

BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show – Guiding Principles

First conceived and hosted by Beaumont & District Agricultural Society (BADAS) in the mid- to late-1990's, the *BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show* event (Open Horse Show) was intended as a fun-type, “training-level”, one-day event for all types of riders. Novice riders could get their first experience in a “show-type” atmosphere, while more experienced participants could “practice” their skills of riding and working with their horses. It was never intended to be a “higher level show” [however these things might be classified, if they in fact are], and “official sanctioning” from various governing bodies has purposely never been sought. Because the show was first organized under the leadership of people experienced with 4-H and youth equine programs, the event has not deviated much from those early formats. That being said, the BADAS organizers have had many accolades over the years, and especially the last two years when the event “re-surfaced” after a string of rain-out years. The gist of abundant positive feedback can be summarized as “...a fun, relaxed competition”.

Over the last decade, there have been a number of attempts at organizing the *BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show* by “committee”. Success has NOT been great, mainly because of too many varied and divergent opinions on how the event should be staged. While often valid, some options either led away from the initial concept and intent of the Show, or couldn't be accommodated in the simple, one-day format.

Perhaps unfortunately, no one has ever documented the guiding principles (intended goals/objectives) and regulations that define the *BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show*. That shortcoming is rectified with this document.

Event Name: *BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show* (the “Show”) OR *Beaumont Town & Country Daze BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show*.

Originally called *Beaumont & District Ag Society Open Horse Show*, the organization name “Beaumont & District Ag Society” has been shortened to “BADAS”, an unofficial acronym that is gaining “traction” in many venues. “4-H” was inserted as required by 4-H and Agriculture Education Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, in order to be recognized as an approved 4-H event for insurance coverage purposes.

Event Purpose: The *BADAS 4-H & Open Horse Show* has always been patterned as a fun event based on the following set of guiding principles.

- ❖ The Show should be considered a “training” event intended to give:
 - inexperienced riders opportunity to learn more about showing, and
 - experienced riders opportunity to improve their techniques.
- ❖ The Show is meant to be a positive and fun learning experience.
- ❖ Overall, the Show has been focused more on riders, less on horses. Competition classes attempt to distinguish varying levels of rider experience by using age classes and other competition classes. The purpose, format and limited time allotted for the Show preclude recognition of different types of horses in the class list.

- ❖ As a secondary goal, the Show is intended to be a fundraiser for Beaumont & District Ag Society, with any revenues above expenses going towards Fairground Development.
- ❖ Despite this secondary goal to raise funds for BADAS, **fees** are to be kept **modest** considering the overall purpose of the event. Fee changes are often made, as for 2010, in an effort to encourage pre-registration as opposed to “walk-on” registrations; hence the greater pre-registration vs. late registration differential and increased per class fee.

Event Location: Beaumont & District Ag Society Fairground. Over its history, this event has been held at the Roger Lavigne Farm, Fultonvale (Ag Society) grounds, and BADAS Fairground.

Event Timing: Always held in conjunction with Beaumont *Town & Country Daze*, which falls on Farmers’ Day weekend (second weekend in June). Coordination with *Town & Country Daze* events provides some free advertising and exposure in the region.

Event Regulations: The following rules and regulations have always been part of the Show with most of them being incorporated into the BADAS General Use Waiver form and Show registration forms. They are presented below in a more explanatory format – refer to the General Use Waiver and Show registration forms for detailed wording.

- ❖ Safety is a top priority – proper safety equipment is mandatory for young (under 18) riders and strongly recommended for older riders (see BADAS General Use Waiver).
- ❖ To foster safety where there may be many inexperienced riders, untrained and inexperienced horses will not be allowed at this Show. The Show organizers reserve the right to exclude unruly horses from competition; participants with unruly horses will be asked to leave the Fairgrounds.
- ❖ A General Use Waiver must be signed by each participant or by a parent/guardian for any participant under the age of 18.
- ❖ All participants must have current AEF or equivalent insurance coverage (see Waiver).
- ❖ Rules governing the competition are similar to CEF rules – the Judge’s decision is final.
- ❖ The Show is intended to be a one-day event – we attempt to complete all competition classes within the time frame of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Prompt starts for the Show and each class are needed to accomplish this goal.
- ❖ Any class with less than 3 riders may be cancelled.
- ❖ This is a “one horse...same rider” competition. Horses shall not be shared amongst riders without the express permission of the organizers for special circumstances.
- ❖ Additional horses per rider require additional entry fees.
- ❖ Profanity and animal abuse will not be tolerated.