



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

# 2024 Provincial ASB Conference

“Using the Past to Build for Tomorrow”



## Agenda Package & Speaker Biographies

Hosted By: The South Region



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Day 1: Monday, January 22

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3:00 pm – 4:30 pm      **ASB Town Hall Meeting with ADM John Conrad**      ASB Chairmen and Agricultural Fieldmen  
(Hall A)

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4:00 pm – 8:00 pm      **Conference Registration**  
(Lethbridge County Corridor)

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5:00 pm – 6:00 pm      **ASBPC Dinner with ADM John Conrad**  
(MNP Meeting Centre)

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6:00 pm – 8:00 pm      **Reception and Light Supper**  
(Salon A,B&C)

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6:15 pm – 6:30 pm      **Welcome**      Blaine Hyggen  
(Salon A,B&C)      Mayor, City of Lethbridge

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6:30 pm - 6:45 pm      **Brief History/Future Outlook of Lethbridge & District Exhibition**      Belinda Crowson  
(Salon A,B&C)      City of Lethbridge Councillor

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6:45 pm – 7:00 pm      **Introduction into the Conference**      [John Barlow](#)  
(Salon A,B&C)      Member of Parliament, Foothills

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7:00 pm – 7:15 pm      **Lethbridge County Introduction/Presentation**      Tory Campbell  
(Salon A,B&C)      Reeve

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*Bar closes at 10:00 pm*

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*Last bus leaves at 10:30 pm*

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*Event doors close at 11:00 pm*



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Day 2: Tuesday, January 23

*(click on name for to link to bio)*

D.A. Steel Building (Hall A)

KB Heating (Hall B)

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6:30 am (Hall B)	<b>Coffee On!</b> <b>Trade Show Open</b>	
6:45 am – 8:00 am (Hall B)	<b>Breakfast</b> <b>Trade Show Open</b>	
8:00 am – 8:20 am (Hall A)	<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Dickson Delorme
	<b>National Anthem</b>	Dawn Fortin
	<b>Welcome Speech</b>	Aaron Van Beers AAAF President
8:30 am – 8:45 am (Hall A)	<b>History and Impact of ASBs In Alberta</b>	<a href="#">Maureen Vadnais-Sloan</a>
8:45 am – 9:30 am (Hall A)	<b>History of the Soil Conservation Act</b>	<a href="#">Trevor Wallace</a> Nutrient Management Specialist, AB Agriculture & Irrigation
	<b>Reality is in the Pictures</b>	<a href="#">Todd Green</a> Director of Agriculture Services, County of Newell
		<a href="#">Gary Secrist</a> Supervisor of Agriculture Services, Lethbridge County
9:30 am – 10:00 am (Hall A)	<b>History of the Agricultural Pest Act</b>	<a href="#">Dr. Michael Harding</a> Crop Assurance Program Lead, AB Agriculture & Irrigation
	<b>Clubroot Protocols in Practice</b>	<a href="#">Aaron Van Beers</a> Manager – Agricultural Services, Leduc County
10:00 am – 10:30 am (Hall B)	<b>Coffee Break</b> <b>Trade Show Open</b>	
10:30 am – 11:00 am (Hall A)	<b>Cleanfarms 2024 Program Update</b>	<a href="#">Davin Johnson</a> Alberta Program Advisor, Cleanfarms Inc

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## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

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11:00 am - 11:30 am (Hall A)	<b>The Alberta Rat Control Program – Past and Future</b>	<a href="#">Karen Wickerson</a> Rat and Pest Program Specialist, AB Agriculture & Irrigation
	<b>Boots on the Ground Rat Control</b>	<a href="#">Caitlin Heck</a> Agricultural Fieldman, M.D. of Provost
11:30 am – 12:15 pm (Hall A)	<b>Value of the Weed Control Act</b>	<a href="#">Gayah Sieusahai</a> Pest Regulatory Officer, AB Agriculture & Irrigation
	<b>Weed Inspection in Strathcona County</b>	<a href="#">Diana Wahlstrom</a> Senior Advisor Agriculture Initiatives, Strathcona County
		<a href="#">Elise Graham</a> Agriculture Technician, Strathcona County
	<b>The Power of Partnerships</b>	<a href="#">Megan Evans</a> Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm (Hall B)	<b>Lunch Trade Show Open</b>	
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm (Hall A)	<b>On the Lighter side of the Dark Cloth</b>	<a href="#">Sharon Widdup</a>
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm (Hall B)	<b>Coffee Break Trade Show Open</b>	
2:45 pm (Hall A)	<b>Resolutions Session #1</b>	Brenda Knight Councillor, Lacombe County

