any errors or have any questions or comments, please call 780-416-6762.



## Changes in agribusiness

The 1950s and beyond saw a sharp decline in farm population. As elsewhere, farms around Bremner House were becoming mechanized, larger, specialized, more reliant on weed sprays and other additives. The number of dairies decreased markedly, as did swine operations. Strategies to keep farms in the family amid instability in prices, markets and yields included multi-generational partnerships, subdivision for acreages and off-farm jobs.

Changes in agribusiness			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1946	Chemical weed sprayers came on the market to fight wild oats, yellow mustard, stinkweed, Canada thistle, and sow thistle.	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
Alberta	1957	There was a sharp decrease in farm population; this was a trend that was expected to last, according to the Department of Agriculture. "Declines of 30 to 50% in farm population has occurred on the prairies and only 20 to 30% of farm children will be able to continue on the land. Hired farm labour will continue as a problem until adjustments are made in equalling the security of farm and industrial labour. Hours of work for farm labour will also decline from 55.3 hours per week in 1955 to an estimated 44 hours in 1980. It is expected that farm labour will decline from the present 15% to 7%. Population adjustment is a desirable feature of an expanding Canadian economy."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Characteristics of the Dairy Cow"
Alberta	1957	Farms were becoming more mechanized, managerial competence improved and scientific research was improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products. However, some farmers were undercapitalized. There was also price instability, unstable markets, and instability of yields. All this during a time when Canada's native and immigrant population was booming. Other challenges and changes: farmers abandoning their homes to move into the closest town because of distance from schools and other services; and the difficulty in keeping roads open during the winter and cost of bringing in utilities to isolated farms. "The automobile and better roads have provided greater mobility to farm population. A higher standard of goods and services and forms of recreation not possible in the small centre. This raises a problem of what will be the future of these small centres." These changes focused on community life.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1960, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	No date	As farmers switched from horses to tractors and combines, they were able to farm more and more land.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross June 25, 2011

Changes in agribusiness			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Prairie provinces	No date	The agricultural industry introduced the tillage cultivator.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross June 25, 2011
Alberta	1957	The number of farms where cows are kept mainly for milk purposes was decreasing. Areas of production were changing; urban centres were growing rapidly and were drawing milk from what were formerly beef areas. Areas of marginal land that had been used to produce cream were being abandoned or incorporated into larger farms for the production of beef. Too, dairy herds were becoming large with an increase, across Canada, of 19 to 30 per cent in the past five years. Milk production per cow was increasing due to better education on feed and breeding. On the other hand, workers on dairy farms were decreasing at a very high rate due to job opportunities in business and industry.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Address to the Alberta Dairyman's Association's 36th Annual Convention, Calgary 7 February 7, 1957
Alberta	1957	"Studies show that it usually requires about 500 cropped acres or a smaller acreage supplemented with livestock to give a family a reasonable standard of living. Gross receipts per man employed should average at least 6,000 to 8,000 dollars."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 5 Address to the Alberta Dairyman's Association's 36th Annual Convention, Calgary 7 February 7, 1957
Canada	1958	"Efficiency in production alone will not insure the producer sufficient income for the standard of living enjoyed by other groups in the community. ...What then are the courses to be followed by the producer to get a fair price for the product he sells? The Agricultural Stabilization Act, replacing the Agricultural Prices Support Act, was placed on the Statute Books of Canada" in 1957. One criticism of price supports was that they tends to create surpluses. Others were against price supports on principle. Some people wanted the price of butter in particular to be lowered to that of substitutes.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1958, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Canada	1958	Roy Marler bought a quarter-section in 1958 "as the Canadian Tax Department allows Dad to make a gift to his siblings [ <i>sic</i> ] without paying extra income taxes."	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)

## Changes in agribusiness

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	No date	The farmer does not enjoy benefits that other industrial workers do – unemployment insurance, a minimum wage, short work-week, paid holidays.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1958, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1939-1960	Farm investment rose significantly between 1939 and 1960, from \$17,000 to \$50,000. The increase could be attributed to the substitution of capital for labour on dairy farms. Dairy farm acreage doubled since 1939 and the number of cows increased correspondingly. Yet, the number of farm workers continued to decline.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1957, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1960s	Some farmers got into legal partnerships with their children regarding the farm. Partnerships meant that resources – machinery, buildings, etc. could be shared, thereby reducing expenses.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Strathcona County	1960s	Brothers Don and Dick Jackson worked together, sharing machinery. This made it possible to expand and rent more land. In the 1960s, they rented four quarters on the south part of Edmonton. Together, at one point, the two cropped 3,500 acres. Working together made such a large operation possible.	Interview, Don and Helen Jackson by Robert Briggs August 14, 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1960s-2011	A challenge of farming near large city was the moving of machinery from one quarter to the next on the highways.	Interview, Don and Helen Jackson by Robert Briggs August 14, 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1960	“Replacement of labor by equipment requires a large investment today, but once it is installed, milk production is cheaper.” Two large dairy farmers are R.T. Bockock and Wm. Christie, both from Clover Bar area. Bockock spoke to Alberta Dairyman’s Association meeting in 1960 in which he stated that a dairy farmer required at least a half section of land worth \$32,000, a milk quota of \$4,800, cows \$7,500, milking equipment \$3,000 and farm machinery of \$5,000.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1958, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## Changes in agribusiness

