

The “W.R. Motherwell Award”

The W.R. Motherwell Award will be presented to an individual or couple that has shown exemplary dedication to the Outstanding Young Farmers of Canada Program. The individual/couple assumes a leadership role as a dedicated initiator and promoter of the OYF Program. This individual/couple is someone who has unselfishly given of their time and talents to promote the value of excellence, advancement, opportunity and exchange within Canadian agriculture.

Each year at the OYF National Awards competition, an individual or couple will be presented with the W.R. Motherwell Award, showing our appreciation for a job well done, on behalf of the entire OYF Alumni. This honor will be presented to those who have shown excellence in agricultural leadership as found in W.R. Motherwell, who this prestigious award has been named.

W. R. Motherwell: He was a statesman, a pioneer of Canada, and a true visionary leader, becoming the Agriculture minister for all of Canada. At the age of twenty-two, W.R. Motherwell, a native of Lanark, Ontario heeded the call of the west and that journey which he traveled by oxcart from Brandon, Manitoba to the homestead on which he settled at Abernathy, Saskatchewan. Upon his arrival there he began to participate in community affairs by helping to organize the local school board and the Presbyterian Church. In 1901 he was involved in the organization of the territorial Grain Growers Association and became the first president the following year.

When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 he was invited to be the first provincial Minister of Agriculture. During this fourteen year term in office he was instrumental in the establishment of an agriculture facility at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. From 1921 to 1929 he served as Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and played an important role in the establishment of a cereal breeding program and rust research laboratory in Winnipeg, the adoption of grade standards for most farm products and the introduction of the restricted plan for the eradication of tuberculosis. In total his leadership and vision spanned a total of over 50 years and he retired as a much respected elder statesman known to many as the “Grand Old Man, of Canadian Agriculture”.

Nomination Deadline? The deadline is March 31 of each year.

Call for Nominations? The details of the W.R. Motherwell Award and accompanying Nomination Form will be included with the January/February “Land Leader” Newsletter.

Who can nominate? Any alumni or friend of the OYF program can nominate an individual or couple for this award.

Who is eligible? An individual or couple that has:

- Shown exemplary dedication to the OYF of Canada Program
- Assumed a leadership role as an initiator and promoter of the program
- Promoted the value of excellence, advancement, opportunity and exchange within Canadian Agriculture

Judging? A committee of alumni members will be given the directive to select one W.R. Motherwell recipient (individual or couple) per year

To be presented: Annually at the National Event.