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*End of Day- Free Evening*

*Last bus leaves at 6:00 pm*



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Day 3: Wednesday, January 24

*(click on name for to link to bio)*

D.A. Steel Building (Hall A)

KB Heating (Hall B)

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6:30 am (Hall B)	<b>Coffee On! Trade Show Open</b>	
6:45 am – 8:00 a.m. (Hall B)	<b>Breakfast Trade Show Open</b>	
(Hall A)	<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Dickson Delorme
8:00 am – 8:20 am (Hall A)	<b>Provincial ASB Program Updates</b>	<a href="#">Kerriane Koehler-Munro</a> and <a href="#">Doug Macauley</a>
8:20 am – 9:00 am (Hall A)	<b>Hydrogen &amp; Energy Transition for Rural Alberta</b>	<a href="#">Randy Litun</a> President, Sky Point Resources Ltd.
9:00 am – 9:30 am (Hall A)	<b>Drones in Agricultural</b>	<a href="#">Jeremy Patton</a> RPAS Project Officer, Medicine Hat College
9:30 am – 10:30 am (Hall A)	<b>Sustainable Food Production: A Farmer's opinion</b>	<a href="#">Glenn Wright</a> Farmer, Saskatchewan
10:30 am – 11:00 am (Hall B)	<b>Coffee Break/ Trade Show Open</b>	
11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Hall A)	<b>We've Got To Do Something</b>	<a href="#">Reg Shandro</a> Farmacist Advisory Services Inc.
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm (Hall B)	<b>Lunch Trade Show Open</b>	
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>Farming a Prairie Playground</b>	<a href="#">Nichole Neubauer</a> Irvine Agriculture Discovery Centre Coordinator, Prairie Rose Public Schools
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm (Hall A)	<b>Taber Sugar Beet Factory</b>	Bryan Avison Agricultural Superintendent, Lantic Inc.
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm (Hall B)	<b>Coffee Break/ Trade Show Open</b>	
3:30 pm (Hall A)	<b>Resolutions Session #2</b>	Brenda Knight Councillor, Lacombe County

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## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

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6:00 pm  
(Hall A)

**Cocktails/  
Silent Auction Opens**

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7:00 pm – 11:00 pm  
(Hall A)

**Banquet**

**Awards Presentations  
Minster's Address – Hon. RJ Sigurdson  
Charity Auction (Live and Silent) - STARS  
Invitation to 2025 Provincial ASB Conference  
Entertainment: Dueling Pianos**

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*Last bus leaves at 11:30 pm*

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The South Region Agricultural Service Boards would like to thank everyone for attending this year's Conference. Special thanks also go out to speakers, presenters, trade show participants and sponsors for helping make this Conference a success.

*Have a safe trip home!*



## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

### Speaker Presentation Information and Bio's

**Monday, January 22**

#### **Update from Parliament**

*John Barlow*

##### **Presentation**

MP Barlow will provide an update on activities in the House of Commons, including Bills being discussed, studies at the Agriculture Committee, and current issues facing the Agriculture sector.

##### **Bio**

John Barlow is the Member of Parliament for Foothills. As part of this role, he is also currently serving as Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food, and Food Security.

