

## Peace Agronomy Update

January 10, 2019

Dunvegan Motor Inn Fairview, AB

By: Brian Harcourt

Speaker..Nevin Rosaasen..Policy and Program Specialist. AB Pulse Growers.

Comments and Quotes.

He commented on APG website being revamped.

1st question was-When will India be back in the market?

Answer was-Depends on the monsoons and politics.

So don't give up n peas. He also suggested trying some Red Lentils or some Fababeans. Check with buyers.

Transportation could become a problem.

He next commented on seed treatments.

PMRA-(Pest Management Regulatory Agency) in Canada.

Seed treatments are used world wide to control pests and seed born diseases.

Part of the problem is they may be killing our Bees. the world needs Bees!

Speaker..Neil Blue..Provincial Market Analyst..AB..Ag+F

He gave an excellent account of all grains over the past year.

But it's anybody's guess what's going to happen this year.

Such as the weather (fall 2016), war, politics.

email..neil.blue@gov.ab.ca

780 422 4053.

## Agricultural Service Board Conference

January 21-24, 2019

Calgary, Alberta

MC..Danielle Smith.

1st Speaker..Aaron Van Beers.

Subject.."AAAF" people, implementing Ag programs and policies, and to manage Ag resources of the MDs and Counties.

The beginnings of the ASBs, The Resolution was made in 1945.

1968 The AAAF was formed. 1971 the first Ag Conference.

The Fieldmen and the Ag Service Boards are responsible for the

"Pest Act, Weed Act, Soil Conservation Act and the ASB act.

Some of the current problems are Urban sprawl, Farmers aging and not enough young people getting into farming.

Today the biggest problem is \$\$, if the parents don't pass on the land and equipment, it's very difficult for young people to get started, unless they can find a niche of some sort.

Speaker Aaron Van Beers.

New weeds popping up from wherever!

Wetland management, more new regulations.

Loss of Black Soil from urban sprawl, however now there is some stock piling and redistribution of said soil.

1 of 60 people live on a farm. Most city people do not understand current farming methods like the huge equipment on country roads.

A question for everyone, Do you really know what's on your plate?

Have you read the list of ingredients in the bottle or can?

Speaker..Anne Wasko. PT 1.

Market Analyst of the Canadian Cattle Market for over 30years.

Subject..Difference between Stop and Slow Down.

Global trend..Consumption, Beef up 9%, Pork up 11%, Chicken up21%.

Beef #1, US up 22%, Brazil 18%, Can. 12th on the list. our exports up 20%.

" China imports up 21%, Canada 8th up 3%

Canadian..Best ever exports \$\$ to US.

" kills biggest in 10 years. Can. cow kills, most last year since 2010.

Imports from US last year 190,000 lbs. Feeder exports 2018, 200,000 lbs.

US cow herd 32m, Can. 3.5m. Can. pork consumption 2018 + 3%.

ASF..African Swine Fever..No remedy in sight. Over half the worlds hogs live in China.

Us pork demand strong. Overall beef exports up 12% over 2017, to Japan up 15%.  
\$\$ outlook generally higher, feed lots busy, watch for opportunity.  
Canadian dollar very small changes.  
Corn imports up to 9 million bushels.  
Big Questions...weather, disease, trade, economy, politics, dollar volatility.  
You need a PLAN, know the numbers.  
Hope is not a strategy!

Speaker..Kim Keller..Mental Health in AG.  
Statistics, ever changing of farmers, men and women.  
35% have some degree of depression. 45% experience stress, many causes.  
58% have an anxiety classification.  
Farmers are generally 2-4 times more likely to commit suicide.  
The "Do More Ag Foundation" to the aide. Now nation wide.  
Strategy - #1 Break the Stigma, #2 community of people available to help.  
#3 Research, support and share, an industry wide effort.  
Call 1 306 270 8658..hello@domore.ag..www.domore.ag, @Do More Ag  
Kim asked the audience to "stand" if anyone had someone in their family  
had committed suicide..75 to 80% Stood Up!!!

Sean Stanford-panel member, Farmer, Mechanic, Fire Fighter,has PTSD.  
Best Practice, talk about to someone, network with anyone with the same problem.  
As time passes more people will listen.  
My thought..just being a Fire Fighter, Policeman, Ambulance people  
will at some time because of the nature of the job, will have a degree of stress.  
Example..My son-in-law, RCMP corporal, deceased, said..The worst parts of his job  
was to go to a vehicle accident with little children involved, or to a residence with  
a family fight happening, add alcohol and or drugs, what do you do when  
the residents turn on you???  
He resigned a corporal after only 9 years.

