



AAEA Speaker Bios

Leigh Anderson

Leigh is a Senior Agricultural Economist at Farm Credit Canada, specializing in monitoring and analyzing FCC's portfolio, industry health, and providing industry risk analysis. Prior to joining FCC in 2015, he worked in the policy branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. He holds a Master of Agricultural Economics degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

Humphrey Banack

Humphrey and his family operate a 4th generation farm in the Round Hill area of Alberta – one hour southeast of Edmonton. The farm has evolved from a very diversified multi-sector operation to an intensive grain and oilseeds production that encompasses over 7,000 acres today. He has been involved in many farm advocacy organizations and is currently serving as Vice president as Alberta Federation of Agriculture and nationally as 1st Vice president with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. These roles have provided the opportunity to participate in forums that range from discussions with local producers to conferences on an international level.

Marjorie Bencz

Marjorie Bencz has been the Executive Director of Edmonton's Food Bank since 1989. Over the years, Marjorie's work and dedication to vulnerable Edmontonians resulted in being recognized with a number of community awards such as an honorary diploma in Health and Community Studies from Grand MacEwan Community College and being named Global TV's Woman of Vision. In May, 2012 in the category of Community Service, Marjorie was honored with a YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. Also in 2012, she received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Marjorie was honoured nationally for her ongoing service to Canadians and invested into the Order of Canada in the category of Social Science in 2006. Marjorie was inducted into the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame in 2015. Marjorie continues to believe that this recognition is not for her role, but for the collective support she receives from Edmontonians, Albertans and fellow Canadians in reducing hunger in our communities.

Neil Blue

Neil was raised on a grain and cattle farm near Hardisty, Alberta. He has farmed in the Mannville-Vermilion area since 1981. Neil worked under contracts with Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Farm Consultation Service, and the Canadian Farm Debt Review Board for several years, working directly with farmers in the subject areas of financial management, debt resolution, estate planning and marketing. He has also worked as a Market Specialist with Alberta Agriculture from 1994 to 2008, helping farmers and agribusiness workers better understand the markets, learn about marketing alternatives, and develop and use marketing strategies. Neil has applied marketing strategies to his own farm operation in both the grain and cattle enterprises. He returned to Alberta Agriculture in 2011 part-time and in August was hired into the full-time position as Provincial Crop Market Analyst.

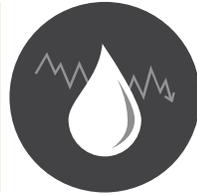
Meghan Dear

Meghan Dear is the founder of Localize (www.localizeyourfood.com), a business which is developing a unique set of consumer and grocery information tools that improve the transparency of where food products have come from, and how they have been produced. Founded 4 years ago, the service now works with hundreds of grocers and food businesses across Canada. Localize's mandate has been to create and manage large localized data sets that bring context to consumer purchasing decisions, while providing direct value to grocers and food producers. In 2013, Localize won Good Deals Canada for Best Social Business Case, in 2014 won the Fast Growth Grand Prize in the Alberta TEC Venture Prize, and in 2015 achieved a Star Woman in Grocery Award. In 2015, Localize became Edmonton's first B Corp Certified company.

Herb Emery

Herb Emery, PhD, is the Research Director, and Program Director of Health Policy, at The School of Public Policy and Professor of Economics at the University of Calgary. Herb was the Svare Professor in Health Economics from 2007 to 2012 at the University of Calgary with a joint appointment between the departments of Economics and Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine. He was the Managing Editor of Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de politiques 2010 to 2015. His research interests and publications are focused on

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economic history, labour economics, and health economics. Herb's research has addressed the history of public payment for medical treatment in Canada and the United States over the 20th century and the emerging challenges to its fiscal sustainability.

Brenna Grant

Brenna Grant grew up in SW Saskatchewan on a cow/calf, yearling grasser operation where her family still operates. She received a BA in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters in Applied Economics from Montana State University. She has been a Research Analyst with Canfax Research since 2007.

William A. Kerr

William A. Kerr is University Distinguished Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. He has a BA (International Relations) from UBC, an MA (Economics) from Simon Fraser University and a PhD (Economics and Agricultural Economics) from UBC. Prior to joining the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the U of S in 1999 he was a member of the Economics Department at the University of Calgary starting in 1980, and Professor of Economics from 1989. His major area of research is international trade and international commercial policy. He has over 250 academic publication including 25 books. Recent titles include: Handbook on International Trade Policy (2007); A Guide to the Global Business Environment (2014); Conflict, Chaos and Confusion – The Crisis in the International Trading System (2010) and Bilateral Trade Agreements in the Era of Globalization (2010). He is editor of the Estey Journal of International Law and Trade Policy. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society. He was President of the Alberta Agricultural Economics Association for 1989-1990.

Peter Kuperis

Peter Kuperis leads the Domestic and International Trade Policy section at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. His areas of responsibility include international trade agreements and disputes, and inter-provincial trade. Peter has a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics and has worked in international and inter-provincial trade policy for 15 years.

Kathryn Lennon

Kathryn Lennon works with CITYlab at the City of Edmonton, as the Principal Planner responsible for the stewardship of *fresh*: Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy. *Fresh* is a high level strategy that will help guide Edmonton towards the vision of a resilient food and agriculture system that contributes to the local economy and the overall cultural, financial, social and environmental sustainability of the city. It was developed in consultation with citizens, interested groups, businesses and organizations, and was approved by City Council in November 2012.

Kathryn holds a Masters of Arts in Planning from UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning, where her work focused on youth-driven, community-based public space activation and DIY urbanism in Vancouver's Chinatown. She also holds a Bachelors of Environment and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo where she focused on multicultural perspectives on food systems/alternative food movements.