John is originally from rural Saskatchewan, but as an Albertan for over 30 years he has grown deep ties and a strong commitment to this region. Prior to being elected to serve in Parliament in 2014, Barlow spent 20 years in the field of journalism, including as an award-winning journalist with the High River Times and as the associate publisher and editor for the Okotoks Western Wheel. John was elected as a Member of Parliament to represent the federal riding of Macleod in 2014 and has been re-elected in 2015, 2019 and 2021 to represent the riding of Foothills. As part of this role, he is also currently serving as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and as the elected chair for the Canada-Scotland Parliamentary Friendship Group. He has previously served as Shadow Minister for Interprovincial Trade and Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

John and his wife, Louise, live in High River, Alberta, and are parents to children Graeden, Kinley and McKenna.

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**Tuesday, January 23**

#### **History & Impact of ASB's in Alberta**

*Maureen Vadnais-Sloan*

##### **Presentation**

Agriculture is one of the foundations of the province of Alberta and continues to be one of the driving economic forces of the province. Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) were established over 75 years ago to address problems that were starting to emerge in Alberta's agricultural industry and throughout their history they have adapted to continue to have a significant impact on promoting sustainable agriculture in the province.

##### **Bio**

Maureen Vadnais-Sloan grew up in southern Alberta on a mixed farming operation. She went on to graduate from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Specialization Land Resource Science. Maureen has worked in the agriculture industry in a variety of areas including herbicide research, retail agro and for the Agricultural Service Board Program in various roles. Maureen currently works for Agricultural Financial Services Corporation as a Relationship Manager -Insurance.

Maureen currently lives in the County of St. Paul with her daughter, Lauren, where they raise a few horses and cows.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

### History of the Soil Conservation Act

*Trevor Wallace - Nutrient Management Specialist, AB Agriculture & Irrigation*

#### Presentation

The intent of the Soil Conservation Act is to preserve Alberta's agricultural land base, encourage soil conservation practices and ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector. The Soil Conservation Act describes the requirement for landholders to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place or to stop loss or deterioration from continuing. The Act delegates authority to local municipalities and outlines the powers and duties of the designated officers. It also outlines the process, procedures, and governance for appeals under the Act. The presentation will review the history behind the Soil Conservation Act.

#### Bio

Trevor has been working in the agricultural sector for over 25 years. He has worked in both extension and research in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Maritimes. Currently he is the Provincial Nutrient Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation based out of Camrose. His role includes extension and policy development responsibilities; primarily on soil, livestock and manure management, biosolids and fertilizer management. Trevor works with a variety of stakeholders including Municipalities, producers, NGO's and industry service providers, to develop and implement programs that support a sustainable Agriculture sector.

Trevor was born and raised on a mixed farm at Unity, located in West-Central Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and later completed his Master of Science in Agriculture.

### Reality is in the Pictures

*Todd Green - Director of Agriculture Services, County of Newell*

**&**

*Gary Secrist - Supervisor of Agriculture Services, Lethbridge County*

#### Presentation

A look through the last few seasons of soil erosion concerns and treatments. A picture story that tells why the Soil Conservation Act is still relevant.

#### Bio

##### Todd Green

Todd has been the Director of Agricultural Services for nearing two decades. Born a Manitoban, calls Alberta home and is proud to work in the number 1 County.

##### Gary Secrist

Gary is the Supervisor, Agriculture Services and has been employed with Lethbridge County for over 30 years. Born and raised on a mixed farming operation near Enchant and enjoys working in a County where agriculture is the main pillar of our economy.





## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

### History of the Agricultural Pest Act

***Dr. Michael Harding - Crop Assurance Program Lead, AB Agriculture & Irrigation***

#### **Presentation**

In this presentation Dr. Harding will provide an overview of crop disease monitoring efforts and results from work done through the AAAF and AGI partnership. It will focus on surveillance and diagnostics of crop disease agents listed on the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation such as wheat head (Karnal bunt and dwarf bunt) and canola (clubroot and blackleg) pathogens. Other important pathogen monitoring and diagnostics will be discussed.

#### **Bio**

Dr. Michael Harding is the Crop Health Assurance Lead for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. He grew up on a farm south of Taber, AB and received his BSc in Biology from the University of Lethbridge in 1996. In 2004 he received his PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Arizona. Today Dr. Harding leads crop disease monitoring and surveillance in Alberta and assists with crop health diagnostics.

