

Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility
Fall 2018 Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Strathcona County is proceeding with the development of a Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility that will provide the community with a place to come and participate in agricultural activities and events throughout the year.

The project team held three stakeholder sessions in October 2018 to collect feedback on layout and key design features. Forty- five agri-recreation groups and agricultural associations were invited to attend the sessions, 33 people representing 20 different groups participated.

The sessions posed questions to participants that were focussed on:

- Connectivity and functionality of the site
- Site layout preferences
- Specific event needs for various groups
- Missing design elements

The sessions were designed to encourage participants to express their thoughts on design concepts.

The key themes that emerged throughout the engagement process were:

Connectivity - To allow for year-round and all-weather usage, connecting stalling to the indoor arena should be considered. All stabling should be in close proximity to the arenas and allow for good flow.

Logistics - Ensuring easy flow for entering and exiting the facility with livestock is critical. This includes ease of access when loading/unloading animals and tack. There should be the ability to accommodate large trucks and trailers with ample turning space and parking.

Cattle/livestock - To be a multi-use facility, in addition to equine requirements, consideration needs to be made for other livestock. Cattle handling should be included in the facility plan and design including indoor penning, animal movement and tie-outs.

Safety - The safety of all participants, both human and animal is paramount in the design of the facility. Roadways and parking should be designed to minimize congestion and limit unnecessary interactions between animals and visitors/foot traffic. Loud events and activities should not be located in proximity to animals and the arenas. Consideration needs to be made to amenities located near the railway tracks and the storm pond for public and animal safety reasons.

Heritage Site - Clear consideration should be made to the Bremner Heritage Site component that resides on the property and how the Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility will incorporate these and other elements of heritage into the layout and design.

Costs - Concern was expressed on the costs for smaller groups and local users. Participants wanted to ensure the facility is not so expensive that smaller groups and community events cannot be hosted at the Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility.

User Groups - A desire was expressed for more, not less, consultation with user groups regarding the Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility. The user groups have insight to offer on key design considerations as the County proceeds through the design and development phases of this project.