

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

involved with putting together an excellent annual meeting in Whistler this past summer! Attendance was great, the speakers and discussions were great, and it's hard to imagine a more picturesque setting. It was wonderful to finally be back in person for an annual meeting, and I hope that everyone found it as valuable as I did. For more on the annual meeting, look for the ANNUAL MEETING section of



newsletter, which provides a recap and list of award winners, along with some photos from the conference.

Coming up next, we have our 14th annual Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference, taking place this year in Ottawa on January 25th and 26th. The theme this year is productivity, and we have a captivating slate of speakers and topics in store.

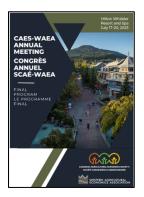
There has been a notable change to both page charges and open-access fees for the society journal, the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*—namely, authors from participating institutions (most Canadian universities) can publish open-access articles at no cost! For more information, go to page 10 of the newsletter.

In this edition of the newsletter, we've also included an interview with a fellow and former president of our society, William Kerr, about his new book, *Food Security:* Availability, Income and Productivity. Dr. Kerr's book provides a much-needed perspective on an issue that influences all areas of agricultural and resource economics, either directly or indirectly.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our policy conference in the new year. If you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for the Society, please do not hesitate to contact me: tristan.skolrud@usask.ca.



ANNUAL MEETING



The 2023 Joint CAES-SCAÉ/WAEA Annual Conference took place from July 17 to 20 in the scenic Whistler, BC. This year's event attracted approximately 240 attendees, with around 110 representing CAES/SCAÉ. The conference featured 35 selected paper sessions, 12 organized symposia, and a joint keynote speaker session.

The conference commenced with a workshop on "Environmental Metrics: From Theory to Practice," organized by Kelleen

Wiseman of MFRE UBC (Sponsored by the UBC MFRE Program). The opening keynote address was delivered by Professor Kathryn Harrison from the University of British Columbia, titled "The Challenge of Carbon Taxation: Economic Theory Meets Partisan Politics." Her talk delved into the politics surrounding carbon pricing, captivating an audience composed of members from both associations.

On July 18th, the CAES-SCAÉ Presidential and Fellow addresses were presented. Tristan Skolrud, the newly inaugurated CAES-SCAÉ President, delivered the Presidential Address titled "Implications of Increasing Automation in Primary Agriculture." The CAES-SCAÉ Fellow Alan Ker followed with the CAES-SCAÉ Fellows Address titled "Does, Should, and Can Econometrics Exist Beyond Panel Models in Agricultural Economics?" Both addresses were thought-provoking and provided much food for thought.

Additional conference highlights included the Graduate Student Paper Competitions, a Focus on Fellows Session, and memorable banquets and awards ceremonies for both CAES-SCAÉ and WAEA. These events, along with the Annual Business Meeting, took place on Tuesday, July 18th. We extend our gratitude to all attendees and contributors. Please scroll down to meet this year's distinguished award recipients.



Award winners

At the 2023 CAES-SCAÉ Annual Meeting this summer, a number of outstanding individuals received awards. The Society takes pride in recognizing the outstanding contributions of its members and would like to highlight the award winners again for anyone who was not able to attend the conference. The following winners are selected on the basis of their achievements.

Fellows Award

- Professor Brady Deaton, University of Guelph
- Jean-Philippe (J.P.) Gervais, Vice President and Chief Economist of Farm Credit Canada
- Wuyang Hu, Ohio State University







Left to right: Getu Hailu and JP Gervais

Publication of Enduring Quality Award

Alan Ker, Michigan State University and Pat McGowan (posthumously), for:

Ker, Alan P., and Pat McGowan. (2000). Weather-based adverse selection and the US crop insurance program: The private insurance company perspective.

*Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 25(2): 386-410.



Outstanding Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics Article

Eric Asare, University of Saskatchewan; Patrick Lloyd-Smith, University of Saskatchewan; and Kenneth Belcher, University of Saskatchewan, for:

Asare, Eric, Patrick Lloyd-Smith, and Kenneth Belcher. (2022). Spatially explicit modeling of wetland conservation costs in Canadian agricultural landscapes. Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue canadienne d'agroeconomie, 70(1): 5-19.