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1963	The provincial department's newsletter had some suggestions to keep the farm in the family: wage agreement where son is paid (a temporary arrangement only), an enterprise agreement where son is responsible for one or more enterprises on the basis of their being self-sustaining; a rental arrangement, a share basis instead of cash rent; any father-son partnerships should be legalized; incorporation.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1957, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Canada	1966	The number of dairy cattle was decreasing and some feared that Canada would have insufficient milk to meet domestic requirements. The Prairie provinces, for the first time in 1965, imported butter. Canada's milk production declined two per cent and importers of Canadian dairy products such as France, Britain and Venezuela were becoming self-sufficient.	Christie Family fonds A2, box 2, file 2, William Christie dairy herd files, Dairy Herd Improvement News 1960, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1970-2011	Many getting out of farming even though it had provided their parents with a good living. You have to be a jack-of-all-trades-master-of-none and that is difficult.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Clover Bar area	1970-2011	When Reg Marler started out on his own farm in the late 1930s a farmer needed two quarter-sections to make a living. After the Second World War the numbers of farms shrunk but the size of the farms increased and farmers needed three, then four etc. quarters to survive. Marler says that one family in the county owns one million acres that can be operated by a handful of family members. This is possible because of machinery and a tendency to fewer crops, less diversification.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Strathcona County	1980-2011	Many of the farmers have sub-divided their land for acreage development. Acreages are five, 10 or 20 acres each, "whatever they can get away with."	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011. Also interview, Albert Bennett 12 January 1983, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1990-2011	There are not many dairy farmers left in Strathcona County. It is hard to get help unless you are a big dairy farmer where your hired labour can rotate weekends. No one likes to have a part-time job seven days a week. Cows have to be milked every day and a farmer needs reliable help. The change began after the Second World War.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011

Changes in agribusiness			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1980s	Air seeders became popular since they do not disturb the soil and have a light impact on the surface.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011
Strathcona County	1990-2011	Because farming is so financially risky and a lot of work, many farmers started to neglect their farm operations and take other jobs, including hauling gravel from gravel pits on their land.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross, 5 April 2011

## Farm organizations

Farmers banded together in various ways to increase their purchasing power and advocate with a united voice.

### Topics covered:

**Canadian Society of Equity.** Clover Bar farmers formed a society to buy binder twine in bulk in the late 1800s. In 1909, the society joined the Alberta Farmers' Association in becoming a local of the newly formed United Farmers of Alberta.

**Territorial Grain Growers.** In 1890, area farmers formed a local of Territorial Grain Growers. Later called the Alberta Farmers' Association, it was another forerunner of the United Farmers of Alberta.

**United Farmers of Alberta.** Born 1909 as an amalgamation of the Alberta Farmers' Association and the Canadian Society of Equity, the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) immediately sprouted branches in East Clover Bar and elsewhere. During the First World War, the UFA urged the government to take over meat packing plants and to keep prices from dropping. After the war, the local branch called on government to quell labour unrest. The UFA formed the provincial government from 1921 to 1935.

**Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited.** This organization secured grain terminal leases to ensure a say in how their grain was handled once it left the farm.

**Farmers' Institute.** An institute set up by the Alberta Government to discuss improved farming practices.

**Alberta Wheat Pool.** An agricultural co-operative formed in 1923 to market grain, the Alberta Wheat Pool bought an elevator in Bremner in 1928, built an annex in 1940 and purchased a second elevator in 1948. The pool merged with Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1998 to become Agricore United, which was taken over by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 2007 to form Viterra.

**The Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited.** Among the local collaborations handling grain and paying dividends to stockholders, the Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited was active in 1912.

**Alberta Federation of Agriculture.** A federation of agricultural organizations formed to represent Alberta interests at western and Canadian conferences. The Alberta Federation of Agriculture amalgamated with the Farmers' Union of Alberta in 1970 to form Unifarm.

**Alberta Farmers' Union.** Originally named the United Farmers of Canada-Alberta Section.

**Farmers' Union of Alberta.** In 1949, the Alberta Farmers' Union and the United Farmers of Alberta jointly formed the Farmers' Union of Alberta, which in 1970 joined the Alberta Federation of Agriculture to form Unifarm.

## Farm organizations

Organization	Location	Date	Details	Source
Canadian Society of Equity	Clover Bar area	1895-1896	Chas. Burnall north of the river visited farmers in Clover Bar area. The meeting attended by six or eight men. R.P. Ottewell was voted as President, F.W. Wilkinson as Secretary.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making" p. 9
	Alberta	1909	The Equity league joined the Alberta Farmers' Association to become the United Farmers of Alberta.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv
	Clover Bar area	1909	"Clover Bar had formed Alberta's first Society of Equity to buy binder twine in bulk and become a local of the UFA when it was formed in 1909."	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. 104
Territorial Grain Growers	Clover Bar area	1890s	Local farmers formed a local of Territorial Grain Growers, a forerunner of the United Farmers of Alberta. Thomas Jackson, the Daly brothers, S. Ottewell, etc. were active in the Territorial Grain Growers.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making" p. 9
	Alberta	1905	After the formation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Alberta branch changed its name to the Alberta Farmers' Association. It joined the Equity League in 1909 to become the United Farmers of Alberta.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making" p. 9
Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited	Alberta	1926	The association secured a two-year lease of the Dominion Government grain terminal at Prince Rupert. It was a new terminal with a capacity of 1,250,000 bushels. United Grain Growers and the Co-operative sign a two-year agreement for the joint operation of the elevator facilities of the United Grain Growers and the Alberta Wheat Pool. This did not include terminal elevators like that at Prince Rupert. Each organization had an equal number of members to the joint board. It was a purely handling organization and had nothing to do with sales.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Alberta Co-Operative Wheat Producers Limited to Syd Ottewell 25 May 1926, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Farmers' Institute	Alberta	No date	The Alberta Government set up the Farmer's Institute by holding public meetings to discuss improved farming practices.	Berry, "Clover Bar in the Making" p. 9

