



For immediate release

**Sydney Pickerell honoured with 2009
W.R. Motherwell Award from Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers**

Ancaster, ON [December 8, 2009] – Long-time Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) supporter Sydney (Sid) Pickerell of Surrey, BC has been honoured with the 2009 W.R. Motherwell Award – the organization's highest award. Syd was recognized for his work at the national OYF event in Ottawa on December 4, 2009.

For more than 20 years, Syd has been an integral part of the OYF program as a regional and national judge, BC board member and BC regional chairman, and current member of the BC OYF board of advisors.

The award recognizes outstanding service to an individual or couple dedicated to Canada's OYF program. "People like Syd are why the OYF program is so widely respected and has grown into what it is today," say nominators Suzanne and Ben Cuthbert, 1996 BC OYF winners. "Syd's commitment and dedication to OYF is to be commended. He leads by example and makes a difference," says nominator Bill Diamond.

Syd's report card of involvement in the OYF program is a long, accomplished list. He has always been at the ready to help and serve in any capacity required to make the OYF program better and stronger – from judging to regional chair to planning galas. It all started in the mid 1980s when he was asked to judge the BC finals, and continued to judge the event for several more years. In 1993 he joined the BC OYF board of directors, served as the BC regional chairman from 2001-2005 and judged the national event in Quebec in 2007.

Syd Pickerell was raised on a mixed farm near Foam Lake, SK, and received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1961. He spent the first 20 years of his professional sales and marketing career in the livestock and poultry feed industry – first with the Shur-Gain division of Canada Packers Ltd. in MB, and then with Buckerfields Ltd. in BC. Syd then joined a livestock and poultry equipment business, and spent the last 10 years of his career in the turf and seed industry until his retirement in 2002.

In between OYF and his career, Syd found time to devote to other volunteer organizations and held a number of positions on several provincial and regional boards including the BC Institute of Agrologists, BC Egg Industry and Kwantlen University School of Horticulture. He is a life member of the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, received a "volunteer of the year" award from the Pacific Riding for the Disabled, and is currently president of the Cloverdale Senior's Computer Club.

Syd and his wife Janice live in Surrey, BC, have been married for nearly 50 years and have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Motherwell – the namesake of the W.R. Motherwell Award was born near Perth, Ontario in 1860. His leadership in Canadian agriculture spanned more than 50 years and he is regarded by many as the “grand old man of Canadian agriculture.” His career highlights include minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan’s first provincial government, and minister of agriculture for Canada in the 1920s. Having attending agricultural college in Guelph, Ontario, his move to Saskatchewan resulted in his instrumental role in establishing the agriculture facility at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Motherwell died in 1943 at the age of 83.

Celebrating its 30th year, Canada’s Outstanding Young Farmers’ program is an annual competition to recognize farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture. Open to participants 18 to 39 years of age, making the majority of income from on-farm sources, participants are selected from seven regions across Canada, with two national winners chosen each year. The program is sponsored nationally by CIBC, John Deere, Bayer CropScience and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and supported nationally by AdFarm and the Canadian Farm Business Management Council.

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