Outstanding Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics Article, Honourable Mention

José G. Nuño-Ledesma, University of Guelph, for:

Nuño-Ledesma, José G. (2022). "A portion cap rule with two products: An experimental evaluation." Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue canadienne d'agroeconomie, 70(2): 123-137.



Left to right: Yu Na Lee, Ken Belcher, and Getu Hailu



Left to right: Yu Na Lee, José Nuño-Ledesma, and Getu Hailu



Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award

Yong Liu, University of Guelph

Thesis Title: "Essays on Estimating Conditional Crop Yield Densities and Rating Crop Insurance Contracts." Supervisors: Dr. Alan Ker, Dr. Yu Na Lee, and Dr. Thanasis Stengos.

Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award, Honourable Mention

Lusi Xie, University of Alberta

Thesis Title: "Three Essays on Behavior, Incentives, Environmental Valuation, and Contributions to Conservation." Supervisors: Dr. Vic Adamowicz, Dr. Ellen Goddard, Dr. Maik Kecinski, and Dr. Sandeep Mohapatra.

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Michael Huang, University of Alberta

Thesis Title: "Economics of wildfire suppression: Estimation of drivers of suppression expenditure and Risk preference experiments with wildfire management." Supervisor: Dr. Bruno Wichmann.

Outstanding Master's Thesis Honourable Mention Award

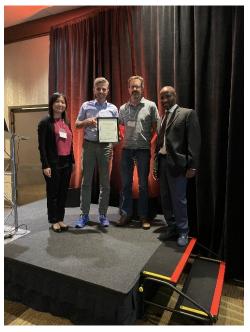
Joshua Bourassa, University of Manitoba

Thesis Title: "Public Preferences for Quota Buybacks in the Context of Canadian Supply Management Deregulation." Supervisors: Dr. Ryan Cardwell and Dr. Chad Lawley.

Undergraduate Book Prizes

Haley Elizabeth Senkoe-Gough, U. Alberta Bryce Rose, U. Manitoba Benjamin Scott, U. Guelph Sasha Ivetta Dobisz, U. British Columbia Parker Keer, U. Saskatchewan Baylee Sessler, McGill U. Layton VandeStroet, U. Lethbridge Keddy J. Wright, U. Victoria Hugo Beauregard, U. Laval





Left to right: Xiaoli Fan, Ryan Cardwell, Chad Lawley, and Getu Hailu



Left to right: Xiaoli Fan, Bruno Wichmann, and Getu Hailu

POLICY CONFERENCE

Save the Date!

The 14th Annual Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference is scheduled for **January 25 and 26** in Ottawa at the Infinite Convention Centre. This year's theme is "Fostering Innovation, Productivity, and Informed Agri-food Policy." This comprehensive two-day policy conference seeks to unravel the intricate relationship between agri-food economics, innovation, productivity, the environment, food security, trade, and policy. Attendees will engage in thought-provoking sessions, and discussions led by experts, gaining valuable insights into driving sustainable economic growth in the agri-food sector through strategic policy and innovation approaches.

Hosted by the <u>Canadian Agricultural Economics Society/Société canadienne</u>
<u>d'agroéconomie (CAES/SCAÉ)</u>, the <u>Canadian Agrifood Policy Conference (CAPC)</u>
presents a unique opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in the agri-food arena. The CAPC serves as a valuable platform for networking with influential figures in



the industry, fostering dialogues on critical topics such as trade, pricing and competition, technological advancements, climate change, food security, and more. Regardless of whether you come from the farming community, are actively involved in policymaking, hold a leadership position in the industry, are an academic or student, affiliated with think tanks, or simply possess a keen interest in agri-food policy, CAPC provides an ideal setting for making connections, expanding knowledge, and actively engaging in the discourse.

For details as the conference approaches, please visit the conference website.