## Farm organizations

Organization	Location	Date	Details	Source
United Farmers of Alberta	Alberta	1909	The United Farmers of Alberta was formed in 1909 as a result of the amalgamation of the Alberta Farmers' Association and the Canadian Society of Equity. The United Farmers of Alberta formed the provincial government from 1921 to 1935.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> , p. xiv
	East Clover Bar	1909	This branch of the United Farmers of Alberta was organized 13 January 1909.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 592
	East Clover Bar	1912	In 1912 the East Clover Bar branch had on its membership roster farmers and ranchers from Hortonburg, Bremner, Agricola, Ardrossan, etc. but neither Bremner nor Schroter were members.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 592
	Clover Bar	1916	"There was a crowded church at Clover Bar on Sunday when the members of the Clover Bar, East Clover Bar and West Salisbury local unions of the United Farmers of Alberta, with their families and friends gathered to hold their first celebration of what is to be an annual institution amongst the farming community of the province." The president of the United Farmers of Alberta, H.W. Wood of Carstairs, was there as well as Rice Sheppard, Vice-President. The meeting was sanctioned by both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches as Rev. W.J. Whelan, Methodist, and Rev. C. H. McClellan, Presbyterian, conducted the service. H.W. Wood spoke on "Christian Civilization" in which he criticized the church for tolerating national corruption and viciousness in public life.	(Fort Saskatchewan) <i>The Conservator</i> 25 May 1916, p. 1
	Alberta	1916-1918	The United Farmers of Alberta supported the war effort and urged the government to take over the meat packing plants to guarantee "a reasonable profitable price based on the current price of feed, as unless some reasonable price is not fixed we will be unable to produce and further we protest against there being any cut in price on smooth hogs up to 350 pounds weight, under present conditions when both size and fatness are required."	<i>Cherished Memories</i> p. 593 as quoted from possible minutes 7 January 1918



## Farm organizations

Organization	Location	Date	Details	Source
	Clover Bar	1919	The post-war labour unrest across Canada due to rampant inflation was condemned by the East Clover Bar branch of the United Farmers of Alberta and blasted both the provincial and federal governments for allowing the strikes. There was fear mongering because “if a settlement of the strike and the resumption of the normal course of business be not speedily brought about, steps be taken to organize the rural community for the protection of their interests.”	<i>Cherished Memories</i> p. 593 as quoted from possible minutes 2 June 1919
	Clover Bar	1925	The East Clover Bar and the Clover Bar locals amalgamated in 1925.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> p. 595
Alberta Wheat Pool	Alberta	1923	The Alberta Wheat Pool was an agricultural co-operative to market grain. Henry Wise Wood served as president 1923-1937. The Alberta Wheat Pool merged with Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1998 to become Agricore United. In 2007 Agricore United was taken over by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Viterra was formed.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv. Also, <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viterra">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viterra</a>
	Alberta	1923	Delegates from 70 districts throughout the province formed the Alberta Wheat Pool’s “government”.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 343
	Clover Bar area	1923	In the summer, the United Farmers of Alberta Government brought in Aaron Shapiro to convince farmers to build their own grain elevators. Farmers were most vulnerable at harvest because money was low so they had to sell immediately. Grain companies depressed prices until after the harvest was in, then prices bounced back up until the next harvest. The more well-to-do farmers could hold their grain until prices improved but the vast majority could not. With the Pool, farmers could receive an advance payment on delivery and the balance would be realized by the pool at the end of the crop year.	Bocock, “A Tale for the Telling,” p. 89

## Farm organizations

Organization	Location	Date	Details	Source
	Alberta	1920s	When the Alberta Wheat Pool was organized, it was necessary to have share capital and each contract signer subscribed for one share of \$1. The Alberta Government altered the Pool's legal structure so that any farmer who has signed a marketing agreement became a member. The share capital was wiped out and ownership of a share now was unnecessary. The Pool, then, returned the \$1 share to the members.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 3, Series 2, Correspondence 1920-1946, letter from the Alberta Wheat Pool to Syd Ottewell 20 July 1929, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta Wheat Pool, continued	Bremner	1925-1966	The Alberta Wheat Pool elevator handled 3,315,200 bushels in its history. It was a 31,000-bushel elevator built in 1925 by Ogilvie Flour Mills Ltd. The Alberta Wheat Pool bought it in 1928 and built a 9,000-bushel loxstave annex in 1940. The second elevator of 25,000 bushels was torn down in 1966. It had been built in 1912 and purchased by Alberta Wheat Pool from National Grain Company in 1948. J.L. Barclay 1928-1935 was the earliest Alberta Wheat Pool agent.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 343
The Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited	Alberta	1912	The letter announced the dividend on Ottewell's stock. "This past year, from a financial view point has been the most successful in our history, notwithstanding the many difficulties which we, like everyone else, met with in handling last year's crops, which was admitted by all dealers to be the most difficult and expensive to handle that the West has ever produced. ...Your Company is much stronger today than it ever was ...Your Company is now feared and respected by those interests which a few years ago were treating it with ridicule and contempt."	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 2, Series 2 Correspondence, letter from The Grain Growers' Grain Co. Limited to Syd Ottewell 24 August 1912, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta Federation of Agriculture	Alberta	1936	The Alberta Federation of Agriculture was a federation of Alberta agricultural organizations formed to represent Alberta interests at the Western Agricultural Conference and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. It amalgamated with the Farmers' Union of Alberta to form Unifarm in 1970.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv

## Farm organizations

Organization	Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta Farmers' Union	Alberta	1938	Originally the Alberta Farmer's Union was the United Farmers of Canada-Alberta Section.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv
Farmers' Union of Alberta	Alberta	1949	The Alberta Farmers' Union and the United Farmers of Alberta amalgamated to form the Farmers' Union of Alberta The Farmers' Union of Alberta joined the Alberta Federation of Agriculture in 1970 to form Unifarm.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv

## 4-H Club

Clubs formed in various communities, including Bremner, to help youth learn how to care for livestock and practice other agricultural and home economic skills. Begun as early as 1913 as school fair programs, the clubs were supported by schools of agriculture, government agriculture departments and local businesses. There were clubs specific to swine, grain, lamb, dairy poultry and beef as well as clubs that encouraged a range of pursuits. Competitions were held, typically at summer fairs, with winners moving up to larger fairs as far away as Toronto.

