



HIGH LEVEL RODEO CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

High Level Agricultural Exhibition Society

For 50 years, the High Level Agricultural Exhibition Society has been meeting the need for recreational agriculture-related events in the area, as well as providing agriculture-related information and education. The 12 board members make it a priority to provide activities that people of any age can enjoy.

"We try to find something for everyone to do, whether they're babies or 80. Bring the kids, grandma, grandpa, whoever," said Treasurer Jacquie Bateman.

One of the Society's yearly highlights is the High Level Rodeo, which turns 50 this summer. As Alberta's most northern ag society and rodeo, they get visitors from a large surrounding area, including Rainbow Lake, Zama City, Fort Vermilion and even the Territories. In keeping with their family focus, they provide plenty of entertainment in addition to what's going on in the arena.

"This year, we've brought in mechanical bulls, bouncy houses and other stuff for the kids to do," said Bateman. "We'll have a parade and an outdoor dance on Saturday, and on Sunday, we're bringing back our demolition derby event. It'll be a good time."

The 50th Annual High Level Rodeo and Demolition Derby will be held June 7 to 9.

The Exhibition Society has a full calendar of other events for the year as well, such as a dance and talent show in April, the RCMP Musical Ride on August 23 and Gymkhana equestrian events throughout the summer. In June, the Fatboys Motorcycle Association of High Level is hosting a Show & Shine and Poker Rally at the ag grounds. The Society will also be relocating in the near future—moving the rodeo grounds to a neighbouring lot—to allow for a large agricultural development to be put in the current location.

"The grounds get quite a bit of use throughout the year. In other years, we've hosted equine clinics so kids can learn horsemanship, barrel racing and more," said Bateman. "The Watt Mountain Wanderers Snowmobile Club have also used the grounds for their drag races."

Bateman gratefully credits the Ag Society's sponsors for their continued success.

"I'm proud of our sponsors. When you phone just about anybody in the community for something, whether it be a financial commitment or their time, they do it. There's no argument. The sponsors are the only reason we've survived 50 years," said Bateman.

For more information about scheduled events, visit the High Level Agricultural Exhibition Society's Facebook page or call Jacquie Bateman at 780-841-0069.



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