



**A statement from Leona Staples,
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)
'Women in Ag Notable Lifetime Achiever Award' recipient**

Read the full AFSC media release [at this link.](#)

March 17, 2025: "This is an amazing award and I'm very proud to receive it in recognition of all the achievements from everyone who went before me on our fifth-generation family farm! I grew up on on the land that my great-grandfather homesteaded in 1897. Like many people in this area, I went through the 4-H program and loved every minute of it! It was through 4-H that I met someone who inspired me to go to university and become a District Home Economist. And through that role I met my husband, Blaine, who is a devoted lifelong farmer with a Masters Degree in Agriculture Economics.

"I share all of this to say we are a deeply rooted and proud family of Alberta farmers! When my mom and dad were ready to retire in 1996, Blaine and I moved back to the farm with our three sons. Just like me, they all loved growing up here and they are all still involved in the farm as adults. We started growing strawberries as soon as we returned, and through the years we've evolved the farm to respond to what customers are seeking. Today we welcome 30,000 visitors each year from people who enjoy u-picking our fresh berries and vegetables. As well, over 4,000 children come to our farm for educational programs annually, and we also provide adult and senior programs to help people enjoy the outdoors and better understand where their food comes from.

"I admire AFSC for the work they do in recognizing women in agriculture. This is an important aspect in supporting the growth of our industry. I wish I could have been in attendance at last night's 'The Notables: Celebrating & Cultivating Inspiring Women in Agriculture' gala, but Blaine and I are walking the Camino Trail through Portugal and Spain at the moment! I would be happy to chat about this award and what it means to me when I'm back next week. I am proud and excited to be a recipient, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to AFSC and sponsors. Thank you also to Holly Bilton for submitting my nomination, to all the amazing women who work so hard in agriculture in this province, and to everyone who supports their efforts everyday."

Leona was pictured in the Jungle Farm forest with school students on their field trip.

www.TheJungleFarm.com