Speaker..Margo Redelback..Executive Director AB Irrigation Districts.  
Margo is a Registered Professional Agrologist.  
In Alberta there 13 irrigation districts.  
1.7 million acres, 60 different crops, many communities depend on irrigation.  
50,000 jobs of all sorts make it all happen.  
Water for wildlife and wetlands, over 60,000 acres.  
40 parks and campsites and 29 golf courses.  
AIPA, (AB Irrigation Projects Ass.) began in the 40s.  
Water management and storage were big issues.  
The AID now does Aquatic Invasive Species research  
and control, also wetlands monitoring.  
[www.AIPA.ca](http://www.AIPA.ca)

Speaker..Tammy Schwass..APRG..AB Plastics Recycling Group.  
Tammy is the Executive Director of AB Plastics Recycling Ass.  
She facilitates partnerships to support and connect member organizations.  
She offers the expertise to build strategies for the development of programs to increase plastics capture and recycling.  
Today the biggest problems is grain bins and baling twine.  
There are recycling plants for both but are small and distant.  
One in Bassanow AB and one in Saskatoon Sask.  
They do over 10,000 tons per year so far.  
The AB Gov't has made \$750,000.00 available to get a "pilot" up and running.  
APRG Is currently looking to hire a Project Operator.  
The problem will be to determine the process and a collection site.  
They want to start this fall. Hussar AB was mentioned.

Speaker..Darby Allen..The Horse River Fire..  
That week there were 4 fires, all extinguished.  
Day One, May 1st, Crossover conditions, wind shifts. Day 2 uneventful.  
May 3rd, another fire, wind changed, wind blew the fire across the Athabaska river.  
Fire was already out of control! It happened so quickly.  
Mandatory Evacuation issued! Nearly all of Ft Mac. Bumper to bumper traffic out of town!  
May 4th evacuation was complete by 2.00 am. Prov. declared a state of emergency.  
The "TEAM", Grit, Determination, Perseverance, must be able to trust your people, by the REOC, Regional Emergency Operations Centre.  
Twinning of the highways out of town was a huge factor to exit the Hamlet.  
There was no loss of life. Thankyou note from a grade one student. Coffee shop girl "OUR HERO".  
Darby's comment..People said it was impossible, risky, pointless. The Heart said "TRY IT".

Speaker..Doug Macauley..Ag Development Unit Manager.  
Doug was a farm boy, after school he graduated from U of A with a Bachelor of Science degree.  
He immediately began his agricultural journey.  
He is currently with the ASB Program.  
He had a chance opportunity to improve, validate and modernize the programs.  
He enjoys the chances to connect with stakeholders to gather input.  
There is now a 7 year review initiated at an ASB Provincial Conference.  
It was endorsed by the Deputy Minister of the day.  
This was launched in the Fall of 2018.  
Program impact, efficiency and administration.  
Also an Ag fieldman review-Face to Face meetings in 2019.  
Final report-spring 2019.

## Agricultural Service Board Conference

By: Brian Harcourt

Speaker..Dr. Yamily Zavala..Chinook Applied Research Ass.  
Dr. Zavala is a crop and soil Nutrient Management Specialist.  
She has extensive experience in restoring soil fertility  
and improving cropping systems, carbon sequestration, #1 in soil health.  
Sick soils have poor H2O infiltration, and subject to wind erosion.  
SOM..soil organic matter, mega roots, worms, and  
a variety of plant life to provide ground cover.  
Healthy soil should have physical and chemical balance good tilth  
aggregation structure,aeration and H2O storage capacity.  
Biology must be happening in the soil.  
[www.carasoilhealthlab.ca](http://www.carasoilhealthlab.ca)

Speaker..Lindy Philips..PHD..Post Diner Humorist..  
He has many magic tricks, had everyone roaring with laughter.  
"Stress" was the underlying topic.  
Farming, a great way to live, but many situations to cause stress.  
Money, weather, family, apathy,anger, fatigue.  
6 ways to reduce stress, listen to music, exercise, read and learn,  
prayer and meditation, vacation and laughter.  
It boosts the immune system and lowers blood pressure.

Lindyphilips.com

2019 ASB Conference  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary, AB  
January 21 – 24

By: Garry Candy

There were excellent speakers and meetings; the Master of Ceremonies was Danielle Smith who was entertaining as well as informative and kept things running on time. There were a number of resolutions that all passed.

Garrett Broadbent – Director of Ag Leduc County

Aaron Ban Beers – Ag Fieldman – Leduc County

- They described some of the things that happen on a day to day basis in their positions.
- They did it the form of a skit – answering phone call from people with concerns. One was about trapping of a beaver by the County – a call came in from a person wanting them to leave the beaver alone. In a future call, the same man called to say that there had been a tree on his land that his son had planted, the beaver had cut it down and now he wanted the beaver dead! Another enactment of a call concerned a man who wanted a porcupine moved out of his cattle area with a host of reasons why he could not do it himself, including that porcupines throw their quills from their tails a fair distance! True stories told in a very funny way.
- Aaron also discussed all the things that come up regarding insects, diseases and weed control

Anne Wasko (AKA Cattle Annie) – Market Analyst for Gateway Livestock Exchange in Taber

