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County Recognizes Local Century Farm Families

Two local farm families, the Normans and Van Schaicks, were recognized for their contributions to agriculture and the County's heritage with two separate 100 Years of Farming Awards during the Agricultural Service Board meeting on Friday, July 6.

"The County congratulates the Normans and Van Schaicks on receiving 100 Years of Farming awards," said Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman. "Our county has such deep roots in agriculture; roots that have strongly shaped our heritage and values. We admire the commitment and dedication these families have shown to agriculture and our community."

Council, who are Agricultural Service Board members presented Beverly Van Schaick with the Pioneer Farming Family Award, and the Norman family with the Heritage Homestead Award. The Pioneer Farming Family Awards recognizes families that have lived and farmed or ranched in the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years, on land they own or have rented. The Heritage Homestead Award recognizes families who have farmed for a century and retain ownership of their homestead land.

The Van Schaick family homesteaded their quarter of land just southeast of Wembley, in 1916 and it has remained in the family's name since. Their father, Floyd, moved to the area with his family when he was a teenager and established his family homestead after returning from World War I. Beverly farmed alongside his father and eventually took over ownership. It has only been recently that the quarter has been rented out, while Beverly and his wife Francis enjoy their time gardening.

"This is the only quarter of land that is still in the Van Schaick family's name so this award is important to our family legacy," said Beverly Van Schaick.

The Norman family grew up on the family farm northeast of La Glace. Their father emigrated from Norway to the United States before moving to Alberta where he established the family homestead. The eldest son – Anson, took over the family farm, where he still lives and farms grain to this day.

"Recognizing family legacy is important," said Anson's sister Vella Anderson on behalf of the Norman family. "Our family is honoured to receive this beautiful and meaningful award."

Applications for the 100 Years of Farming Awards are accepted throughout the year.



For more information about the 100 Years of Farming Awards, and to apply or nominate a family for an award, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/100years.

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For media inquiries:

Contact communications@countygp.ab.ca to schedule an interview with Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman.