

[Lethbridge Herald](#)

Many no-charge events planned Saturday

Dave Mabell

Prizes, snacks and challenges will be on the menu Saturday. Wagon rides, crop tours and a “photo scavenger hunt” are also planned for Alberta Open Farm Days at a small research facility just minutes away from Lethbridge.

The no-charge event is one of many open houses this weekend at farms and ag-related facilities across Alberta. The Farming Smarter location, east of the landmark Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada facility on Highway 512, will be open Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizers say the day will be an opportunity to “experience farm equipment, ag science growing crops, and wide open space scattered with fun things to do.” Information sessions will include sessions on seeds and crops, “living soils,” crop protection and “bug battles.” There will also be three hands-on sessions showing how various crops are harvested.

For the youngsters, Farming Smarter will offer face painting, crafts and games with prizes, and an opportunity to climb aboard some farm machinery. And for everyone, there will be an ice cream stand, fresh corn and barbecued hotdogs or hamburgers. Farming Smarter a non-profit research and education organization, shares a site with Lethbridge College. It’s located north of the Lethbridge Correctional Centre on the “old Coaldale road.”

Other Lethbridge-area participants in Alberta Open Farm Days include the Lethbridge Corn Maze near Park Lake, CP Farms south of Barnwell and Pure Savour near McNally. The corn maze, open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday but closed Sunday, now offers a playground, tall slides and a “cow train” as well as the maze which changes year by year. There’s an admission charge. Pure Savour, specializing in beef prepared with “local natural ingredients,” can be reached by following Highway 508 (via Highway 4 or 5) to Range Road 211, then heading south and watching for signs. Open house hours Saturday are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At CP Farms, guests will be invited to pick, slice and eat potatoes. The farm is located south of Barnwell, and can be found by turning south on Range Road 18-0 just west of the town. Hours Saturday will be 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. West of the city, folks at the Windy Rafters Barn Dance are also taking part, offering a selection of no-charge events Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visitors can see the 100-year-old workhorse barn and Orton school house, tour Orr’s homestead cabin replica, watch rope-making, play horseshoes, try their hands at a cow milking simulation, maybe even ride a combine. Take-home products will include homemade quilts, jewelry and crochet work as well as homemade butter and ice cream. Windy Rafters signs on Highway 3, about 33 kilometres west of the city, will lead to the site. And for urban Albertans who wonder what actually happens inside an old-fashioned grain elevator, the Canadian Elevator Discovery Centre in Nanton will be conducting tours both Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Follow @DMabellHerald on Twitter