Olu Oyewumi

Olubukola (Olu) Oyewumi is currently Economic Modeller with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. He has over ten years' experience in applied policy analysis, agriculture sector and international trade modelling. Olu has worked on projects for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. In 2008, he was awarded the World Bank Robert S. McNamara fellowship for his research on regional integration and agricultural trade in Africa. Olu has published eleven journal articles, five working papers and other technical reports. He has a Master's Degree and currently pursuing a PhD in Agricultural Economics.

Jim Robinson

Raised on a farm in Manitoba, Jim holds a bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Manitoba. Jim's background is diversified between agribusiness and technology, having had several careers in each. His experience includes marketing and sales promotion, management consulting and entrepreneurship. A fan of start-ups and innovative solutions, he has been involved mainly in businesses characterized by rapid change, competitive market conditions and limited resources.

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Jim is responsible for business development at FNC Serecon, a joint venture between Serecon and Farmers National Company, providing farmland management services for absentee landowners.

Nevin Rosaasen

When you ask Nevin Rosaasen what he does, he passionately describes himself as a 4th generation food and fibre production engineer. Nevin is from a long line of green thumbs on both sides of his family and has studied agriculture policy, resource economics and best management agricultural practices around the world.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Economics, a Graduate degree in International Trade policy from Monterey, California, and has worked at the provincial, national and international level including the United Nations. Nevin worked in Corporate Policy and Strategic Planning with the former Canadian Wheat Board as well as with Alberta Agriculture for three and a half years before joining Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) as the Policy and Program Specialist in June of 2015. Nevin represents APG at the provincial level on various policy working groups.

Nevin is still actively farming with his parents and younger brother, cropping 2,000 acres in east central Saskatchewan. They have experience growing peas and faba beans, as well as cereals, oilseeds, specialty crops which at one time or another included management of 350 cow/calf pairs and some pigs too.

Brenda Schoepp

Brenda is from Rimbey, AB where she ranches and operates an equine rescue operation. She enjoyed being a beef market analyst for 30 years and now works directly with families and farmers worldwide. She has a young, vibrant client base and is a mentor for men and women in eight nations. She has recently completed her Nuffield Scholarship and as a published author, her work in agriculture and food systems is also featured by media in 36 countries, in classrooms on World Food Day in the UK and in classrooms by the Ontario Agricultural Education Association, by USDA Resource Conservation, Future Farmers of America and at the 2015 Global Economic Summit in Mumbai. Brenda is a strong supporter of youth and rural communities and a promoter of gender equality and literacy worldwide.

Constance Smith

Constance Smith is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Economics at the University of Alberta. She was previously an economist at the Bank of Canada, and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University, and at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research is chiefly in the area of international economics, with an emphasis on how exchange rate changes affect imports, productivity, and investment. As well, she has studied the benefits of fiscal rules and natural resource revenue stabilization funds.

Mike Vorona

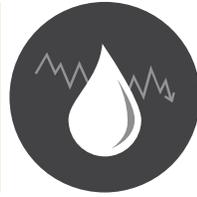
Mike has significant agri-food consulting and managerial experience acquired when his family managed a state-owned agricultural chemical enterprise in Soviet Ukraine. He has worked as a Country Control Manager for Labatt's in Ukraine. Mike moved to the Canadian prairies, attaining Masters of Agriculture and Masters of Business degrees at the University of Alberta, in order to direct his career towards the fields of entrepreneurship and consulting.

Since joining Serecon, Mike has been working on business valuation and management consulting projects. His speciality is a combination of Risk Management, Information Systems and Accounting. Mike is fond of the Western entrepreneurial culture, especially technology innovators and large farm managers.

Bruno Wichmann

Bruno is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. He earned an MSc degree in Economics in 2006 from the Federal University of Ceara (in Brazil), and MA and PhD degrees in Economics from the University of Tennessee (in 2010 and 2012 respectively). His research interests are in the fields of environmental and resource economics, with a focus on how social and economic networks can influence behavior and policy.

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Noreen Willows

Noreen has a PhD in Human Nutrition and an undergraduate degree in Anthropology. She is Associate Professor of Community Nutrition at the University of Alberta, and she is a Population Health Investigator with a salary award from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. Dr. Willows considers herself to be a nutritional anthropologist. She uses anthropological, qualitative and quantitative methodologies for studying key aspects of the nutrition of individuals, families, and communities. Her research program explores the relationships between food and health; cultural meanings of food and health; how food beliefs and dietary practices affect the well-being of communities; and, how socio-cultural factors affect food intake and food selection. She takes a community-based, participatory approach to research, in which community members and researchers work together to find solutions to health problems. Her research focuses predominantly on maternal and child health, and First Nations communities. Currently, she is examining obesity from an ecological perspective in Cree communities in Alberta and Quebec. Her most recent research, which is funded by the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (ACCFRC), is to collaborate with a First Nation community in Alberta to (1) gain information about food security to form the development of tailored, community-based interventions, and (2) to build community capacity to alleviate food insecurity.

Bev Yee

Bev Yee was appointed as Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) on October 23, 2015. In this role, Bev is responsible for leading the department of Agriculture and Forestry in support of the Minister in promoting strong, competitive and sustainable agriculture, food and forestry industries.

Prior to her appointment as Deputy Minister of AF, Bev has been with the Government of Alberta for over 20 years, joining Municipal Affairs in January 2015. Prior to that, Bev spent the rest of those twenty years in the Environment portfolio where she was, most recently, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Integrated Resource Management Planning, as well as Alberta's Stewardship Commissioner. Also, before joining the GoA, Bev was a high school physics and biology teacher.