### Clubroot Protocols in Practice

***Aaron Van Beers - Manager – Agricultural Services, Leduc County***

#### **Bio**

Aaron Van Beers is a Southern Alberta farm kid who loves playing in the dirt. Since graduating from the University of Lethbridge in 1997, he has worked for a seed company, a fertilizer retail, and is currently with Leduc County as the Manager of Agricultural Services. He has been primarily responsible for the Clubroot Inspection Program at Leduc County since 2009. He spends his summers in Devon with his wife and three kids and the winters in various hockey rinks and dance studios around the Province.

### Cleanfarms 2024 Program Update

***Davin Johnson - Alberta Program Advisor, Clean Farms Inc***

#### **Presentation**

Cleanfarms is a non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility by properly managing agricultural plastic packaging and non-organic product waste.

Cleanfarms is the only industry-funded organization across Canada that develops and operates waste product and packaging stewardship for the agricultural community. It operates six permanent programs across 10 provinces spanning over 10 million square kilometres and 190,000 farms. Cleanfarms does this by offering collection services in partnership with over 1,500 retail and municipal collection sites. Additional pilot programs are also in progress to assess & determine how best to recover and manage 'next frontier' materials in a continuing push to 'Make it to 100%' – an aspirational recycling goal featured in many of its educational materials.

Join us as we develop a shared understanding of the value of used agricultural plastics resource management on farms across Alberta in this 2024 program update.

#### **Bio**

Davin Johnson is the Alberta Program Advisor of Cleanfarms Inc., a non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through properly managing agricultural plastic packaging and product



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waste. He has worked with Cleanfarms since 2013 as a consultant in the unwanted pesticide and animal health medication collection program and now coordinates all of Cleanfarms' stewardship programs in Alberta.

In addition to working with stakeholders across the province to support existing ag recycling and waste management programs, Davin focuses on the Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It! pilot to recycle grain bags and twine, and a federally funded pilot to recycle bale and silage wrap.

Born in Saskatchewan and raised in southern Alberta, Davin holds a B.Sc. with a concentration in GIS from the University of Lethbridge. Most of his professional career has been spent in rural Alberta, remediating and reclaiming farm and ranch land as an environmental scientist. Founded on a passion for environmental sustainability, he brings to his role 14 years of environmental science, remote sensing, GIS, and project oversight experience in the oil and gas, geomatics, agricultural, academic, government, and not-for-profit sectors.

### **The Alberta Rat Control Program – Past & Future**

***Karen Wickerson - Rat and Pest Program Specialist, AB Agriculture & Irrigation***

#### **Presentation**

The Alberta rat control program was started over 70 years ago and has been successful in keeping Alberta rat free. The government quickly realized the destruction that rats can cause and acted immediately. This presentation will cover what factors, which remain to today, have contributed to maintaining a rat free status. The future of the program will be covered.

#### **Bio**

Karen Wickerson is the Rat and Pest Program Specialist for the Government of Alberta. She is a registered veterinary technologist and has worked for the Government for 13 years with 4 years in her current position.

### **Boots on the Ground Rat Control**

***Caitlin Heck - Agricultural Fieldman, M.D. of Provost***

#### **Presentation**

The M.D. of Provost is one of seven municipalities within the Alberta Rat Control Zone. This presentation will highlight the work put in by a Pest Control Officer within the zone, identification of the Norway Rat and common signs to watch for during inspections.