Call for posters

We invite students pursuing studies in agricultural economics, resource economics, environmental economics, agribusiness, or related fields to participate in the 14th Annual CAES-SCAÉ Policy Conference by submitting their research posters. Your posters can showcase independent research related to your thesis, coursework, or academic employment. The poster competition will occur at 5 p.m. on January 25th, as part of the Canadian Agrifood Policy Conference (CAPC) scheduled for January 25-26, 2024, in Ottawa, at the Infinity Convention Centre. Even if you cannot be present in Ottawa, you can still submit your poster for virtual consideration and presentation.



This competition presents an outstanding professional development opportunity. The audience typically consists of professionals in the fields of economics and agricultural economics, including government officials, representatives from financial institutions, and professionals from various food, agricultural, environmental, and related organizations.

Opportunities for finalists

The top three finalists in each category will have the chance to present their posters to a live audience, competing for top prizes before the conference workshop on Friday, January 26th, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The first-place winners will receive complimentary registration for the future CAES-SCAÉ Annual Meeting (scheduled for Summer 2024 in Winnipeg, Manitoba) in addition to a cash prize. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finalists in both the undergraduate and graduate categories:

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES GRADUATE PRIZES

1st prize: \$250 CAD1st prize: \$500 CAD 2^{nd} prize: \$150 CAD 2^{nd} prize: \$300 CAD 3^{rd} prize: \$100 CAD 3^{rd} prize: \$200 CAD

Winners will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society.

Poster preparation

Posters should be designed for a non-academic audience, with a focus on the policy rationale and implications of your research. While adhering to the typical research structure (background, objectives, methods, results), keep in mind the broader policy context. If you plan to submit virtually, in addition to submitting a PDF file of your poster, please create a 2-minute video presentation of your poster, as if you were addressing a live audience, either using Zoom or as a voice-over in PowerPoint. This video, along with the poster, will be uploaded to the conference website. For those attending in person, posters will be displayed on poster boards, and you can directly interact with conference attendees to answer questions. Virtual attendees should also be available for any inquiries.



The competition will be evaluated by a panel of judges, including academics, government representatives, and industry experts, with input from conference attendees.

How to submit

Email the title of your presentation, the names of authors (identifying the presenting author), a 100-word abstract, and whether you will attend virtually or in-person to Ashley Klotz at contact@caes-scae.ca by December 15, 2023.

Important dates

DECEMBER 15, 2023: Deadline to submit the title of your presentation with a 100-word abstract.

JANUARY 15, 2024: Deadline to submit the final PDF copy of your poster.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

The CAES-SCAÉ is thrilled to welcome four new board members for the 2023-2026 term:

Alankrita Goswami, University of Manitoba Mary Doidge, McGill University Gumataw Abebe, Dalhousie University José G. Nuño-Ledesma, University of Guelph

NEW COMMITTEE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI)

At the 2023 CAES-SCAÉ Annual General Meeting, members voted in favour of establishing a standing committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) for the Society. The committee will be responsible for overseeing CAES-SCAÉ matters and issues. This includes ensuring all activities, events, appointments, awards, and policies are guided by EDI principles, promoting training and educational opportunities, and identifying current and emerging EDI trends impacting similar professional societies. We believe this is a very important step forward for CAES-SCAÉ in recognizing the importance of addressing systemic barriers in academia and the research ecosystem and



fostering a community of equity, diversity, and inclusion for all members. Thank you to all members who attended the Annual General Meeting and voted on the motion. More information can be found in the CAES-SCAÉ 2023 Annual Report.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SPOTLIGHT

No page charges or open-access fees in *CJAE* for authors from participating institutions

The Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics (CJAE) is party to an agreement between the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and Wiley that allows authors from participating institutions to publish their papers in CJAE as open access articles at no cost. Most Canadian universities are member institutions (list of participating institutions is at here). This satisfies the open-access requirements of many granting agencies, including SSHRC. Once a manuscript is accepted in the CJAE, the author will be notified to sign their license for publication, at this point, they will be prompted to confirm their affiliation and will need to choose the open access option.