## 4-H Club

Location	Date	Details	Source
Olds	1913	Extension agents from the School of Agriculture at Olds supervised the school fair program. Soon, swine, grain, lamb, dairy, poultry and beef clubs were started around the province.	<i>4-H and Alberta</i> p. 17
Prairie provinces	1924	Canadian National Railways sponsored a bacon hog competition in cooperation with the provincial and federal Departments of Agriculture "to encourage boys and girls in developing Swine Husbandry in Western Canada."	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 170 pamphlet with attached memorandum from L. T. Chapman to H.A. Craig 14 April 1924

4-H Club			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1926	The Department of Agriculture collected information on boys' and girls' clubs from the USA and other parts of Canada before setting up its own boys' (and girls') dairy clubs. The purposes of the clubs were to improve livestock in the province and to try to make each boy or girl a better farmer. A club supervisor organized and ran each club. The highest standards were set by the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. In 1929 the aim of the government was to have twice as many calf clubs and three times the number of pig clubs than at present but it was the responsibility of the boys and girls to request the organization of a club. At the end of each season, the clubs held a competition. The winners went to the Edmonton Exhibition and if they won there, they went on to Toronto. The trip to Toronto was all expenses paid.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 9 "Province of Alberta – Girls' and Boys' Dairy Clubs"
Salisbury district	1928	Ed Ball as a teen entered as a junior in the ploughing match held on the Wonnacott farm. There were three juniors and 12 adults in the match. He won first prize which was a pair of bridles, for 96 points, the highest of all the gang ploughers.	<i>4-H and Alberta</i> , p. 19
Ottawa	1932	The Canadian Council on Boy's and Girl's Club Work was based in Ottawa. The provinces provided grant monies to the club for its annual meeting and prizes at the Royal Winter Fair. In 1932 the grant from Alberta was \$325. Ottawa sought industry partners to finance the annual competition in Toronto. The Canadian Council of the Club conducted the national competitions in cattle, swine, poultry, grain and potatoes. A province could not enter more than three teams of two members each and not more than one team in each of three of the five projects mentioned. Contestants had to be between 16 and 21 years of age, etc. Alberta protested that there was only one westerner (from Manitoba) on the Council.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Dairy Branch Provincial Archives of Alberta 67.21, file 260 "Proposed National Contests and Exhibits for Boys' and Girls' Clubs at the Royal Winter Fair, 1931"
Fort Saskatchewan	1931	The school fair program reached a high point of 139 fairs involving more than 35,000 students. Girls were limited to clothing, food and home decoration.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 332
Strathcona County	1930s	When the Boy's and Girl's Clubs started up, there was one each in Bremner, Fort Saskatchewan and Clover Bar. The Swine Club, run by Roy C. Marler, only lasted a few years. Marler was the leader of the club; he had 150 purebred hogs that he showed all over the province.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross 5 April 2011

4-H Club			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Strathcona County	1935	There is a dairy calf club in East Edmonton ca. 1935.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 236 Report of Boy's and Girl's Livestock Clubs by S.H. Gandier, Acting Director
Alberta	1935	Representatives of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs were sent to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to compete in judging, and in various classes. In 1935 Alberta sent four junior judging teams and won three of the championships. In 1936 Alberta sent one junior team in the Beef Cattle Project, Swine Project and Seed Grain. Two sisters, Ethel and Lillian Ferguson, won the Swine judging contest. No Alberta team was sent the following year.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 265 <i>passim</i>
Ardrossan	1941-1942	A 4-H Beef Club was organized. The district was enlarged in 1942 to include Clover Bar. The organization was under the auspices of the provincial Department of Agriculture.	Interview, Howard and Helen Byers 30 July 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Ardrossan	mid-1960s	The Ardrossan 4-H Beef Club was still in existence at this time. The club's leader was Glen Boddell; he was leader for 10 years.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011
Fort Saskatchewan	1941	A 4-H Beef Club was organized in Fort Saskatchewan in 1941. The next year, Byers of the Clover Bar club was asked to join. The new Beef Club had an area from Fort Saskatchewan to Clover Bar.	Interview, Howard and Helen Byers 30 July 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Clover Bar	1940s	Byers got involved in the Edmonton Exhibition Association and the Fort Saskatchewan 4-H Club, and he and Fred Miller organized the Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan 4-H Club. "The sales up to that time were held at the Edmonton stock yards which to me wasn't very conducive for a good show so I persuaded the management of 4-H Shows to bring the sales over to the Edmonton Exhibition and this was the first time that the 4-H Sales were held there." Byers also helped bring the Vegreville 4-H Club to hold their sales in conjunction with the Clover Bar group. The 4-H Sales were very popular. Charles Galloway was the Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan Club leader.	Interview, Howard and Helen Byers 30 July 1985, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

4-H Club			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1949	The Alberta Dairymen's Association awarded grants to the 4-H clubs. These monies were filtered through the Department of Agriculture.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 1, Series 4: Correspondence, letter from G.S. Black, Supervisor, Jr. Activities and Youth Training, Department of Agriculture 8 November 1949, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Edmonton	1948	The 4-H clubs got sponsors for the prize money that the children received. T. Eaton Company was one sponsor. Others were Northern Alberta Dairy Pool and the Edmonton City Dairy. They all contributed \$30-\$35 each year. The cheques were filtered through the provincial Department of Agriculture. Each club member got \$2. T. Eaton Company's only stipulation to its continued support was that there be at least three stock clubs in the Edmonton area.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 1, General Correspondence, letter from T. Easton Company Ltd. To Maryon Wingrove, Secretary, East Edmonton Dairy Calf Club 20 October 1948 and letter from B.J. Whitbread, District Agriculturalist, Agricultural Extension Service, Department of Agriculture to Maryon Wingrove, 25 October 1948, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1947-1952	Dairy calf clubs were formed to create a greater interest among the young people in the caring, feeding and developing of dairy cattle, and to develop a better general knowledge of breeds. The calves had to be the property of a club member. Calves had to be approximately the same age: senior calves born between 1 August and 1 January; junior calves after 1 January. Competitions were limited to heifer calves that were progeny of purebred bulls. There was a fair in the summer where all members showed their calves.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 1, "Boys and Girls' Dairy Calf Clubs", General Correspondence, 1947-1952, Series 4: Correspondence, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