- Spoke on global markets and trends
  - Protein demand is on the rise – best sources are beef, pork and chicken with demands up 9% for beef, 11% for pork and 21% for chicken
  - Canada exports 6%-7% in the world and China is the largest importer of beef
  - 2018 was the highest demand for beef since 2010
- There has not been much change in cattle numbers although it was the best grazing season in the US for 20 years; not the case in Canada
- Feeder cattle 2017-18 imports were 180,000 and exports 3 – 500,000. Current numbers are not available because the US Dept of Ag closed due to government shutdown
- A concern is African swine fever and there is no medication for it. The remedy is to cultivate the land and restock. This will short the market as 700,000,000 hogs are needed by China
- Cattle market in Canada is up; prices remain much the same
- More corn is coming in since the price is down
- Causes of off-track performance - weather, disease and trade risks
- 2 big feedlots need a billion head a year

Paul Watson – PhD Agriculture – MSc Botany/Ecology – Environmental Farm Plan  
- Director of ARECA's EFP since 2015

- Formed in 2003
- Not looked at previously but now being noticed
- Encompasses farm risk assessment, farmstead sites, product handling
- Voluntary self-set plan that can access government monies
- Crop sustainability is part of the plan
- Initial form has been shortened and updates should take less than ½ hour
- 35% Canadian farmers have done a farm plan
- Species at Risk (SAR) is up to the farmer to do
- Carbon capture payments may factor into planning shortly

Kim Keller – farmer from NE Saskatchewan introduced her panel:

Deb Gray – manager of AHS Provincial Mental Health Promotion and Illness  
Prevention Unit

Dana Thompson – CPA, CMA, CA, partner in MNP, Lethbridge office

Sean Stanford (Heavy Duty mechanic and farmer from Magrath) who suffers from  
anxiety and PTSD

- Kim Founded FARM AT HAND in 2012
  - 2015 – team started passing awareness to Mental Health and Agriculture organizations
- Discussion by panel:
- Of persons involved in agriculture, 35% suffer depression, 45% high stress, 58% anxiety
  - No Canadian stats on farm suicides but is high. The audience was asked to stand and then whoever did not know of or been related to someone who committed suicide to sit down. The amount of people still standing would have been about 60% - this surprised most of us as to how wide spread suicide is
  - The amount of suicides prompted the formation of DO MORE AG to break the stigma, promote community awareness, support and share research
  - The ag sector has a high percentage of mental illness due to a number of different factors from weather to markets to input costs and cash flow and risk management and succession planning
  - "What is being done to make lenders aware of farm illnesses caused by many factors?" – DO-MORE AG is working at this and Dana from MNP said they tend to try to help with decisions about yearly planning around certain agriculture failures and succession planning
  - Sean said he has learned not to be ashamed
  - This session woke us up as to the potential problems

Dennis McKnight – CEO Plant Protein Alliance in AB (PPAA)

- Dennis ran a market research organization with clients such as McDonalds, General Motors, CNR, Beyer Group and more

- Continued to speak about future wants and trends
- TV series – “the Innovators” and “Dr. Food”
- Has been in pursuit of best food innovation around the world recently spending time in the prairies to help lead them into a leading global source of plant based proteins
- Europe wants more plant based foods – Tyson Foods is buying companies (did not name) with plant based protein and Maple Leaf is seeking information on plant based proteins although not backing off on beef
- Proteins Canada has been given 150 million government money and 300 million of private money to develop plant based foods
- Mentioned Canada West Foundation – a public think tank that focuses on the West. Through their evidence based research, they provide solutions to tough public policy challenges facing the west – CEO is Martha Hall Findlay and has headquarters in Calgary

#### Christina Seidel – Ag Plastic Recycling Association (APRP)

- Spoke mainly on grain bags and twine
- There are about 10,000 tons of this plastic per year and most is burned
- 3 year pilot project to help to organize and recycle 750,000 tons per year, mostly twine
- Currently looking for a program operator and going through a process to select collection sites
- Collection to start in the fall of 2019

#### Doug Macauley – Ag Service Board Program

- Program reviews every 7 years – 2005 / 2012 / 2019 – initiated by the ASB Provincial Committee and endorsed by the minister
- Final reports of ASB and the AB Forestry that work together will be out this spring
- Having a regional meeting to discuss proposed seed in storage payments
- 2 members from each board are invited on Feb 26. Will be 5 regional meetings

#### Resolutions:

- All resolutions were passed including Clear Hills County Resolution on the use of cameras with time and dates to be valid for animal kill evidence
- Other item of importance to a lot of farmers is that growing perennial crops – grass, trees, etc. should have carbon capture payments

#### Bill Hnatiuk – Ag Fieldman, Crowsnest MD

- Spoke of weeds being transferred into their area from BC which does not control them into AB via highway and rail traffic
- Particularly watched infestations occur in areas where there was land disruption, such as utility lines, communication lines, etc.



