



Registration  
now open for  
AGM 2014



## It's that time again! 2014 Annual General Meeting

**IT SEEMS ODD TO BE INVITING YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION, TAKING PLACE FROM JANUARY 20 TO 22, 2014 IN BANFF. AFTER ALL, WE'VE BEEN AROUND IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER SINCE THE TURN OF THE LAST CENTURY. BUT 2014 IS OUR FIRST AGM AS THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE, AND THIS YEAR'S THEME CHANGE ... CHALLENGE ... OPPORTUNITY CERTAINLY CAPTURES HOW WE CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND RESPOND TO THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERS AND ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY.**

Based on the resoundingly favourable feedback and enthusiasm of last year's delegates, we are once again holding our event at the Banff Park Lodge. We'll be kicking things off with a welcome reception the evening of January 20. From there it will just get better and better.

While the agenda is still being finalized (draft copy on reverse), we have already confirmed a great slate of guest speakers who have diverse agricultural expertise and knowledge to share. There is sure to be something for everyone. Jack Wilkinson, former President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers will be presenting, as will JP Gervais, Chief Agricultural Economist with Farm Credit Canada and Ron Bonnett, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

We'll also be hearing from representatives of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, WCB, Western Grains Research Foundation, the Farm Implement Board, and our colleagues with the other general farm organizations in western Canada.

We are always mindful that as a grassroots farm organization our direction is determined by you, our members. The resolutions that will be discussed at the AGM and that will set our future path will be developed at regional meetings being held across the province. Notices for meetings taking place in the next few weeks have already been mailed. If you're available, you should plan to attend the one in your community (November 21 in Rosalind and Hughenden; November 25 in Taber; and November 28 in Three Hills).

Back by popular demand, our AGM banquet is being held at Brewster's MountView Barbecue. In case you missed it last year, this means a hearty meal of famous Brewster hip of beef barbecued to perfection, brought in on a pitchfork, and served buffet-style around a central bonfire that radiates warmth and atmosphere. A live band provides western entertainment, and trust me – their lively music will have you line dancing before it dawns on you that you've never line-danced before. A side benefit is that the dress code is casual-western-cowboy, so no suits required! Great fun that takes place in the Brewster "donut" shaped facility on January 21.

Book your accommodations at the Banff Park Lodge by December 15, 2013 to guarantee the event rate of \$105 per night (plus taxes). And if you want to spend the weekend skiing or just enjoying the awe-inspiring winter wonderland that is Banff in January, the same room rate is available for two nights before and two nights after the AGM.

We are once again offering a chartered motor coach with comfortable seats, large scenic windows and a restroom to get you to Banff in style. It will be departing on January 20 from (tentatively) Nisku, Camrose, Lacombe and Cochrane and returning the afternoon of January 22. We are also able to offer vehicle plug-ins at the Camrose location. *Important note: there is a four-person minimum for the Nisku and Camrose pickup locations and you'll need to pre-book by December 15 to take advantage of this service.*

Don't miss out. Register TODAY by completing and returning the enclosed registration form and join us for *Change ... Challenge ... Opportunity!*

I look forward to seeing you soon.

President



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