Details about the agreement can be found <u>here</u>, and a list of participating institutions is here.

This agreement eliminates a significant barrier for authors, and we hope the opportunity to publish as open access with no cost will encourage more authors to submit their research to the *CJAE*.

Spotlight article



Check out the most recently published article in our journal!

Willingness to pay for credence attributes associated with agrifood products—Evidence from Canada

In this article, Ousmane Traoré, Lota Tamini, and Bernard Korai estimate Canadian consumers' willingness to pay for four attributes

of pork chops and fresh apples using the asymptotically efficient double-bounded stated preference approach. The authors find heterogeneity amongst the participants, however,

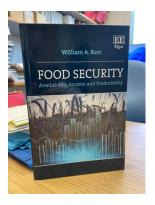


the average consumer may be willing to pay more for pork chops and apples that are farmers-advantaged, from their own province, environmentally sustainable production system, and chemical-free. The authors not only contribute to the willingness to pay literature but also methodologically to the debate on two important concerns associated with the double or multiple-bounded stated preference approach.

MEMBER UPDATES

New book: Food Security: Availability, Income and Productivity

One of our society's fellows and former presidents, William Kerr, has a timely new book out: *Food Security: Availability, Income and Productivity*, published by Edward Elgar Publishing. From the preface:



"I am an agricultural economist by profession. It is a profession whose members consciously or unconsciously all work on issues pertaining to food security – whether that be devising strategies to better manage farms in Iowa, improving water usage in the central valley of California, examining the efficiency of food supply chains, determining what underlies resistance to improved technologies among consumers, researching the effects of climate change on agriculture, trying to improve the lives of peasant farmers, estimating the effects of trade barriers

on food products – and a host of others. This is not to suggest that individuals in other professions do not have an interest in food security – they clearly can. Food security is, however, what my profession does." (*From the Preface*, pg. vii)

Bill sat down for an interview with our current president, Tristan Skolrud, to discuss his new book.

Interview with William Kerr

Skolrud: Where did the idea for this book come from?

Kerr: The inspiration came from popular commentary linking food security to self-sufficiency; the idea that you shouldn't trade, and that you should put up trade barriers and make sure that you're self-sufficient, which runs contrary to reality. And food



security is something I've been working on for a long time, both from my own research and doing talks about food security.

So, I started thinking more about it, and I decided that I wanted to write something that would provide a more realistic idea of food security. When my sabbatical came along, it presented an opportunity.

Skolrud: The subtitle is "Availability, Income, and Productivity"—is it fair to say that you treat each one of those things as of equal importance in the food security equation?

Kerr: Yes, I do—they sort of follow from one another. So first, to be food secure, food has to be available, and that's on a daily basis—all you have to do is look to see what happens in the US when a hurricane threatens, the public panics, and they rush to food stores first—so food security is very fragile and has to be available on a daily basis. So, first, to be food secure, you've got to have food available. And once it's generally available in a society, you need adequate income to go to the supermarket to buy food. And then, with an increasing population, which will increase for another three or four decades at least—that's a billion and a half more people by 2050—so agricultural productivity must increase. So over time, you've got to at least keep agricultural production increasing with population. Of course, there are short-term, one-time things you can do to improve food security, things like reducing waste, but essentially, you've got to increase agricultural productivity.

So, I think they're equal, but they sort of follow one from the other.

Skolrud: I feel like the relationship between these three elements of food security emphasizes the importance of trade; for example, there tend be differences in the countries where we're expecting increases in productivity relative to the ones that are suffering from food availability and income issues.

Kerr: Yes. And population growth is not going to occur where increased production can occur. Almost all of the coming increase in population is going to be in cities, not where people are going to be able to grow food.

Skolrud: It seems that there are different countries that struggle with these three pillars differently, does your book focus on a particular area, geographically speaking?



Kerr: Not particularly. When you're thinking about availability, there are all sorts of disruptions; climatic, weather, droughts, wars, civil strife, and I discuss all of those things in the availability section.