- Works with one call of First Call to register with MD for ongoing work. MD or County then can monitor the sites and stop a problem before it gets out of hand

#### Margo Redelback – Executive Director of AB Irrigation Districts Association

- 1.7 million acres under irrigation of which 1.4 million are in irrigation districts
- 57 storage reservoirs, 5000 km of drainage ditches back to rivers
- Irrigated area is 4.7% of cultivated land with 60 different crops grown with 56,000 PT workers
- The association has a staff of 2 plus membership
- 1 billion in investment over the years has resulted in 3 billion in GDP, 3:1 ration
- Association does
  - Sector advocacy, influences policy and legislation
  - Advance projects in support of flood and drought
  - Provide reduction in power rates
- Currently working on detection and control of invasive mussels by water monitoring – find info at [AIPI.ca](http://AIPI.ca)

#### Lyndy Phillips – Comedian, Magician

- Provided lots of entertainment and laughs while hitting on important areas such as stress
- Stress can reduce your immunization and can be caused by fatigue, money and work concerns, family and farming markets, etc.
- Ways to manage stress include listening to music, exercise, reading and learning, prayer and meditation, vacation and laughter
- 1 minute of laughter can reduce stress for a day

#### Melissa Stanford – Sustainable Ag Education Partnership

- Ag goals – to produce food in a sustainable way
- Not for profit projects are funded by people such as Nutrien, Beyer, Town of Magrath
- Support teachers and provide student opportunities
- Have summer teacher tours to educate the educators about ag operations

#### Jared Leavitt – teacher at Magrath High

- Talked about the summer teaching experience, taking a course at UBC on combining GMO's and cells
- Bio teacher can refer his students to real life genetics
- Has students growing plants and graphing progress of plant and cell growth

#### Dr. Yamily Zavala – Crop and Soil Management Specialist, Manager of Chinook Applied Research Association's Crop and Soil Program, Manager of CARA's Soil Lab

- Focus on evaluation of physical and biological properties of soil
- Talked about healthy soils and the bio-physical and chemical balances

- Extremely knowledgeable and funny (a bit hard to understand at times because of the rate at which she spoke)
- Talked about CARA's lab which recently opened - PCBFA members are entitled to a free test
- Lab is farmer friendly and host a kids' summer camp – we are too old to educate
- Mini conference will be held February 13

#### Craig Kemmer – Ag Economist at FCC

- Spoke about debt in Canada – wages drive GDP
- Debt to disposable income is 178%
- 2 trillion dollars of debt in Canada is mostly mortgages – credit card debt drives the interest rates
- Expecting 2 bank increases in Canada in 2019
- Predicts lower farm income in 2019 due to softer commodities mainly because corn in the US is down 40%
- Farmland prices still increasing – about 8% in AB
- Dollar fluctuations – one cent change higher means \$5 less per acre income, and between \$13 and \$16 per head in cattle

#### Melissa Downing – Ab Provincial Coordinator for Verified Beef Production Plus

- Panel consisted of
  - Emily Murray – Cargill General Manager at McDonalds Beef
  - Deb Wilson – VP Trust BIX
  - Albert Kolk – Kolk Farms, Iron Springs
- Panel advocates traceability as the key to future of livestock management, good pens, and record keeping
- Albert mentioned keeping records paying a premium for feeders coming in if they are verified
- Deb Wilson has been the push in sustainable beef starting BIX
- They all definitely maintain there are proven rewards for good practices and verifiable operations making Canadian beef a valued product

2019 FarmTech  
Expo Centre, Edmonton, AB  
January 28 – 31

Chelsea, Master of Ceremonies opened the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Farm Show, the first was held in Red Deer in 1999 and moved to Edmonton in 2003.

Jay Baer – 23 years' experience as strategist for companies such as United Nations, Cisco and Nike

- Founded 5 million dollar companies and advisor to Fortune 500 Companies
- Written 5 books including "Hug Your Haters"
- Began by speaking about attitudes towards food and farming changing due to wealth, trade, politics and the internet
- Opponents of agriculture are a very vocal minority
  - Don't do what they expect – make unconventional choices
  - Understand what they want and give it to them, and more
  - Approaches no longer one on one
- "Hug Your Haters" approach is to embrace complaints by suppressing misinformation
- Praise is good but it doesn't make you better
- Praise is overrated – told a story about a woman applying for a marketing position. The first thing she said she wanted was to get at least 3 times the complaints, then explained herself that in order to fix things, you have to make sure that you are aware of all the complaints or you can't fix them. She said that for 100 dissatisfied customers, only 5 will complain – the other 95 are not heard and these are the ones you need to hear
- Unhappy customers and opponents are the ones that are the most important
- Apathy kills industry – you need to address every response and no response is a response
- You do not have to win an argument to make change and complaint volumes in food and ag products will increase
- 60% of complaints will be offstage (not public) and 40% will be onstage (twitter, facebook, etc.)
- Customer interaction is a spectator sport. All functions of the phone are used except verbal conversation.
- Reply to people only twice – tit for tat does no good but rather it makes you look weak, wrong and angry
- Spoke of a friend of his who had his whole house done in white carpet and he had a cat. The cat would do as cats do – throw up. Meow Mix is in all colours and he complained to the company and suggested it should be made in neutral colours – he replayed the response from Meow Mix – a very rough voice simply listing the products that are used – at least they replied
- An excellent statement was: "There is plenty of oxygen on the high road"

Merle Good and his daughter Annessa – farmers from Cremona, AB - Impromptu session the trade show