4-H Club			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Ardrossan	1950	Ardrossan Beef Feeding Calf Club was organized 20 Nov. 1950. It was re-named the Ardrossan 4-H Beef Club in 1952 and therefore became eligible for government grants.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> p. 333
Salisbury district	1952	The East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club was organized. The club had a club secretary and a club leader. The leader's responsibility was to arouse interest in boys and girls to become members. The club leader is Matthew Gibb. No Schroters were listed as members. The club had guest speakers on a variety of topics; one was on how to practise public speaking. The children gave speeches on "wheat", "day at camp" "rats are coming" "control of quack grass" and "Mackenzie King", etc. and then they were critiqued. It was also a social club with wiener roasts and skating parties. Meetings were held once a month.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 1, file 2, Secretary's Record Books 1952-1955, Series 2: Club Secretary's Record Books, 3 December 1951, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1952	There were now 6,775 club members across the province. There were 20 members in the East Edmonton club, too many to continue to meet in homes, so for \$3 a month to cover electricity, etc. they met in the East Edmonton Community Hall. Later, the club met in Strathcona County schools.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 1, file 1, Secretary's Record Books 4 February 1952, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1953	The East Edmonton 4-H club debated such topics as the profitability of Holsteins vs. Jersey cows and the advantages and disadvantages of loose housing of dairy cattle and stanchion barns.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 1, file 2, Secretary's Record Books 2 February 1953, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1956	Guidelines on the selection and feeding of calves sent out to the Dairy Clubs. Only strong, vigorous and healthy calves were to be selected for the club. A chart outlining the feeding and management of dairy calves and heifers was included.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 3, Series 4: Correspondence, General Correspondence 1956-1958, Department of Agriculture, Office of the District Agriculturalist, no date, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## 4-H Club

Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1956	The Department of Agriculture held a province-wide competition in thematic displays. Any theme connected with agriculture, homemaking or 4-H could be used in the displays. The displays were shown at the Edmonton Exhibition and the Calgary Exhibition. The winners at the Edmonton Exhibition were given cash prizes by National Grain Company.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 3, Series 4: Correspondence, General Correspondence 1956-1958, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Competition in thematic Displays 1956, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Strathcona County	1956	The East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Club held its annual show of calves and yearling heifers at various farms each June. Prizes were given for showmanship, grooming, youngest exhibitor boy and girl, top two boys showing calves, top two girls showing calves. The Baker Trophy was awarded for the highest 4-H Club efficiency in the electoral district of Strathcona.	East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club fonds, box 2, file 3, Series 4: Correspondence, General Correspondence 1956-1958, Department of Agriculture, East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Calf Club Show, 2 June 1956, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Ardrossan	1960s	Ardrossan had a 4-H Beef Club where calves were raised, shown internally and the three best were sent to the Edmonton Exhibition. The boys and girls also took part in public speaking and fundraising.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011
Bremner	1969	The Bremner Light Horse 4-H Club was organized in the autumn under the leadership of Reg Marler and Mrs. Rita Jackson. Trail rides were an active part of the club activities. Horsemanship was an integral part of the club.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross 5 April 2011
Bremner-Deville	1971	Another 4-H club, the Piston Pounders led by Ken Bodell and Dave Whitford, concentrated on rebuilding small engines, cars and tractors.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011



## Farm Women’s Union of Alberta

Women’s groups formed that hosted speakers and raised money for good causes. Some lasted for decades. The Farm Women’s Union of Alberta later became Women of Unifarm.

Farm Women’s Union of Alberta			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Clover Bar	1923	A United Farm Women’s Association was organized. Within weeks it invited the Hon. Mrs. Parlby to speak at Bremner Hall where they did not have to pay rent.	Clover Bar United Farm Women’s Association, box 1, file 2, Series 2, Minutes 1923-1926, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Ardrossan	1948	The women organized a Farm Women’s Union of Alberta. Sub-District conventions were often held in the Ardrossan Hall. The Farm Women’s Union of Alberta raised money in support of the Cancer Society, Christmas hampers, etc.	<i>Cherished Memories</i> , p. 321
East Edmonton	No date	“... due to the strong political overtones in the FWUA and all the membership money going to the support of head office it didn’t get any far-reaching support in the district.” On the other hand, the East Edmonton Wild Rose Willing Worker’s Club was quite active for 44 years.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1969	The Farm Women’s Union of Alberta changed its name to Women of Unifarm.	Carroll, <i>Unifarm A Story of Conflict</i> p. xiv

## Edmonton Agricultural Society

Taking a cue from Britain and the United States, governments at all levels supported and promoted agricultural fairs as early as the 1890s. Most were organized by local agricultural societies, although those societies tended to be dominated by urban rather than rural leaders. The fairs were classified by size and prize earnings. They included entertainment and learning as well as opportunities to display, buy and sell purebred breeding stock. As railroads and better roads made it easier to travel longer distances, many smaller communities lost their fairs to larger centres.



### *Interesting tidbit—*

*During the Second World War, air training took place on the Edmonton exhibition grounds, forcing the cancellation of that fair until 1945.*

Edmonton Agricultural Society			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1880s	The agricultural fairs were part of Alberta’s Anglo-American inheritance as these developed first in Britain and the USA in the early nineteenth century. Fairs were mounted by local agricultural societies. The territorial and later provincial government promoted fairs as educational events. All levels of government provided grants, displays, judges and speakers for the fairs. Before 1905 the provincial government grants amounted to 60 per cent of the total prize list. After 1905 the government gave 2/3 of the previous prize list to a maximum of \$3,000. All fairs were classified as A, B, C, D or E. The last three were usually listed as C fairs. The extent of the fair’s prize list was a major criterion for its classification. Edmonton and Calgary were A fairs and got federal funding that other classifications did not; the provincial government gave money to all classifications of fairs. All fairs were organized by the local agricultural societies but the fair boards were dominated by townspeople, an early example of town-rural split. This sometimes led to poor planning by locally prominent men who formed the local elite. In 1909, 50 per cent of the Edmonton Exhibition Association members were on City Council. There was also the entertainment side to the fairs with their midways and sports events. When the railways came through, many smaller fairs went under because local people took the train to the larger fairs. This accelerated with the use of cars and trucks, and improved roads in the 1920s, ’30s and ’40s. The provincial government was not displeased as this was a reason to reduce the prize list grants. Exhibits ranged from ladies’ fancy work to agriculture produce, poultry, livestock, and farm machinery displays.	Wetherell, <i>Useful Pleasures</i> , p. 311-313

