



For Immediate Release
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Agribition Announces Hall of Fame Inductees

Bryan Hadland, President of Canadian Western Agribition is pleased to announce this year's inductees to the Agribition Hall of Fame.

Pense-area rancher John Willmott and Wood Mountain cattleman Pat Fitzpatrick were inducted into the Hall of Fame for their outstanding service to Agribition and to the Canadian cattle industry. (bios attached)

Mr. Willmott, originally from Ontario, has resided in Saskatchewan since the 1970s. He has had a long career in leadership and salesmanship for Canadian cattle. In particular, he had a significant role to play in the resurgence of the Angus breed. He has previously been recognized through induction in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, among other awards.

"These men represent the kind of strength of character and dedication to their communities and commitment to the cattle industry that make Agribition an international showcase. We are proud to have these men in our Hall of Fame," said Marty Seymour CEO and General Manager

Mr. Fitzpatrick (who is receiving the award posthumously) was a World War II veteran who was passionate in promoting all aspects of Western life, including cattle ranching, horses and rodeo. He was the founder of the Wood Mountain Rodeo School, now in its 21st year.

The purpose of the Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame is to recognize deserving individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions to the success of Canadian Western Agribition. This is only the second year that the Hall of Fame awards have been presented. They were founded in 2010 as part of the show's 40th anniversary celebrations. Since the Hall of Fame's first inductees were Agribition's founders, this year's honourees join a very exclusive and prestigious group.

The awards were presented on Thursday, February 2 at Agribition's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night - a gala event that honours the hundreds of volunteers responsible for ensuring Canadian Western Agribition's success every year.



Backgrounder: Canadian Western Agribition Hall of Fame Bios

Pat Fitzpatrick

Pat Fitzpatrick was born Jan 28, 1924 and raised on the ranch in Wood Mountain, Sk. He grew up raising cattle and training horses and that was his love until he passed away in June 2000.

Ranching and riding were Pat's life but he did enjoy adventure. Like many young men of his generation he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943. He served his country overseas in Burma as a wireless air gunner with the 435th Squadron during WWII.

In 1948 Pat married Shirley - his wife for 52 years – they raised two sons and greatly enjoyed their seven grandchildren. Pat spent two years in the oil fields of Saskatchewan and Alberta before returning to the ranch in 1953 where he remained for the rest of his life.

Pat was a very active community volunteer - serving on too many committees and boards to mention - but most notably the Wood Mountain Rodeo club, Wood Mountain Historical Society and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Pat was a long time member and supporter of the Sask Stock Growers Association, a director and representative of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Assoc., and founder of the Wood Mountain Rodeo School - now in its 21st year.

Pat was actively involved with Canadian Western Agribition from 1972 until 1999. He was a commercial cattle exhibitor and served as a volunteer on the Commercial Cattle Committee, the International Committee, and the Rodeo Committee.

As an exhibitor, Pat Fitzpatrick had considerable success showing feeder calves and bred heifers from Fitzpatrick Ranch in the commercial cattle show. Over the years he won many Grand and Reserve Grand Championships and was recognized as "Exhibitor of the Year" in 1997, for which he was awarded a stock trailer that is still used on the ranch today.

Pat's time spent in the arena for the Agribition Rodeo was recognized when he received the Gordon Simpson working cowboy award in 1985. At that time he was presented a buckle that he wore proudly for the rest of his life. The rodeo was definitely an Agribition highlight for Pat - he prided himself on never missing a planning meeting.



John Willmott

A dedicated promoter of Saskatchewan 's and Canada 's cattle industry, John Willmott was born in Milton , Ontario , September 5, 1933 . He attended school in Milton and later graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph .

He established a quality Aberdeen Angus herd in Milton and served a term as president of the Ontario Angus Club and in 1988-89 was president of the Canadian Angus Association. In the 1970s, he moved his cattle operations to Pense, Saskatchewan. Here he became involved in the Regina Exhibition Association and the Canadian Western Agribition board.

John served as president of Agribition (1978-79) and also chairman of the Western Canada Farm Progress Show (1981-82.)

He had a significant role to play in the resurgence of the Angus breed. From 1987-92 John was general manager of the Canadian Angus Association and headed the drive to establish the Canadian Quality Angus Beef Program. He also served as president of the Saskatchewan Angus Association.

In 2000 and 2001 he was president of the Saskatchewan Livestock Association and a member of the Beef Breeds Board. He emphasized the importance of a healthy beef industry and called on cattlemen in all breeds and in purebred and commercial sectors to work together in addressing industry concerns.

His active involvement in the beef breed area led to his appointment to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation and as a member of the Federal Government committee to set criteria for new beef breeds in Canada .

John bred and exhibited cattle that won championships at major Canadian shows and he shared his acquired expertise by judging at most of the major cattle shows in Canada . He also judged shows in the United States and Australia .

An active community worker, John has served as director of the Foundation of Animal Care Saskatchewan and a director of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. He served as 4-H club leader for 21 years and as chairman of a 4-H district council.

John represented the Canadian Angus Association at the World Angus Forum in Australia and represented Canadian Western Agribition at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth in Australia. He hosted and entertained the Queen Mother at the World Angus Forum in Edmonton in 1965.