- Merle has a Bsc in Ag, is a specialist in taxation with own consulting business
- Spoke regarding farm succession planning – Annessa was returning home to buy in and eventually run the family business
- Conversations need to be between the generations recognizing who does what
- Meetings should occur at least once a year
- Spoke of redeeming equities, corporate freezes, company buy-back shares – all geared towards phasing parents out without giving it to the government
- Need to identify costs to custom farm, what labour is worth (what you are doing) and beware of false economy traps
- Good session not on the itinerary

JP Gervais – Chief Agronomist for FCC, 20 years' experience analyzing domestic and international ag policies and markets

- Outlook for Canadian agriculture – is it still positive?
- Economic growth looks good but expect some headwinds, still positive but compared to last 10 years, growth has been outstanding
- Conflicting signals now in that labour is going in the right direction but wages are low and unemployment rising
- Debt to income ratio – 173.8% which means debt is going faster than growth
- Expects interest rates to rise possibly 1.75% - faster than growth
- While banks are looking for 2.25%, markets say no
- End of 2019 may see reduction at bank rate – when asked whether you should lock in a mortgage now, he said yes because it is just good insurance
- US economy still growing but slower – 2<sup>nd</sup> longest expansion in history
- 75 cent dollar expected to drop slightly but finish year at about 78 cents
- China spends 30 cents of every dollar on food
- US has largest GDP, Canada is 6<sup>th</sup>
- CUSMA as it is now called will help and CPTTP will help open up Asian markets
- Land prices still on the rise but slower
- 2019 should see either moderate increases or flat
- Probably was a word he used too frequently

Drew Lerner – Weather Predictions for the World

- Heard his forecast last year and he seemed to be fairly close all around the world
- He has studied climatic and weather conditions for over 30 years
- 6 things influencing the weather:
  - Negative arctic oscillation (cold)
  - Dissipating warm water (Gulf of Alaska)
  - Weak El Nino conditions (decadal – meaning decade)
  - Negative Pacific decadal oscillation
  - Neutral Atlantic decadal oscillation
  - Solar millennium
- Warm ocean water causes El Nino. The ocean water temp is not above average so no El Nino

- Contrary to climate change advocates, ocean water heats from the bottom up rather than the top down
- Explained a bit about solar cycles – with more sun spots there is more heat; less sunspots, less heat – The sun is not a constant burner
- Prediction for AB is more moisture in the north and about the same in the south or drier
- When asked about climate change he said taxes won't change climate – it can help pollution

Tasha Kheriliddin – Radio and TV talk show host – Toronto

- Began by blaming cold snap in Toronto on an Alberta Clipper
- Spoke about what most urban voters care about – income, gas prices, housing costs, and work less – their conveniences
- Trade is perceptive and elections depend on emotion
- Current federal government failed elections promises (deficit promise completely broken) but voters will forget
- Things to consider
  - Rural urban divide – 82% city driven by immigration
  - 1/3 urban population live in 3 cities – Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal
  - Ag producers face a double edge sword
  - Quebec looking to have regulations on temporary foreign workers removed
  - CUSMA trade agreement has not be ratified in US (may still be changed or scrapped)
  - Need to stop tariff to tariff confrontations
- Opposition parties can talk about fixing everything when they don't have the power
- Political Polarization – left and right. 49% small liberal and 39% small conservative
- 2 billion users on facebook trying to regulate social media – eyeballs equal money and advertising management
- 49% liberal voters see climate change as the biggest issue so carbon tax is biggest issue for the election. This is Trudeau's hill to die on. 56% Canadians support it and 46% oppose. Surprisingly the biggest support is in Saskatchewan.
- Calls it the carbon litmus test – idea is that carbon tax is to change user behavior – government is also using carbon tax as an excuse for spending
- Immigration or migration – illegal has changed to irregulated – looking at point system as to labour needs
- Migration means pick up and walk out of something and into something else
- People are staying in Canada for 18 months with benefits using overloaded shelter systems
- 21,000 refugee claims pending – 50% will be returned
- Federal election in 9 months; parties are neck and neck
- AB election – NDP currently 20 points behind UCP

Brian Tischler – mixed collaborative farms – 100 hectares at Mannville

Session called: Strippers, Sunnies and Killer Robots

- Stripper is a different design of header to strip the seed off and into the combine, leaving the stem standing instead of pulling through – faster harvesting and less fuel
- Sunnies – raises sunflowers – slow good crop seeded into that long stubble – about 1200 lbs per acre
- Killer Robots – changes made to his machinery by adding electronics for auto steer, auto start, etc. Goal is to be running one tractor and watching his sprayer spraying by itself in the next field. Talked about the use of Lidar for mapping and GPS. Also make use of RTK which means he has a receiver in the field (real time Kinematic) which is extremely accurate
- Much technical information given
- Interesting stuff coming in the future – says technology is like magic