#### **Bio**

Caitlin Heck has worked for the M.D. of Provost for five years; 1 year as the Assistant Ag Fieldman and 4 years now as the Ag Fieldman. She received two diplomas from Lakeland College before moving to the Provost area, where she lives on a cattle & grain farm with her husband and his family.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

### **Value of the Weed Control Act**

***Gayah Sieusahai - Pest Regulatory Officer, AB Agriculture & Irrigation***

#### **Presentation**

A brief history of the Weed Control Act (the Act) and Regulation, purpose of the Act as it relates to weeds, classes of weeds on the regulations, why it is important to have municipalities administer the Act, landowner/Municipal obligations under the Act, how have weeds impacted other provinces and states and where do we go from here

#### **Bio**

Gayah Sieusahai is the Pest Regulatory Officer with Agriculture and Irrigation. Gayah has been with the Department for the last 18 years. He spent the first three years working as the Regional Variety Test Coordinator for cereal, pulse and flax crops. Previously, Gayah worked an Agronomist with the Agricore canola breeding program. Gayah attended the University of Alberta where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Gayah is very passionate about keeping harmful invasive species out of the province of Alberta, while protecting the environment and human health. Gayah looks forward to sharing his views on the importance of weed management with the ASB.

### **Weed Inspection in Strathcona County**

***Diana Wahlstrom - Senior Advisor Agriculture Initiatives, Strathcona County***

***&***

***Elise Graham - Agriculture Technician, Strathcona County***

#### **Presentation**

An overview of how Strathcona County interprets and implements the Alberta Weed Act in a modern context. A look into challenges, solutions and ongoing mysteries.

#### **Bio**

**Diana Wahlstrom (pronounced Dee-anna)**

Diana grew up in downtown Calgary, far from the wheat fields of Rocky View. She was often shipped to her grandparents home in central BC, who were avid gardeners and had many peach trees. She fell in love with food and how it is produced at a young age, becoming an avid amateur chef as a teen and young adult. Diana got a job as a weed inspector with Strathcona County in 2010, and fell in love with the agricultural industry and the work that Agricultural Service Boards steward. She has been with Strathcona County ever since, taking her turn to lead each of their Agricultural Services including weed inspection, vegetation management, community extension and engagement, crop and livestock support and wildlife management. Currently, as the Senior Advisor of Agriculture Initiatives, Diana's role is to oversee the Strategic Direction of Agriculture within the organization and assist her Agricultural Service Board. Mostly she advises on policies, strategies and spends a lot of time with her legal representation decoding legislation.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

### **The Power of Partnerships**

*Megan Evans - Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council*

#### **Presentation**

Invasive species threaten Alberta's environment and economy. Land managers that are united in the prevention, detection and management of invasive species stand the best chance of protecting Alberta from their harmful impacts. This presentation will discuss the implications of collaborative efforts, demonstrating how cost-effective solutions emerge from shared responsibilities.

#### **Bio**

Megan is a terrestrial ecologist with over ten years in the field. She is passionate about protecting biodiversity, especially our native plants and pollinators. She contributes to those efforts through her work as the Executive Director of the Alberta Invasive Species Council and as the President of the Alberta Native Bee Council.

### **On the Lighter Side of the Dark Cloth**

*Sharon Widdup*

#### **Bio**

Sharon is uniquely special that goes beyond the hyperbole. She grew up in a small southern Alberta farming town as a middle child among eight children. Her lifestyle prompted her to stand out and generate positive attention.

Her parents worked as her father was a heavy equipment operator and trucker and her mother was a hospital ward aid. Sharon, or Fawnsy as her friends call her, was quiet except at home. Her outgoing and stand-out skills helped her through high school, college, and the university. She spent two years after finishing at the university as a church missionary in the Midwest U.S. "Bible Belt" before taking a job at a southern Alberta guest ranch.

She has done many jobs in her 20-year career including being a childcare worker, a cowhand, a part-time accountant, backstroke swimmer, small-town preacher, and roller-skating instructor. All this amounts to an amazing amount of life experiences that keep audiences laughing.

Sharon is a laughing expert and shows how people can use it in victories and defeats as well as everyday pleasures and major catastrophes. She has characters, quips and intriguing insights that are both funny and useful to your personal and professional life.



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Wednesday, January 24

## Provincial ASB Program Updates *Kerrianne Koehler-Munro & Doug Macaulay*

### Presentation

Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program Update for 2023 season.

