

<https://lethbridgeherald.com/news/lethbridge-news/2018/08/17/open-farm-days-running-this-weekend/>

# Open Farm Days running this weekend

Dave Mabell

Many southern Albertans trace their roots to the farm. But this weekend, everyone will have an opportunity get dirty hands – and fresh food.

Farmers and ranchers across the province will be welcoming visitors during Alberta Open Farms Days, Saturday and Sunday. More than 110 locations are on the list this year, organizers say, and events will range from pick-your-own potato events to culinary adventures with top chefs.

“Alberta has some of the best farmers and food producers in the world,” says Oneil Carlier, the province’s minister of agriculture and forestry.

“Open Farm Days is a great opportunity for Albertans to support the industry and meet the people who put food on their tables.”

One of the Lethbridge area’s nearest events will be a Farming Smarter presentation just east of the city on Highway 512. Running Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., it will include wagon rides, face painting – and an opportunity to climb aboard some size-large farm equipment.

For early-birds, the Perry Spud Farm north of Chin has extended a “fill your bag” invitation, with everyone invited to get their hands in the soil and fill a free 20-pound bag to take home. It’s set to run from 10 a.m. until all the potatoes are gone – in two hours or less.

Heading west, city residents could check out the Windy Rivers Barn Dance location near Orton, south of Highway 3 midway between Monarch and Fort Macleod. Free activities, starting at 9 a.m., will include a work horse and barn and hay wagon tour, a visit to historic Orton School, rope-making demonstrations, horseshoe toss instruction and competition, a simulated cow milking experience, and – later in the evening – western line dance instruction and a dance.

A “farm lunch” booth will also be selling beef on a bun, and there will also be an opportunity to go for a ride on a combine!

Other Lethbridge-area farm operations taking part will include Broxburn Vegetables, Broek Pork and – beyond Fort Macleod – the Trails’s End Beef location, and Mitchell’s Beef Ranch north of the Oldman Dam.

Hours and directions are available online at <http://www.albertafarmdays.ca> along with events further afield.

“Open Farm Days is back for another incredible weekend of delicious food, family friendly entertainment and rural hospitality,” says culture and tourism minister Ricardo Miranda.

“The event helps people learn more about where their food comes from, and supports rural tourism operators across the province.”