#### John Guelly and Don Orchard – Growers Guide Clubroot

- John is from Picardville, Don is an Agronomy Specialist in Central Alberta North
- John spoke about finding clubroot in his field – felt like he would be the outcast of the community
- 5 stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance
- Proper land use, rotations and working with AB ag got him back on track
- Advice – do 3 or 4 in rotation and use seed resistant varieties
- To minimize dirt movement – stop in grassy area, knock off dirt and trash, sanitize every piece of equipment, scout all the time, track all crops, designate entrance and exit areas keeping to a minimum, use annual soil tests. Utilize spores program, pull up the plants and burn them as 1 gall can contain a billion spores
- It's not possible to do everything but it's not okay to do nothing
- Don talked about how the spores sit in the ground until they are brought out of dormancy – could be by rain, roots at other plots, etc.
- New strains may not be resistant to the resistant varieties we now have
- Lime can help but soil testing is crucial – too much lime can ruin the land – need to map your land if you are going to use lime – 7.8% PH level is good
- Vegetables and Mustards could be hosts

At one of the breakfasts at Farmtech in Edmonton, I spoke with Dave Gallant, Director of Finance and Operations - Canadian Canola Growers. He told me they have interest free cash loans of up to \$100,000.00 for farmers that do not get accessed much and he cannot figure out why. The cost to set up the loan is only \$50.00. If a farmer requires more than the \$100,000, there is an interest charge on the excess. He volunteered to come to Worsley or Hines Creek to speak to a group if requested.

Contact Info  
 Dave Gallant  
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 Winnipeg, MB  
 R3J 3T7  
 204-789-8811

## Alternative Energy Workshop

January

David Thompson Hall

Sponsored by PCBFA

Facilitator: Katie McLachlan

December 11, 2018

Patrick Bateman - Policy Director, Canadian Solar Industries Association (Webcast)

- Alberta power pricing is attractive with coal @\$41 per megawatt hour
- Solar and wind are competitive with existing generation
- US goals are to generate energy and decrease emissions by 50% in 2030 and 100% in 2050
- Presently Canada is 66% renewable - hydro, wind and solar
- 80% of Canadians live in a province with 100% non-emitting energy. No breakdown how much from each province – I would think majority would be hydro. Alberta's goal is to be 30% renewable by 2030.
- Patrick can be reached at [pbateman@consig.ca](mailto:pbateman@consig.ca)

Evan Wilson – Regional Director – Prairies at Can WEA Ass. (webcast)

- Wind energy is responsible for 12,796 mWatts across Canada with 1500 MW in Alberta
- No crown land involvement with turbines
- Claims there is potential for AB wind power to be 400 TW (tera watts). Price for wind projects is about \$37 per Megawatt hour
- Wind power is regulated through Alberta Utilities Commission, Alberta Parks and Tourism, Transport Canada, Nav Can, Environment and Alberta Transportation
- Wind power development is not subject to surface rights regulations and rules. Landowners do have a veto and there is no requirement for land agents to be involved
- Reclamation through Alta Utilities Commission after construction – 95 – 98% of land to be undisturbed
- There were claims of up to 20 – 25 million in annual revenue to municipalities and 13.5 million in lease payments to landowners on 5 year terms after reclamation
- When asked about bird deaths and injuries from the facilities, he said he had no concrete numbers and would not speculate
- Solar facilities:
  - PV array to combiner box to inverter station to the utility grid to panels of modules
  - A 3.5 MW array would cover 25 acres, 9 MW would cover 61 acres
- Solar Farms
  - require lots of inverters and 50 MW would require about 317 acres – estimations vary as to the amount of hours of sunlight per day

- Solar Stations
  - Can be fixed tilt (stationary) or variable to optimize sunlight
  - Typically have crushed rock beds under them and some vegetation between and around them, can be chosen for species of wild birds, etc.
  - Structural considerations are the same as any other installation including frost heaves. They may require perimeter fencing, cameras, wildlife considerations and protections
- To provide 3% of A power would require 32,000 acres. Evan says there are more single use installations going in on ground locations or roof top. A thin covering of snow has little effect on the panels
- Utility scale generation will be mostly in southern AB due to the amount of wind
- Installation costs are between 1 and 1.5 million per MW. Life expectancy is 25 years

Amber Kenyon at Gateway Research out of Westlock

- Spoke about what it is like to live off-grid. I have seen her at other meetings and have written about her findings, mainly outlines power usage at the farm and home
- How to lower usage
  - Solar panels for watering systems
  - House usage reduced by using LED lighting, dry clothes outside
  - Variable speed motors
  - Wood heat
- Farm Energy and Agri Processing Program (FEAP)
  - Eligibility - \$10,000 plus farm income – converting raw material to value added commodities
    - New construction, retrofit projects, submitters to monitor natural gas usage (100%), LED lighting
    - Insulation, livestock watering systems, combines heat and power units, cogeneration projects (50%)
  - Funding can also include tankless water heaters. Ventilation fans, tire pressure controls on vehicles and vehicle scales
  - Energy audits can be funded to 50% to \$9000. GST and labour are not included in this funding but there are retroactive payments – up to \$250,000 per applicant
- Program is open till 2020, \$2 million left in the FEAP funds
- Amber is easy to talk to and eager to give what advice she can and extends an invitation for people with questions or concerns about this program or in just being off grid to call her at Gateway Research in Westlock.