### Bio

#### Kerrianne Koehler-Munro

Kerrianne Koehler-Munro is the Agriculture Service Boards Manager. She has worked for over 22 years with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the natural resource management area prior to accepting her current position this past October. Kerrianne is passionate about agriculture and is extremely excited to support the ASB's in her new role. Kerrianne has extensive experience in both program management and policy development. Her work has ranged from managing agriculture field research studies to developing market opportunities for the agriculture industry. Kerrianne has worked at length with agriculture commodity groups, as well as provided support to the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, to enhance agricultural environmental stewardship. Kerrianne was raised in the Athabasca area on a mixed farm. She feels like the ASB has already been such a big part of her life, as her father was a county councillor for eighteen years while she was growing up. In her spare time, Kerrianne enjoys travelling, motorcycling, gardening, canoeing and hiking.

#### Doug Macaulay

Doug Macaulay is the Director of the Crop Assurance Program Section and has worked for the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for over 20 years.

Doug grew up on a small farm in northern Alberta and has always had a passion for farming and agronomy and entomology. This interest brought him to the University of Alberta where he acquired a Bachelor's of Science Degree. Doug began a career with Agriculture and Forestry in 2001 and has worked for the department ever since. During his time with Agriculture and Forestry he gained experience in weed science, entomology, plant pathology, agriculture extension, agroforestry, grant programming, and agriculture research.

Doug loves the outdoors and on his days off can be found either tenting with his wife Melanie and their four children, gardening, studying insects, pulling invasive weeds, learning French or coaching cross country skiing."



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### **Hydrogen & Energy Transition for Rural Alberta** *Randy Litun - President, Sky Point Resources Ltd.*

#### **Presentation**

Current energy transition has focused on deploying hydrogen in heavy industrial and large urban areas. Once hydrogen use and demand is established in these areas, energy transition would then migrate to lower demand areas such as rural Alberta and use in the agricultural sector. This underestimates the impact rural Alberta and agriculture offers in achieving hydrogen acceptance and its ability to contribute to overall hydrogen demand in an accelerated manner throughout the province. Rural Alberta and agriculture are characterized by greater per-capita energy demand in comparison to average provincial statistics and requires flexible and portable energy solutions.

A hydrogen-based transition appears to provide the fuelling characteristics necessary for these areas. Further, a distributed energy model utilizing existing natural gas infrastructure would overcome the cost of transportation and transmission associated with a centralized production model. Methane Pyrolysis is a technology that is capable of generating hydrogen at the point of demand common to a natural gas meter station. Methane Pyrolysis is a low-cost generation process that has the flexibility to generate hydrogen at smaller volumes to allow for numerous deployments throughout rural Alberta and does not require water or significant electrical input and does not create CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### **Bio**

Randy Litun is a Professional Engineer with APEGA and President of Sky Point Resources Ltd., an engineering consulting company offering evaluation and advisory services to the energy sector. With over 30 years of industry experience, he has deployed his broad expertise in energy and energy systems for projects focused on corporate strategy and utilizing new technology for the commercial development and optimization of energy assets, including oil and gas projects, electrical generation, CCUS, hydrogen and energy transition.

Randy has held a variety of operational and management positions with oil and gas organizations, in multi-disciplinary roles combining technical and executive leadership to drive commercial and business development. As an advocate for optimization, efficiency, and creative innovation, he has worked on the responsible development of oil, gas, heavy oil, and unconventional resources, and is currently focusing on the role of hydrogen and hydrocarbons in a sustainable low-carbon energy transition economy.

Through the Transition Accelerator, Randy authored the report “Towards Hydrogen; A Hydrogen HUB Feasibility Study for Southeast Alberta”, in addition to several private client reports for energy transition, including facility energy optimization, hydrogen technology reviews, hydrogen fuelling infrastructure, rural hydrogen network development, carbon capture, industrial hub development, and commercial project development.



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### **Drones in Agriculture**

***Jeremy Patton - RPAS Project Officer, Medicine Hat College***

#### **Presentation**

Drones in agriculture focuses on the time and cost benefits of using drones as a means of monitoring soil and crop health. Along with showing how drones can be beneficial, I will include data from projects that Medicine Hat College has been conducting with local farmers and highlight areas where data gathered by drones have resulted in cost savings to the farmers involved. I will also speak on some of the innovative research taking place with drones in agriculture in Alberta Post-secondary Institutions.

