

NINTH ANNUAL CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD POLICY CONFERENCE

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 13-15 FÉVRIER 2019

CHÂTEAU LAURIER | OTTAWA, ON

POLITIQUES ET PROGRAMMES AGRO- ENVIRONNEMENTAUX

NEUVIÈME CONFÉRENCE ANNUELLE SUR LES POLITIQUES
AGRICOLE CANADIENNES

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:30–15:00 **PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE: INTEGRATING RECENT FARM BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH INTO POLICY**

*Organizer: Debra Davidson, University of Alberta
Funded by the Weston Foundation*

Participants will learn about the findings of an extensive social scientific research project exploring opportunities and barriers to climate change mitigation on Canadian farms. The project focused on beef and grain producers in Alberta, but the findings have broader implications for other Canadian regions and agricultural sectors. Participants will then engage in knowledge-sharing discussions intended to identify ways to integrate the findings from this and other research projects on farmer behaviour into policy, and prioritize future directions for research, and science-policy relations.

18:00 – 20:00 **MEET & GREET RECEPTION**
Includes conference packet pick-up

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:30 – 9:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

8:30 – 8:45 **WELCOME COMMENTS**
Peter Boxall, University of Alberta, CAES Past-President

8:45 – 10:00 **KEYNOTE 1: APPLYING BEHAVIORAL AND EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS TO U.S. AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS: BENEFITS, CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED**

*Chair: Peter Boxall, University of Alberta, CAES Past-President
Speaker: Dr. Kent Messer, University of Delaware
Sponsor: Smart Prosperity Institute*

Since 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has funded a national Center of Excellence to promote the application of behavioral and experimental economics to the country's agri-environmental programs. As co-director of this Center, Dr. Kent Messer will discuss how investments in this type of research can lead to the discovery of cost-effective improvements that can be incorporated into a wide array of government policy. He will also discuss the challenges that have been encountered and the lessons learned from the U.S. experience.

10:00 – 10:30 NETWORKING BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 **SESSION 1: THE ROLE OF FARMERS AS AGENTS IN POLICY EFFECTIVENESS**

*Organizer and Chair: Debra Davidson, University of Alberta
Speakers: Getu Hailu, University of Guelph; Christopher Bryant, University of Guelph - Retired; Kelly Bronson, University of Ottawa; Julia Baird, Brock University
Sponsor: Weston Foundation*

Canadian agricultural producers have a significant degree of influence over policy agenda-setting, and implementation. As a group, however, farmers are highly diverse, not only in their operations, but in their values, beliefs, priorities and practices, ensuring that 'one size fits all' policy strategies will enjoy limited success. In this session, social scientists from multiple disciplines will offer a more nuanced understanding of farmers as complex agents, and how accommodating this complexity can lead to more effective policymaking.

12:00 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 15:00 **SESSION 2: POLICIES TO INCENT PRACTICE CHANGE AT THE FARM LEVEL**

Chair: Brady Deaton, University of Guelph, CAES President

Speakers: Alfons Weersink, University of Guelph; Paul Thorogood, DUC; Lara Ellis, ALUS

Sponsor: Solomon Sinclair Farm Management Institute and McCain Family Chair in Food Security

This session will briefly introduce the major policy and program approaches to incenting the adoption of beneficial management practices at the farm level in Canada. The discussion will focus on cost share approaches, community engagement, and fixed payments for targeted environmental improvements.

15:00 – 15:30 NETWORKING BREAK

15:30 -17:00 **SESSION 3: WETLAND CONSERVATION OFFSETTING AND ASSOCIATED VALUATION: FINDING THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF POLICIES, INCENTIVES AND PROGRAMS**

Organizer and Chair: Pat Kehoe, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Speakers: John Thompson, Watrecon Consulting; Dave Poulton, Poulton Environmental Strategies Inc; Dr. Shari Clare, Fiera Consulting

Discussion Facilitator: Greg Thompson, Thompson and Mortimer Consulting Inc.

Sponsor: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Canada's wetlands represent 25% of the globe's total wetland resources and annually generate over \$25 billion dollars in benefits including: clean water, flood mitigation, soil moisture, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. However, the rate of wetland loss has reached 90% in some of the settled areas of the country. Policy solutions for the protection, conservation and responsible management of Canada wetlands remain a persistent biodiversity and landscape management challenge. This Session will focus on three key areas: 1) The major factors enabling wetland losses today, 2) The effectiveness of policies, programs and incentives in avoiding, mitigating and offsetting wetland loss, and 3) Landscape-level solutions that balance wetland conservation, protection and management with the operating needs of Canadian agricultural producers.

17:00 – 19:00 **WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION
CAPI Agri-Food Policy Poster Competition**

Researchers are invited to prepare posters around the theme of "Agri-Environmental Policy and Programs".

Sponsor: The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 – 9:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

8:30 – 9:45 **KEYNOTE 2: EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND PROGRAM IMPACTS: BUILDING CREDIBLE EVIDENCE IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

Chair: Brady Deaton, University of Guelph, CAES President

Speaker: Dr. Chad Lawley, University of Manitoba

Sponsor: Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy

Identifying causal impacts of agri-environmental programs requires an understanding of what would have occurred in the absence of the programs. This talk will discuss several approaches to constructing these counterfactuals, drawing on prior evaluations of conservation programs in Canada and the US. Agri-environmental policy should draw from well-designed studies based on credible counterfactual models. Opportunities for future evaluations of Canadian agri-environmental programs will be explored.

9:45 – 10:00 **TOP THREE POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

10:00 – 10:30 NETWORKING BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 **SESSION 4: NATURAL CAPITAL IN AGRICULTURE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN AND HOW CAN IT BE USED?**

Chair: Peter Boxall, University of Alberta, CAES Past-President

Speaker: Marian Weber, InnoTech Alberta

Discussant: Ken Belcher, University of Saskatchewan

Sponsor: Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph

Natural capital accounts provide indicators of the extent and value of natural assets that contribute to the economy, and in theory can inform decision makers whether natural assets are being managed efficiently and sustainably. Natural capital accounts are of interest at corporate, sub-national, national, and international levels. However, with limited resources these accounts are unlikely to be developed by provincial or national statistical agencies unless there is demonstrated utility from measuring and monitoring natural capital. This session explores the demand for and feasibility of creating agricultural land accounts, and policy relevant questions and end uses that could be feasibly tested through pilot projects.

12:00 – 12:30 **CLOSING COMMENTS AND CONTEST WINNERS**

Kara Beckles, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, CAES President-Elect