## **2019 Provincial ASB Conference**

Hosted by: South Region

Location: Hyatt Regency Calgary, Ab

By: Julie Watchorn

Day 1: Conference Registration and light supper

Day 2: We started with breakfast

Master of Ceremonies: Danielle Smith

Conference Chairman: Morgan Rockenbach

National Anthem by Dawn Fortin

**#1: Garrett Broadbent & Aaron Van Beers**

Who is Ag. Fieldman? A qualified person to implement agricultural policies and program; to manage agricultural resources of the municipality

1943 was the first pilot project for ASB

2 farmers

2 council members

1 district agriculturist

The ASB are the holders of these acts; Weed Control Act, Pest Control Act, Soil Conservation Act

Rats, grasshoppers and weeds were the big ones the Ag. Fieldman dealt with

Now with changes in agricultural satellites, drones, new crops new emerging issues such as pine beetle, new weeds, clubroot and aquatic issues like zebra mussels

In 1931 1/3 of the population lived on a farm

Today 1 in 60 live on a farm

## **#2 Anne Wasko**

Cattle Market Outlook

Market Analyst 33 years

Alberta and Saskatchewan hold 70% of the national cattle herd

Canada will feed 5% more heifers on feed

Cows on -10% lows but still \$14/cwt. over the US

Aug 1/18 there were 750 thousand cows in feedlots up 12%

Many things can influence the cattle prices

- Weather
- Drought
- Feed prices/feed supply
- Fire/disaster
- FAD (foreign animal disease)
- Plant based meat (A&W)
- NAFTA
- Economy

## **#3 Paul Watson-EFP**

Environmental Farm Plan

Was formed in 2003

60+ EFP techs across Alberta

Whole farm self-assessments

Many other tweaks

NEFP – national environmental farm plan across Canada

Version 3.1 Species at Risk

Greenhouse gas/carbon capturing

Water quality

67 species at risk

Paul Watson

EFP Director

780-612-9712

[efp@areca.ab.ca](mailto:efp@areca.ab.ca)

[www.AlbertaEFP.com](http://www.AlbertaEFP.com)

#### **#4 Do More Ag and the Focus on You**

Kim Keller, Do More Ag

Sean Stafford, Agricultural Producer

Deb Gray, Manager- Mental Health Promotion and  
Illness Prevention

Dana Thomsen, Partner and Regional Agricultural  
Leader, MNP

1 in 5 people have or will develop a mental health  
issue...

First thing you do is talk to your family doctor and  
they refer you to a therapist

Medication is not the only option

Many change their lifestyle: Exercise

Nutrition

Health

Removing the stigma in the industry will help  
everyone; to encourage others to come forward

It is not a weakness to come forward to others and  
not go it alone

The Do More Agricultural Foundation

[www.domore.ag](http://www.domore.ag)

### **#5 Darby Allen; A Remarkable Human**

This man was an amazing speaker!

Horse River Fire Fort McMurray Alberta

May 3, 2016

Priorities #1 Save Lives

#2 Save Critical Infrastructure

#3 Save Properties

If you trust your people; more importantly they trust  
you amazing things will happen

They evacuated 88,000 people calmly efficiently

**0 Fatalities** with over 599,000 hectares [1.4 million  
acres] burned

“Its Impossible” said Pride

“Its Risky” said Experience

“Its Pointless” said Reason

“Give it a Try,” said the Heart

Unknown

### **#6 Allen Hall- Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta**

Member based company

Manitoba bent over backwards to get a factory built  
in Portage La Prairie Manitoba for ‘refining’ plant  
protein for use

\$8-15 crop value when you sell your protein

Plant protein is up 8%

Meat protein is up 4%

### **#7 Tammy Schwass- Recycling Center**

#### **Ag. Plastics**

This company have been working on for 15 years  
recycling agricultural plastics pilot program approved  
\$750000

Plastic waste breakdown

Polypropylene Twine-45%

Silage Plastic-18%

Greenhouse Film 1%

Grain Bags 12%

Bale Wrap 9%

Pesticide Containers 6%

Polypropylene Totes 3%

Collection anticipated to start Fall 2019

[www.albertaplasticsrecycling.com](http://www.albertaplasticsrecycling.com)

### **#8 Doug Macauley**

ASB Program Review

Review to step back and improve Update

Validate and Modernize the Program

Reviewed 2005 and 2012

Ag Fieldmen completed survey

Face to Face seminars in February

### **#9 Bill Hnatiuk- Alberta One Call**

Crowsnest Pass and Highway 3 has 15000 vehicles per day They have so much transport traffic on these roads the weed problem was out of control Scentless Camomile and Spotted Knapweed are two of the big ones

They use Alberta One Call to help with weed notices on the power lines

They monitor and do follow-up inspections entered into a GIS database for monitoring sites

Has promoted owner/operators of gravel pits to recognize the potential loss of revenue. Industry is moving toward weed free material

Promotes clean equipment and follow-up vegetation management

May prevent movement in or out of Municipalities

Early detection Early Response

778 Calls since 2016

743 no conflict

Everyone needs to work together

### **#10 Margo Redelback**

In Alberta 1.7 million acres of irrigated land

-Private Irrigation =311000 acres

-District Irrigation=1.4 million acres

13 Irrigation Districts

Irrigation Districts Act

District size ranges from 1,100 acres to 393,034 acres

Irrigation infrastructure owned and operated by both Irrigation Districts and Alberta Environment and Parks

They use potash in water bodies to control invasive zebra mussels

Website: thanks to irrigation

AIPA.ca

### **#11 Lyndy Philips**

Was hilarious! Great to have a good hard laugh!

