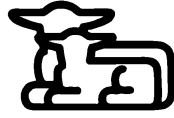


**F · A · C · S**  
**FARM ANIMAL COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.**



***MEDIA RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

December 12, 2002

**Kids and Horses**  
**The Saskatchewan Young Horse Development Program**

The Saskatchewan Young Horse Development Program (YHDP) is off to an enthusiastic start. Nearly 100 4-H members and parents attended Foal Care clinics recently held in Saskatoon and Regina.

The clinic in Saskatoon was held on November 9 at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The program included presentations on: Conformation: Form to Function with Dr. Trish Dowling; Safety and Handling of a Foal, Loraine Gilchrist; Herd Health and Vaccines, Dr. Trish Dowling; Foot Care/Lameness/General First Aide, Dr. Erin Fierheller; and Foal Nutrition, Dr. Marie Lucie Gendron. Added to the day was a tour of the Equine performance centre where participants saw first hand how an equine tread mill works.

The Regina clinic was held on November 30 Optimum Genetics south of Regina where presentations included: Conformation and Breeding, Jocelyn Kish; An Overview of Nutrition and Herd Health, Dr. Nadia Cymbaluk; Safety 101, Jim Pollock; and Foot Care, Lameness and General First Aide, Dr. Al Choquer.

There are 40 participants enrolled in the program.

Participants have purchased a foal from Saskatchewan equine ranchers and will present them on halter as yearlings in August 2003 (location to be determined) and under saddle as two-year-olds in August of 2004 (location also to be determined).

Participants are from all over Saskatchewan, from Hudson Bay to Carlyle. The program has been designed to teach young horse enthusiasts about the basics of starting a young horse. It will educate participants on care, feed and shelter as well as various training techniques. Participants will be under the supervision of a mentor throughout the term of the program.

The program will expand in 2003 to allow all young horse enthusiasts under the age of 21 the opportunity to participate in the Saskatchewan YHDP. There has been a lot of interest in the YHDP from other youth horse groups, such as Pony Club; youth breed association affiliates and recreational clubs. Certainly 4-H members will be encouraged to continue their participation in the program as it fits well with the 4-H light horse project.

- more -

A unique feature of the Saskatchewan YHDP is the public speaking component and its link to animal welfare issues. Participants enrolled in the program are required to select a topic from the six animal welfare topics given and make a 2-5 minute presentation at both the yearling and two year old showcases.

The Saskatchewan YHDP is a partnership program offered by the Saskatchewan Equine Ranching Association (SERA) and the North American Equine Ranching Information Council Inc. (NAERIC). The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) with the financial support of Fort Dodge, Masterfeeds, The Barn Supply Co. Ltd and United Molasses facilitates the program.

If you are interested in joining the Saskatchewan YHDP or would like more information on the program, contact: Adele Buettner, Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc., 502 45th Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 6H2, Fax: (306)-244-4497, Phone: (306) 249-322.

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) is a membership-based, non-profit organization that represents the livestock industry in advancing responsible welfare, care and handling practices in agriculture. FACS endeavors to raise producer awareness of the economic and ethical benefits of animal welfare and help consumers achieve a greater understanding of animal care issues.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Gordon Roger, Chair of FACS  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Tel: (306) 771-4881  
Cell: (306) 533-7053

Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Tel: (306) 249-3227

---

***ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL CARE IN AGRICULTURE***

**502 - 45th Street West, 2nd Floor, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6H2**

**Phone: (306) 249-3227 Fax: (306) 244-4497 Email: [facs@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:facs@sk.sympatico.ca) Website: [www.facs.sk.ca](http://www.facs.sk.ca)**