Edmonton Agricultural Society			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1880s	The society offered prize money in various categories for horses, cattle, swine and poultry. The Edmonton Exhibition attracted 40,000 people over a four-day period.	Wetherell, <i>Useful Pleasures</i> , p. 311-313
Edmonton and district	1890s	The newspaper, <i>Edmonton Bulletin</i> , saw the Edmonton fair as a means to boost the town's economic growth by proving the great capacity of the district.	<i>Edmonton Bulletin</i> 18 October 1890, p. 2
	1910-1914	The Edmonton Exhibition Association "was more important to encourage Edmonton's commercial growth than to stimulate agricultural improvement." The newspaper, touted that the fair was a clearinghouse of information.	Wetherell, <i>Useful Pleasures</i> , pp. 312, 317
South Edmonton	1929-1942	The South Edmonton District Agricultural Society held 13 ploughing matches during these years. "The largest were forty-two entries and that plowing match was held on the Harold Wannacott farm and there were only ten or twelve tractor entries, the rest being horse outfits ranging from two-horse teams on walking plows to three-bottom plows or four-bottom plows with eight horses." Prizes were handed out. Competition was keen.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
	No date	The South Edmonton District Agricultural Society purchased a portable seed grain cleaner which was used up until 1950. Prior to this, farmers in the area used a fanning mill to clean their seed grain. Early fanning mills were hand cranked; later, the mills were larger and run by a small gasoline engine. The society was also a social group with winter dances.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## Edmonton Agricultural Society

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton, Alberta	1930s	<p>Reg Marler's mother "packed portable camp stove, bedding [sic] and pillows and camping at the Edmonton Exhibition during the second week of July. Dad would load the canvase [sic] tent about 8 x 12; anchor stakes, axes and what ever [sic] it took for a enjoyable week at fair. The tent would be place east of the hog barn on a large triangle piece of grassy land possible 2 acres in size, just west of 118 Avenue south of the CNR rail line along with four or so other exhibitors. This was in the early thirtys [sic] when there was at least 15 or more exhibitor barns, one for swine (Yorkshire and Tamworth) a barn for sheep which had 4 or more bredes [sic] being shown, a Dairy barn or two for Holsteins and Jersey. ... And the same for the heavy horse bredes [sic] like Clydsdales [sic] and Percherons. These barns were facing south of the CNR tracks on the east side. A number of the barns were used to stable the race horses along east fence of the property and at the south end of the barns was a manufacturing building which business would exhibit there wares.</p>	<p>Notes, Reg Marler Collection            (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)</p>

## Edmonton Agricultural Society

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton, Alberta	1930s	The NADP, ECD and Woodland would have booths that you could get the limited number of kinds of ice cream ... The Royal American shows would set up there <i>[sic]</i> ride and booths west of the manufacture <i>[sic]</i> building and the race horse stands and race track.... Dad would enter his purebred pigs in the fair, Classes if I remember correctly were usually <i>[sic]</i> no more than 2 animals a class. They were herd sire, mature sows, under-9-month boars or gilts and under 6-months. They also would have mature sows with a litter of piglets. Also a class for the best herd which consist <i>[sic]</i> of four pigs which the owner could choose from his show herd that he thought had the best change <i>[sic]</i> of winning, a owner exhibitor would usually <i>[sic]</i> pick the mature animals when possible to try to obtain some kind of cross section of there <i>[sic]</i> herd that presented them self <i>[sic]</i> as being a very uniform as to type and look as similar as possible. All shows had a Champion over-all male and a separate <i>[sic]</i> female class this encludlded <i>[sic]</i> the 1st and 2nd place animal in each previous Classes....The exhibitor from out of town would sometime sleep in a pen where they kept there livestock feed and supplies needed for showing. The fairs were planed <i>[sic]</i> to follow each other. The first fair was held the last full week of July at the Calgary Stampede fair ground, then at Edmonton fair grounds, then 3rd week in Saskatoon and 4th in Regina and was held come rain or shine. Some of the regular swine exhibitor that followed the air circuit <i>[sic]</i> were Alex McPhail from Brandon, Man. ... P.J. Rock from Drumheller also exhibited sheep.	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
Edmonton, Alberta	1930s	When we were old enough we were expected to wash the pigs they had a 10 ft by 10 ft wash rack with cold water hose where we were told not to spray the water hose directly in there <i>[sic]</i> ears. Pigs had to be wash down and soap Strathcona County <i>[sic]</i> rubed <i>[sic]</i> and rinse <i>[sic]</i> until they were clean, even if it took 2 or 3 washes. ... Before the shows about 2 or 3 weeks Dad would pick out his show herd and keep them out of the sun and dirt by putting them in the hog barn. we <i>[sic]</i> cleaned the pens every day. ...After the show season we put used oil and pinetar mix to help prevent the pig from sunburn when left outside. The 3 day spring show and sale we would take breed gilts and go thru the washing and show rutine <i>[sic]</i> . And sell the gilts at an auction sale held by the fair. And in the fall a boar sale was held following the same routine as farmer prepared to buy a boar in the fall so as to have threr <i>[sic]</i> sows farrow in the spring when it was warmer.	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)

## Edmonton Agricultural Society

Location	Date	Details	Source
Edmonton, Alberta	1930s	... In 1939 I remember Dad putting his entry form and fees to the Calgary fair, along with Neil they loaded the show swine in to a box car at Aikenside siding and left by CPR railway for Calgary, the day was quite hot and after sitting in Edmonton siding for 2 hours and waiting to be shuttle south the swine became overly hot and by the time they got to there [sic] destination 1 of his herd sows and herd boar had died due to over heating needless to say dampened his expectation of winning at the show. ... an exhibitor from Calgary said he could help him. He went over to a Indian encampment that had come to the fair for years and still do. The animals were showing size of aging but they took them anyway and likely had a enjoyable [sic] feast. About the same year Dad decided to exhibit swine at the B shows which followed Edmonton show which were Lloydminister [sic], Vermillion [sic] and Vegerville [sic]. Our mode of travel was 1929 IHC 1 ton truck which Garnet was to drive and 1937 Ford car pulling a trailer with about 7 ½ by 8' box and stock racks with single only truck tires ... which Dad would drive and Bernice and I (Reg) would travel with him. ... We left about 8 p.m. at night in order to keep the show stock cool during our travels as they can get quite hot during day travel. The roads at the time were gravel and had pot holes of different sizes so if you average thirty miles an hour we were lucky [sic]. Garnet had hit a hole and the truck tipped with pigs wandering all over. This happened at 3 or 4 a.m. ...	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
Edmonton	1940s	During the Second World War, air training took place on the exhibition grounds forcing the cancellation of the Edmonton Exhibition. The exhibition was revived in 1945.	Wetherell, <i>Useful Pleasures</i> , p. 318
	1950s	The Edmonton Exhibition grounds had a very large Manufacturing Building and a three-storey Women's Building where products were displayed and sold. The livestock barns were west of where Northland is now. To show at the exhibition was important if a farmer had breeding stock.	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
	1957	Each spring the Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd had a show and sale of purebred swine, fat stock and junior calves. Livestock was judged and sold.	Thomlinson family fonds, box 1, file 4, Series 2: Family Business Records, Edmonton Spring Show and Sale, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Beginning in 1922, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto served as the pinnacle of Canadian farm fairs. There, everything from grains and seeds to poultry, vegetables and horses was shown and awarded prizes. Top contenders from across the country had the honour of travelling to Toronto to compete.

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Toronto	1922-1928	At the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, everything from grains and seeds to poultry, vegetables and horses were shown and awarded prizes. During the 1920s, Bremner was not listed as a winner. Indeed, it is not known if he showed. The dairy cattle winners were often the U. of A. farm and the CPR demonstration farm at Strathmore. Another consistent winner was HRH Prince of Wales (EP Ranch). Percheron winners were U. of A, George Lane of the Bar U and Davenport of Acme.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 258 Prizewinners, Toronto, 1922-1928
Toronto	1922	The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair was inaugurated in 1922 to “illustrate to Canadians and to all the world the high position of the Provinces of Canada in Agricultural and live stock production.”	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 259 letter from A.P. Westervelt, Manager, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to George H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, 16 February 1928
Toronto	No date	Only purebred stock could be shown at the fair.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross June 25, 2011
Toronto	1932	Alberta took prizes at the Royal Winter in dairy cattle. The CPR demonstration farm at Strathmore and Hays and Co. of Calgary carried off a number of prizes. “Already eastern breeders of Holsteins are turning to Alberta for herd sires, four such sales having been negotiated at this show already.”	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 262 report on winnings at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 18 November 1932

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Toronto	1932	The only entrant from Strathcona County who won was George Ball and Sons who took prizes for their sheep.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 262 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Toronto 1932. Alberta Winnings
Toronto	No date	Roy Marler was chosen by the provincial Department of Agriculture once or twice to show his Yorkshire hogs at the fair.	Interview, Reg Marler by Jane Ross June 25, 2011
Toronto	1938	“In order to encourage a good representation at next year’s Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and in order that the necessary steps may be taken to bring this about a special Committee has been named by the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Hon. D.B. Mullen. This Committee consists of the following: R. Marler, Bremner representing the Alberta Provincial Swine Breeder’s Association” and five others representing exhibition societies, the U. of A. and the government. “It is especially hoped that Alberta may be able to show in the Carlot Competition ... This class calls for forty pigs of ‘select’ type, weighing from 180 to 220 pounds. It will be necessary to have a large number of pigs available to make a suitable selection as the competition is very keen and UNIFORMITY OF TYPE AND WEIGHT is very important.”	Alberta, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Archives of Alberta 73.307, file 171 Alberta Swine Exhibits for the 1938 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Alberta	1930s-1940s	“The Provincial Gov’t Agriculture department would arrange [sic] for a number of CNR stock car [sic] to ship livestock to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair held late in the fall in Toronto. There would be cars with swine and sheep, Dairy Cattle, Beef Breeds, Market beef animals for market classes, Heavy Draft horses etc. They only would pick the animal that a culling committee thought would make a good showing in the show ring for that particular breed. Dad I know had at least two sows pick in different years to compete at the Toronto Royal. I’m not sure were [sic] they placed but there was some pride just being picked. I believe Dad judged at Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton and other B fairs through out Alberta. ... Fads and fancy played a factor in judging as breeders was [sic] always try [sic] to improve the quality of there [sic] animals sometimes for the better or the worse, like going for longer noses to a pug nose etc. or going from short length pig and width across the shoulder to a narrower longer pig as this would yield less fat cover over the back which house wives wanted.”	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)



## Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Location	Date	Details	Source
Toronto	1930s and '40s	"In preparing the stock for showing we would take a walking cane and train the pig to stand square on all four feet and stretch them out a bit to make them longer but not to [sic] much as a straight back top line would make them show better. In the show ring was necessary to have full control [sic] of the movement of your pigs."	Notes, Reg Marler Collection (*Note: Strathcona County does not have access to the collection and cannot verify the source document.)
Alberta	1964	The Department of Agriculture paid the shipment costs to and from Toronto of approved exhibits. A farmer had to submit his exhibit to the Field Crops Branch and the department would pay if the exhibit was considered worthy.	Alberta, Department of Agriculture Provincial Archives of Alberta 70.479, District Agriculturalist and General Correspondence, letter from W.C. Gordon Live Stock Supervisor to Mrs. Ed Henline 31 December 1964
Edmonton	1950s and '60s	The Edmonton District Agricultural Society had a "save-the-soil" campaign and the "farm and home improvement" programs.	Interview, Robert Briggs 26 February 1980, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## Agricultural colleges

Alberta purchased land for its first demonstration farms (at Medicine Hat, Claresholm, Olds, Sedgewick, Vermillion, Stony Plain and Athabasca Landing) in 1911 and opened its first agricultural schools (at Vermillion, Claresholm and Olds) in 1913. In the 1920s, three more agricultural schools opened across southern Alberta. Between 1924 and 1930 the students included boys brought over from Britain; that program ended as few of the boys went into farming.

