

Harvest Sky Agricultural Centre

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW



Animal Health



Education



Recreation



Research



HARVEST SKY REGION
AGRICULTURAL CENTRE PROJECT

Agricultural Centre Overview

The Agricultural Centre is a multi-purpose animal health and recreation centre planned near Hanna, Alberta. The Centre will enhance the viability, sustainability, and success of livestock producers in Special Areas, drive economic growth, and provide increased opportunities for community engagement and recreation.

The Agricultural Centre concept originated with local input over the multi-year Community Action Team process. An independent consultant evaluated the Centre in 2021 and a local committee is advancing the project based on the feasibility study's recommendations. The report can be viewed [here](#).



Project Snapshot

The proposed Harvest Sky Agricultural Centre includes two unique, yet compatible activity streams. A **Rural Community Practice** and a **Riding and Event Centre**.

The **Rural Community Practice** will address important aspects of animal health and welfare while maintaining a focus on delivering services that will benefit the region and the environment. Three key areas of focus are:

- + Livestock Hub
- + Education and Training
- + Applied Research

The Centre will take a comprehensive approach to animal health, welfare, and sustainability at both the individual animal and operational level. Additional service offerings could include legal, financial, mental health, risk management, marketing, and more.

The **Riding and Event Centre** is a proposed multi-purpose facility that will offer recreational opportunities for local residents and host a variety of events, ranging from livestock shows, rodeo events, trade shows, and concerts.

Project Components



LIVESTOCK HUB

The Livestock Hub component of the centre will offer services aiding all aspects of livestock production, from conception to consumption. Planned services include:

- + *Veterinarian*
- + *Breeding Services*
- + *Animal Nutrition*
- + *Retail/Vendor Space*

The proposed Agricultural Centre includes a research facility and nearby lodging options. The Centre will leverage regional assets to attract research in the following areas:

- + *Native Grasslands*
- + *Cattle Production*
- + *Animal Health*
- + *Climate Research*



APPLIED RESEARCH

The broad range of activities occurring within the Agricultural Centre will promote opportunities for education, training, and youth mentorship. As part of the Centre's mandate to serve the needs of the community, the following education opportunities will be pursued:

- + *Student Practicums*
- + *School of Excellence*
- + *Extension Services*
- + *Producer Workshops*



EDUCATION

The Riding and Event Centre will increase recreation opportunities for local residents, promote tourism, and strengthen the local economy. The facility has the potential to be a centerpiece for the town of Hanna and Special Areas No. 2



RIDING & EVENT CENTRE

Partnership Opportunities



ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Agricultural Centre will attract and retain a range of professionals who recognize the value of collaboration and working as part of an integrated animal-health team. The Livestock Hub offers opportunities for career development and access to a significant regional market.

- + *Veterinary Services*
- + *Breeding Services*
- + *Rehab & Therapy*
- + *Animal Nutrition*
- + *Range Management*
- + *Equine Health*

The Livestock Hub and the Agricultural Centre's proximity to natural ecosystems and livestock operations offer excellent opportunities for research activities. The centre will attract research projects and develop relationships with the following groups:

- + *Veterinary Services*
- + *Universities/Colleges*
- + *Research Agencies*
- + *Private Sector*



RESEARCHERS

The animal health services and research taking place at the Agricultural Centre will create the ideal environment for education and training. The proposed Agricultural Centre will include an education and training space, as well as long-term lodging options. The Centre seeks to develop partnerships with a variety of educational institutions that will train and educate local residents as well as students from across the province.

Potential partnership groups include:

- + *Primary/Secondary Schools*
- + *Universities/Colleges*
- + *Government Agencies*
- + *Not-for-profit Agencies*



ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES

The Riding and Event Centre will offer local groups (e.g. 4H, Rodeo Association, etc.) with a well-suited, local facility, while also providing local residents with recreational riding opportunities. However, an important aspect of the Centre's financial viability is linked to events such as trade shows, livestock auctions, rodeo events and concerts. The Agricultural Centre seeks to develop long-term relationships with the potential users of the facility. These include:

- + *Industry Groups*
- + *Businesses/Sponsors*
- + *Local Users*
- + *Producers*



INDUSTRY & LOCAL RESIDENTS

Site Identification & Planning

Site planning for the Agricultural Centre is ongoing. To date the needs assessment, preliminary civil engineering review and site footprint design have been completed.

Site identification will include the following considerations:

- + The Agricultural Centre will require up to 70 acres of land to accommodate the required buildings, parking, access, and loading.
- + The Agricultural Centre should be within 30 kms of the town of Hanna.
- + Proximity to existing infrastructure and services including water, sewer, and utilities is important.



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