Skolrud: Did the timing work out for you to be able to talk about food availability and COVID, where people in developed nations may have started to feel that pinch, possibly for the first time in their lives?

Kerr: Yeah, I talked about that, and I also talked about the conflict in Ukraine, an example of a big shock to food availability, which again works back into this idea of self-sufficiency being susceptible to big shocks.

Skolrud: And in sense, trade provides some risk mitigation against some of those big shocks you mention—if you have the right trade network, you don't have to be self-sufficient.

Kerr: That's right. And it doesn't have to be international trade, it could even be regional trade. But the main thing, where you get famines, where you have collapses of food security systems, is when you have restrictions on the ability for arbitrage to take place. In Ethiopia or someplace similar the roads are so poor, if they exist at all—if there's a short-term disaster, it's impossible to get food there. Take all of the food aid that happened twenty or thirty years ago in Ethiopia, they got lots of money donated but they didn't have any trucks to move it. Band Aid [one of the Ethiopian famine relief efforts in the 1980s] had to buy a bunch of trucks. And if you think about it, droughts and floods and other disasters happen, often with no notice. But in developed countries, our food systems are so well-organized that supermarket buyers have other avenues, in the event that say lettuce production in one area collapses, for example. Things are just seamless, things are efficient. You virtually never go into a supermarket and find that what you want isn't there. Of course, the prices fluctuate, but it's there. But that's not the case, historically anyway, if you have a flood in China, you couldn't get food in there if it wasn't available.

So, the self-sufficiency argument just doesn't take into account local disruptions.

Skolrud: So, would you say that this book is more about documenting these types of problems and the connection between these pillars or is it about policy prescriptions, or consequences of failing to act?



Kerr: Probably all three—food security is not a new problem, you can go back and look in the Bible and see the story of Joseph; he was in Egypt telling the Pharaoh to build up storehouses and store food. There have been so many attempts to deal with food security problems policy-wise—and the book documents many of the things we've tried—some have worked better than others, none have worked perfectly. And for the income part of the book, I talk about food stamps and targeted programs and many of the things countries have tried to overcome the income problem. Those efforts go back to medieval times, when the church tried to figure out who should be eligible for food distributions.

Skolrud: In the coming years, do you foresee things getting better or worse?

Kerr: Well, one of the most worrying things about the future of food security is the lack of investment in agricultural research and development. All the evidence suggests that there is significant underinvestment in agricultural R&D. There are some new things that weren't in the equation a while ago, for example, digital agriculture, which provides another avenue for increasing productivity, but the more traditional things, like scientific crop breeding are underinvested, particularly for developing countries.

Just a short while ago, there were no property rights for living things. When biotechnology came along, governments were unwilling to fund sufficient research and realized that the extension of property rights to living organisms were needed so that companies could have the incentive to invest. But property rights are so bad in developing countries that companies simply don't invest in the crops that those countries really need.

Skolrud: It's almost like the underinvestment in the varieties that would benefit developing countries the most makes those countries more beholden to the international trade system?

Kerr: That's right. We're down to about four countries that are net food exporters, and there just isn't a lot of flexibility in how to increase food production. Even China has spent huge amounts to have a biotech industry, but they won't license the production of the varieties they create (mostly due to consumer concerns). They've had some new varieties ready to go for ten years; some have even been licensed in the U.S., even though they're not approved in China.

Skolrud: Would you say this book targeted for the research community, policymakers, or anyone interested in food security?



Kerr: I could see this book being a great fit for an undergraduate course in food security, but also for policymakers. And for people who are in food research—they might understand *their* part of the whole food security equation, but they might not understand the whole picture, and this could provide a sense of where they fit in within the whole system.

Skolrud: Do you think there's some sort of policy that our leaders in Canada could take away from a book like this?

Kerr: Hopefully to not get sucked into this idea of self-sufficiency. We're a huge net exporter, but there's still a lot of talk about local food production, couched in the idea of "food security." I think there's a lot of that kind of myth. People just don't really understand how fragile agriculture can be. You go to the supermarket and assume it's there, but it's only there because of the system. Modern agricultural supply chains at the end of the day provides food security in terms of availability, but it doesn't solve the whole food security problem.

