



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

## **AWARDS OF DISTINCTION *for* EQUINE WELFARE Announced for Saskatchewan**

**For Immediate Release**

**January 28, 2009**

The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) and the Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF) are pleased to announce the fourth annual "Awards of Distinction for Equine Welfare." This program recognizes excellence in equine welfare and animal health. This joint venture is the first such partnership of its kind in Saskatchewan.

"As always, the Saskatchewan Horse Federation is very pleased to partner with FACS to recognize the achievements of leaders in the equine industry and to continue to provide these four unique animal welfare Awards," states Mae Smith, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation. "Saskatchewan horse owners are known for the distinctive contributions given to the equine community by such a variety of individuals that form the fabric of our agricultural livestock community."

"Saskatchewan has a very strong equine industry comprised of owners, riders and drivers who pride themselves on ensuring responsible animal care is paramount," reports Adele Buettner, Executive Director of FACS. "We are pleased to provide these awards recognizing recipients for their ongoing efforts."

FACS and the SHF seek to honour individuals, organizations and companies who:

- Develop a new process, product or source of knowledge that has made a significant impact on the improvement of the welfare of horses in Saskatchewan.
- Integrate animal welfare into their core business strategy and set their own bars higher for expectations regarding animal welfare
- Take an active role in effectively conveying equine welfare issues and raising awareness of equine welfare with the general public and the agri-food industry.
- Recognize a young person between the ages of 13-25 who demonstrates through practices as a horse owner or interaction with others, the importance of a commitment to responsible equine care.

***The four Awards of Distinction are:***

### **Equine Welfare Innovation – Award of Distinction**

This award is to recognize a person or company who has developed a new process, product or source of knowledge that has made a significant impact on the improvement of the welfare of horses in Saskatchewan. The honouree will also be saluted for efforts to work collectively with the horse industry to share the innovation.

### **Equine Welfare Leadership – Award of Distinction**

This award will recognize a person or syndicate or other equine business owner who integrates animal welfare into their core business strategy and has set their own bar higher for expectations regarding animal welfare. The honouree will demonstrate leadership and commitment in dealing with issues relevant to animal care. This individual or company leads by example. The Award will recognize an active horse owner.

**Equine Welfare Communication – Award of Distinction**

This Award recognizes a person, organization or company who has taken an active role in effectively conveying equine welfare issues and raising awareness of equine welfare with the general public and the agri-food industry. The objectives of factual and honest information will result in an increase of trust and credibility for the industry and business of equines.

**Equine Welfare Young Steward of the Future – Award of Distinction**

This honour is to recognize a young person between the ages of 13 and 25 who has shown, through practices as a horse owner or interaction with others, the importance of a commitment to responsible equine care.

Deadline for applications are February 10, 2009.

More information, including a nomination form can be found on the FACS website at [www.facs.sk.ca](http://www.facs.sk.ca) or the Saskatchewan Horse Federation website at [www.saskhorse.ca](http://www.saskhorse.ca).

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For more information contact:

Adele Buettner, Executive Director  
Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.  
Saskatoon, SK  
306-249-3227

Mae Smith, Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Horse Federation  
Regina, SK  
306-780-9244