

Open Farm Day an educational experience

BY GREG BOBINEC,

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For urban communities, many people don't put too much effort into thinking about, or learning about, where the food on the table comes from.

Farming Smarter Lethbridge hosted its annual Open Farm Day over the weekend to educate the non-farming community about the process to make food ready for consumption.

Families visited farmland just outside of the city and met with industry professionals, 4H leaders and farm technology experts to see how farming has improved, as well as receiving hands-on experience to learn about the different processes.

"We are hosting an Open Farm Day event, which is in conjunction with a provincial initiative, Open Farm Days," said Jamie Puchinger, assistant manager of Farming Smarter. "It is a way to get people that have nothing to do with agriculture out to a farm, and Farming Smarter is close to Lethbridge and we have a lot of industry partners and other associates that we work closely with so we can bring everybody all together here to the farm for one day to showcase a whole bunch of different aspects of farming today."

Food is an important part of everyone's life and Farming Smarter wants to educate people on the process, so they provided a variety of avenues of the agriculture business for people to explore through from the Ask A Farmer Booth, local cooking and tasting demonstrations, and wagon rides through the research fields.

"We take people on the wagon rides and we tour them across to our irrigation pivot and show them the research trials that we have and talk about general agriculture, show them what plants look like while they are growing and talk about research," said Puchinger. "We have a range of different showcases from the Coaldale Bakery talking about the changes in bread and flour over the years and how different flour makes different products, to some technology stuff from Zarxio where they have a weed app and you can take a picture of the weed and will identify it for you. The Alberta Canola Producer Commission is here, and we have Lethbridge County, and we have a bunch of big equipment from John Deere."



Herald photo by Greg Bobinec Janna Bennett brings her daughters Audrey, Mabel and Elizabeth to the Open Farm Day at Farming Smarter to learn more about how food goes from the farm to their table, Saturday morning.