#### **Bio**

Jeremy Patton joined Medicine Hat College as their RPAS Project Officer in July 2022 and works closely with APEX Alberta, Alberta Innovates, and Community Futures Entre-Corp. Jeremy is working with Post Secondary Institutions and researchers to collect data about the types of research projects in the province. As well as the courses and training supporting Alberta's Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) sector. Jeremy's interests include Golf (losing golf balls), Skiing (falling down hills covered in snow), and (very amateur) Astronomy.

### **Sustainable Food Production: A Farmer's Opinion**

***Glenn Wright - Farmer, Saskatchewan***

#### **Bio**

Glenn Wright worked as a mechanical engineer for 20 years before changing careers to become a lawyer. Glenn was called to the bar in 2021 and practices law in Saskatoon, SK at Wardell Gillis. He grew up in Saskatoon as a "city kid" but decided to start farming in 2004. Glenn and his family reside on a farm near Delisle, SK, and grow grains, oilseeds, and pulse crops while focusing on reducing their emissions and environmental impact.

Glenn Wright and his family have installed a solar energy system on their farm and are electric vehicle advocates. Glenn heats their house with geothermal energy, and they turned off their natural gas service in 2008. They completed a deep insulation retrofit on their home in 2019 and have reduced their domestic emissions by more than 50% compared to 2006. Glenn and his son even raced the family EVs at the local drag strip in 2021 as part of a demonstration to raise public awareness about EVs in Saskatchewan. Glenn and his son are also in the process of converting a 1980 Dodge truck to electric propulsion.

Glenn Wright changed his farming practices to focus on low-input approaches to reduce reliance on corporate inputs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and manage climate-related and other risks by minimizing input costs. Glenn, being the quirky engineer, estimates that the emissions reductions associated with low-input farming has had an impact that is many times greater than the combined changes made in the household context (insulation, solar, and EVs for transport). He knows from personal experience that policy, collective action, and regulation of the industry are what is necessary to mitigate the climate crisis.

Glenn Wright advocates passionately for sustainability, equality, and strengthening our democracy. He has run as a candidate in several elections. Glenn currently serves as a board member on SaskEV and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and is the former director of the SaskBarley crop commission. Glenn focuses his activism on energy policy, climate change, social justice, and sustainable transition pathways.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Glenn Wright drafted the National Farmers Union Affidavit as part of a joint Intervention in support of the Federal Government of Canada with respect to the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act court challenges pursued by the provincial governments of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

### **We've Got To Do Something** *Reg Shandro - Pharmacist Advisory Services Inc.*

#### **Presentation**

[Click here for presentation info](#)

#### **Bio**

[Click here for biography.](#)

### **Farming a Prairie Playground** *Nichole Neubauer - Irvine Agriculture Discovery Centre Coordinator* *Prairie Rose Public Schools*

#### **Presentation**

This presentation will tell the story of the Irvine School Agriculture Discovery Centre (ADC). Our 200ft x 200ft student-led micro-farm teaches students all about where their food comes from. Our AgPro courses build student connections to the fantastic careers in agriculture. By raising a variety of production livestock, growing crop plots and a large garden, the ADC cultivates agriculture connections that will prepare future generations to develop thriving societies, flourishing economies and healthy environments.

#### **Bio**

As a passionate agriculture educator and industry advocate, Nichole Neubauer has welcomed over 22,000 students to her family farm since 2005. The purpose: to gain a first-hand account of agriculture and the agri-food system. Motivated to "educate beyond her gate", in 2021, Nichole partnered with Prairie Rose Public Schools to construct the Agriculture Discovery Centre (ADC), a student-led micro-farm, located right on the playground of Irvine School. Nichole believes that "Cultivating consumer connections, to enhance agri-food literacy, is vital to the future of the agricultural industry."