Agricultural colleges			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Alberta	1910s	Schools were established at Vermillion, Claresholm and Olds. Demonstration farms were established at Medicine Hat, Claresholm, Olds, Sedgewick, Vermillion, Stony Plain and Athabasca Landing.	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , p. 20
Alberta	1911	The first demonstration farms were purchased this year. Short courses were offered at the demonstration farms.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , pp. 7, 13
Alberta	1913	The first agricultural schools opened in 1913.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , p. 8
Alberta	1910s	"A scheme founded upon the principle of the People's schools of the Old Country, modified to suit conditions here, has been put into practice. ... Instead of beginning with a Provincial Agricultural College, the Department of Agriculture, after a careful consideration of results in other lands, deemed it wise to carry instruction nearer to the homes of those whom Agriculture education is intended to reach."	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , p. 63
Alberta	1910s	"The dignity of Agriculture and the importance of the man on the land, not only to the community but to the Province and country, is a gospel that is incessantly preached, and there has been aroused in each class at each of the schools an enthusiasm for intelligently direct Scientific Agriculture...."	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , p. 4
Alberta	1910s	In Central Alberta's "bush country", the schools of agriculture recommended the following rotation: 1st year - Hay 2nd year - Hay, 2 ton per acre or pasture; manure in autumn 3rd year - Pasture or hay; break and disc in July or August 4th year - Wheat or oats, fall plow 5th year - Oats (fall plow) 6th year - Hoed crop or green feed 7th year - Barley; seeded down – Timothy, 2 lbs; Western Rye, 2 lbs.; Alsike, 3 lbs.; Red Clover, 3 lbs.	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , pp. 54-55
Alberta	1913	Three agricultural schools – at Vermillion, Claresholm and Olds – offered a two-year course in agriculture and household science. The terms ran from November until the end of March.	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , p. 63

Agricultural colleges			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Western Canada	1913	The idea to have British boys come to Canada to establish farms in western Canada was first floated but then the First World War intervened.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , p. 94
Alberta	No date	More than 250 boys and girls attended the schools even though most had little formal education otherwise.	<i>Report of Demonstration Farms and Schools of Agriculture of the Province of Alberta</i> , p. 4
Alberta	1920s	Three more agricultural schools opened, all in southern Alberta.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , pp. 78-82
Western Canada	1924	The British Boy scheme was revived. Youths 16 to 25 years of age were selected by the Director of European Emigration for Canada. They had to provide £50 of their own money that was then deposited with the Overseas Settlement Board and placed in the keeping of the principal of the agricultural school where student attended. The boys had to pay \$30 a month for room and board; that came out of the £50. The first contingent arrived in 1924 at Vermilion. "They were then to be offered work for the summer with selected farmers, at wages current in the district. The boys were to be encouraged to return to the school at the end of that first summer so that they could continue their training." Wages were around \$25 per month for six weeks; \$3 per day for harvest; \$50 per month to hay and \$5 to threshing crew.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , pp. 94-96
Western Canada	1930	The federal government ended the British Boys scheme since most of the students chose not to remain in agriculture.	Swindlehurst, <i>Alberta's Schools of Agriculture</i> , p. 100
Alberta	1945	There was an agricultural college at Vermilion where farmers studied soils, blacksmithing and animal husbandry.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011
Alberta	1967	There were courses for women in home economics, business courses and educational upgrading in addition to agricultural classes. It was a two-year course. There were about 250 fall and winter students at Vermilion agricultural school.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011
Alberta	1970	The agricultural school at Olds offered a course in agricultural mechanics.	Interview, Ken Boddell by Jane Ross 7 June 2011

## Farm journals

Farmers turned to newspapers and magazines as a way to glean information about their enterprise.

Farm journals			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Western Canada	1912	Syd Ottewell scribed to the <i>Farmers Advocate</i> and <i>Home Journal</i> at an introductory cost of \$1 for the year.	Ottewell Family fonds, Box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Canada	1912	Syd Ottewell acted as an agent of the Veterinary Science Association, selling memberships at the rate of \$3 for a life membership. One of benefits of membership was the book Veterinary Science that was given to all members. Ottewell stood to make a little money on selling memberships and books. The association gave prizes to the agents who sold the most number of memberships.	Ottewell Family fonds, Box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Canada	1925	Milking Shorthorn Journal, a magazine out of Iowa, gave advice and was a place where ranchers could advertise.	Ottewell Family fonds, box 1, file 14j, Series 4, Family Business Records, Agricultural Pamphlet, Bulletin and Catalogues 1912-1962, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

## Insurance

Various forms of insurance were available over the decades. As early as 1912, farmers could become members in the Veterinary Science Association as a hedge against loss of livestock. The province of Alberta began a hail insurance program in 1938 and offered all-risk crop insurance beginning in 1964. The two provincial programs merged in 1969.

Insurance			
Location	Date	Details	Source
Canada	1912	Membership in Veterinary Science Association was sold as a hedge against loss of livestock.	Ottewell Family fonds, Box 1, file 1, Series 2 Correspondence, Strathcona County Museum and Archives
Alberta	1964-1969	The Alberta Crop Insurance Act established the Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation. Previously, beginning in 1938, there was a hail insurance program run by the Alberta Hail Insurance Board. The new legislation was all-risk crop insurance. The hail and crop insurance programs merged in 1969 to form the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. The federal government contributed to the Crop Insurance Fund to help defray the administrative costs of the corporation. Now the province was divided into seven areas for administrative purposes.	<i>An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta 1905-2005</i> , p. 52