**Indoor Arena Closure Notice**

With all due respect to our valued Members, Stakeholders and Guests, the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society is currently undergoing development planning for a new Indoor Riding Arena / Facility. As part of this plan the Building Committee requested a study of the current facility and as well a recommendation was made by (AAAS) Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies that an assessment of the current facility formally known as the Jack Williamson Memorial Ag Plex and Indoor Arena be completed.

EnviroFocus was in to our facility on October 31st and completed an inspection of various areas of concern in the Indoor Riding Arena as well as the Hall and a report was then provided to the Board of Directors of the Society. Recommendations were provided within the report and Board Members met to discuss the immediate needs of the facility. Clarification has been made that based on the indoor ground footing being of an organic matter in the riding arena, naturally occurring mould spores are present which can affect individuals with allergies and respiratory issues. While this is a common occurrence and many people know their tolerance to allergens, the issues of mould extend beyond the dirt. The ceiling consists of insulation, vapour barrier and OSB along with a tin roof and as the facility has been aging so too has the roof, ceiling and parts of the support posts/walls. The facility is not in a condemned state at this point however due to the nature of the facility being public use, the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society Board of Directors is putting health and safety first to address the current status and ongoing plan for this Indoor Arena.

With a new facility/indoor riding arena being a necessary development for the Ag Society and community, we the Board feel that financial efforts must focus on the new build project so that it may be developed in a timely manner and our Members, Guests and Stakeholders can get back to enjoying what it is they enjoy doing in a safe and healthy environment. In the meantime, there is a current action plan being developed on how to remediate and repair the existing indoor arena in a manner that is manageable and financially feasible. As a non-profit volunteer organization being strategic is valuable but may be timely.

The remainder of the facility and grounds being the Hall, The Red Barn and the Outdoor Arena are all still available for use and bookings. Please note that the hall is undergoing minor remediation and upgrades based on the recommendations of the EnviroFocus report however there is no reason for concern of health or safety issues in the hall. A generous spring cleaning of all surfaces and a deep cleaning of the air exchange and ducting as well as painting is currently underway, however will not impact the ability to rent the hall for meetings, Christmas parties and other events/activities at this point.

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the past 56 years of the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society and all it has been able to offer the community through the years. We apologize for what may be an enormous inconvenience to many and will assist within our abilities to help you all understand our process and help you to transition/adapt your activities as needed.

In an effort to keep this message and the developments of the Society straightforward and accurate we ask that you please direct all concerns and questions to the main office 780-524-3473 or the email valleyviewagsociety@gmail.com

We thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate the path forward,

Sincerely The Board of Directors of the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society, 2023