Skolrud: So what's the next book on the agenda?

Kerr: Done (laughs).



NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For more positions in agricultural economics and related fields, visit our job openings webpage. To post a job opening, visit this link.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Position (Economics of Climate-Smart Agriculture)

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (Canada) is accepting applications for a three-year Postdoctoral Fellow position. The successful candidate will work full-time across two projects focused on the economics of climate-smart agriculture in Canada.

Under the co-supervision of Dr. Nicholas Tyack (Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics) and Dr. Yang Yang (Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy), the successful candidate will have the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary research team from multiple domestic and international institutions, co-author peer-reviewed publications, and participate in professional conferences. This position will also provide the opportunity to conduct research in a number of areas, such as identifying producer constraints to adoption of climate-smart crop rotations, assessing consumer preferences for novel traits in pea products, or modeling the GHG emission reduction benefits of adopting climate-smart crop rotations. This position will provide a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, along with an attractive benefits package.

This research contributes to two pan-Canadian projects focused on the promotion of climate-smart agriculture: Activating genomics to accelerate climate-smart crop delivery, and Pea Climate-Efficient: Developing climate-resilient, low carbon footprint field pea as a preferred rotation crop through inter-disciplinary integration of genomic technologies.

Applicants are expected to hold a PhD in Agricultural Economics, Economics, or a similar field (or expected to obtain one by Fall 2024). A background in agricultural and environmental policy, particularly related to climate-smart agriculture, is desirable. Skills in dynamic modeling, whole-farm GHG modeling, survey design, measuring GHG emission measurement/modeling in crops, discrete choice experiments, and experience with developing metrics of climate efficiency and/or economic analysis of consumer acceptance of products with novel traits are considered an asset.



Located in the vibrant city of Saskatoon in the land of the living sky, the USask is home to world-leading research of global importance. The University of Saskatchewan embraces equity, diversity and inclusion and seeks applicants who can contribute to a welcoming, engaging environment for students and researchers of all genders, races, abilities, and backgrounds. The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics is a collegial and supportive work environment dedicated to the advancement and application of knowledge through academic excellence.

Applications will be accepted until November 30th, 2023, and will be reviewed by the Search Committee starting December 1, 2023. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews, which will take place in January 2024. While the start date is flexible, preference will be given to candidates who can begin in the fall of 2024.

To apply, please upload the following information at the provided link:

Cover Letter (1 page max)
Job Market Paper
Academic CV
Copy of academic transcripts
Three reference letters

The USask is on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

To apply, visit the following <u>link</u>.



CONNECT WITH US

Member feature on Twitter

Do you want to be featured on the official CAES-SCAÉ Twitter as a Featured Member? The CAES-SCAÉ Communications Committee is seeking to highlight the incredible people that are members of the society and showcase the work, research, and achievements of our network. It is an excellent opportunity to increase the impact of your work and build a network! If you are interested, please contact us at contact@caes-scae.ca and we will be available to assist you, provide you with a template and examples, and answer any questions you may have.

Society member events/news

If you are hosting or know of events that would be interesting to CAES-SCAÉ members we would love to promote them through our social media channels and newsletter. Please reach out to us through one of the methods below with the date, time, and brief event summary to be included.

Become a member

Join many of your colleagues who embrace the value of a CAES-SCAÉ membership.

Whether you are a current member or joining the CAES-SCAÉ, our society can provide important resources to students, economists, policy experts, and scholars in the field of food, agricultural and resource economics. CAES-SCAÉ members gain access to the latest research, publish and present their work, find job openings, and collaborate with peers and scholars.

Renew Now: Easily renew your existing membership

Join Now: Sign-up to activate your membership



Note from the communications committee

We would like to hear from you! We are always looking for new ways to improve the newsletter and provide you with the most relevant news. Please send us your feedback and comments!



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Canadian Agricultural Economics Society