Stress- Don't ignore it!

Farming is on the top 10 list of most stressful jobs

Body has a hard time fighting to heal you when you are always under stress

Causes: Money

Family

Work

33% of us live with extreme stress

Healthy ways to get rid of stress

-Listen to music

-Exercise

-Read/Learn

-Prayer/Meditation

-Vacation

\* Laughter!!

### **#12 Melissa Stanford/Jared Leavitt**

Putting Agricultural back in Classrooms

Sustainable Agricultural Education Partnership

SAEP

Supports teachers

Supports students opportunities

Their goal is for Students and communities with an appreciation for and understanding of agriculture and agrifoods

Trying to make school enjoyable for kids in agriculture

**#13 Dr. Yamily Zavala Soil Health**

Chinook Applied Research Association

CARA Soil Health Labs

Soil health

Physical Traits

Biological Traits

Chemical Traits    When one is off balance will adversely impact all 3

Good Drainage

Pink nodules have lots of N

If your soil is diverse in micro-organisms you have low soil borne disease

Good condition for drainage and water storage

Enough and balanced nutrients

Very passionate speaker!

[carashl@telus.net](mailto:carashl@telus.net)

**#14 Craig Klemmer-FCC**



Principal Agricultural Economist for Farm Credit Corp

Specializes in monitoring and analyzing the macroeconomic environment

Regular contributor for FCC Ag Economist blog

Debt to income ratio= 178%

For every \$ we make we spend \$1.78

Who drives the land prices...

Proportion of farmland owned vs. rented

Canada-2011=65%

2016=63%

Alberta-2011=60%

2016=58%

**Jeff Nelson-CEO of Nelson Family Ranches Ltd**

Values=

Hard work

Community Involvement

Work, Worship, Play and Service

Education and Learning

Strengthen family relationships by working together

Teamwork and respect

Ranch=

Feedlot has around 15,000 head

Around 5000-cow/calf pair operation

Purebred cattle-Angus, Herford, Charolais and  
Black Simmental

Custom silaging, farming and harvesting

5 Gravel pits with full line of crushers, screeners,  
loaders and trucks

Construction Equipment

Rental Properties

Sunset Lake Developments on Ridge Reservoir

Nelson Family Ranches

Jeff Nelson

[jeff@nfr.ag](mailto:jeff@nfr.ag)

(403) 635-7078

Box 388 Stirling, Ab T0K-2E0

**Melissa Downing, Emily Murray, Andrea White,  
Deb Wilson- Verified Beef Production Plus**

Cows produce 15% less greenhouse gases than  
years ago

Canadian Beef Sustainability Acceleration Pilot

4 key components of the framework

- 1- Sustainable beef production standard
- 2- Assurance Protocols

- Provide guidance and requirements for the certification process

### 3- Chain of Custody Requirements

- Technical and administrative requirements for tracking, beef and claims about beef sourced from certified operations

### 4- Sustainability Claims

- guidance on how to communicate about the framework

Must start at certified cattle producer, certified auction, certified feedlot, certified kill plant and certified butcher that sells your meat then you get paid a premium for verifying your calves but if one is not certified it all gets cancelled

**Melissa Downing**

1-866-242-7404

[ab@verifiedbeef.ca](mailto:ab@verifiedbeef.ca)

verifiedbeef.ca

**Deborah Wilson**

1-866-456-2207

[dwilson@bixsco.com](mailto:dwilson@bixsco.com)

TrustBIX.com

**Andrea White**

[info@crsb.ca](mailto:info@crsb.ca)

crsb.ca

**Carlo Dade- Canada West Foundation**

- NAFTA came into force 1994
- Facilitates trade and investment between Canada, US and Mexico
- Tariffs eliminated on nearly all goods produced in NAFTA countries
- Easier movement of professionals and businesspeople
- Dispute resolution process
- COOL has not gone away
- If US withdraws from NAFTA we still have WTO
- Mexico is our 4<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner
- Demand for protein will keep rising
- Never been a better time to trade because US is on the sidelines right now

## MPWA wetland workshop

By: MacKay Ross

Final integrated watershed management plan finalized March 2018 Megan Graham

Understanding wetlands and ties to policy and legislation Wanda Watts

Alberta wetland identification and delineation directive, for resource to identify a wetland.

Wetland management is covered by the environmental protection and enhancement Act, public lands act, and the water act.

Restoration of disturbed boreal peatlands. Jean-Marie Sobze

Peatland is defined as more than 40cm of peat.

1m(squared) peat from donor site spread on 10m<sup>2</sup> for reclamation.

Various methods to reclaim sites to original natural state, currently very costly but effective.

ALUS with Northern Sunrise County

Payment rates are based on local acre rent for each land usage, many rates inside one project