

16TH ANNUAL CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD POLICY CONFERENCE

NAVIGATING CHANGE IN CANADA'S AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS:
POLICY, TRADE, AND FOOD SECURITY

January 22-23, 2026

Infinity Convention Centre, Ottawa



CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'AGROÉCONOMIE

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WELCOME! | BIENVENUE!

Welcome to the 16th Annual Agri-Food Policy Conference (CAPC), organized by the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES)!

Since 2011, this conference has served as a gathering place for ideas, expertise, and collaboration—bringing together academics, policymakers, industry leaders, and students who share a commitment to strengthening Canada's agri-food systems.

Over the years, CAPC has fostered dialogue, built lasting relationships, and helped shape conversations that extend well beyond these rooms.

This year's theme, *Navigating Change in Canada's Agri-Food Systems: Policy, Trade, and Food Security*, invites us to confront a world that is transforming at remarkable speed. We are facing heightened global uncertainty, shifting geopolitical and trade dynamics, and rapid advances in technology—from breakthroughs in artificial intelligence to innovation across supply chains. These changes present real challenges, but they also open new possibilities for creativity, resilience, and policy leadership.

Over the next two days, we will explore these forces of change together. Our sessions will examine the implications of AI for the agri-food sector and public policy; the evolution of Canada's supply management system; developments in trade, food security. We also have a session on farm management research and extension, which is an engaging networking opportunity!

Bienvenue à la 16^e Conférence annuelle sur les politiques agroalimentaires (CAPC), organisée par la Société canadienne d'agroéconomie (SCAÉ) !

Depuis 2011, cette conférence constitue un lieu de rencontre pour les idées, l'expertise et la collaboration — réunissant des universitaires, des décideurs publics, des leaders de l'industrie et des étudiants qui partagent un engagement commun envers le renforcement des systèmes agroalimentaires du Canada. Au fil des années, la CAPC a favorisé le dialogue, créé des liens durables et contribué à façonner des discussions qui se prolongent bien au-delà de ces murs.

Le thème de cette année, *Naviguer le changement dans les systèmes agroalimentaires du Canada : politiques, commerce et sécurité alimentaire*, nous invite à faire face à un monde qui se transforme à une vitesse remarquable. Nous faisons face à une incertitude mondiale accrue, à des dynamiques géopolitiques et commerciales en évolution, ainsi qu'à des avancées technologiques rapides — des percées en intelligence artificielle aux innovations dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement. Ces changements posent de véritables défis, mais ouvrent également de nouvelles possibilités en matière de créativité, de résilience et de leadership stratégique.

Au cours des deux prochains jours, nous explorerons ensemble ces forces de changement. Nos sessions porteront sur les implications de l'intelligence artificielle pour le secteur agroalimentaire et les politiques publiques, sur l'évolution du système de gestion de l'offre au Canada et sur les développements en matière de commerce et de sécurité alimentaire. Nous proposons également une session consacrée à la recherche et au transfert de connaissances en gestion

We are honoured to welcome two distinguished keynote speakers, Dr. Joseph Glauber of the International Food Policy Research Institute and Dr. Trevor Tombe of the University of Calgary, who will help frame these conversations from both global and domestic perspectives.

We are also excited to showcase the work of emerging scholars through the Lightning Talk session.

Please join us on Thursday from 5–7 p.m. for the Reception and Student Poster Competition! Come meet the students, ask questions, share insights, and connect with emerging talent in our field.

If you are a student, please don't miss the Graduate Student Colloquium session! Friday's session will be an informal forum featuring an excellent panel of recent graduates who have successfully transitioned into careers in government and industry.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, whose commitment enables this conference to thrive. A full list can be found in the program.

Thank you for being here, for contributing your voice, and for engaging in these important conversations. We look forward to two days of learning, discovery, and connection.

I hope you enjoy the conference!

Yu Na Lee

CAES Past-President

agricole, offrant une excellente occasion de réseautage !

Nous avons l'honneur d'accueillir deux conférenciers principaux distingués : le Dr Joseph Glauber de l'International Food Policy Research Institute et le Dr Trevor Tombe de l'Université de Calgary, qui contribueront à éclairer ces discussions à la fois sur le plan national et international. Nous sommes également ravis de mettre en valeur le travail de jeunes chercheurs à travers la session de présentations éclair.

Nous vous invitons à vous joindre à nous jeudi de 17 h à 19 h pour la réception et le concours d'affiches étudiantes ! Venez rencontrer les étudiants, poser des questions, partager vos commentaires et tisser des liens avec les talents émergents de notre domaine.

Si vous êtes étudiant, ne manquez pas le colloque des étudiants diplômés ! La session de vendredi prendra la forme d'un forum informel, avec un excellent panel de récents diplômés ayant réussi leur transition vers des carrières dans le secteur gouvernemental et industriel.

Rien de tout cela ne serait possible sans le soutien généreux de nos commanditaires, dont l'engagement permet à cette conférence de prospérer. Vous trouverez la liste complète de nos partenaires dans le programme.

Merci d'être parmi nous, de partager votre voix et de participer à ces conversations essentielles. Nous nous réjouissons de deux journées d'apprentissage, de découvertes et de rencontres.

Yu Na Lee
Ancienne Présidente de la SCAÉ

THE HOST ORGANIZATION | ORGANISATION HÔTE

Who We Are



The Canadian Agricultural Economics Society is an association of individuals with a professional interest in topics related to the economics of agriculture, food, natural resources, and the environment. Established in 1929 to advance knowledge in agricultural economics through various activities, the CAES has evolved to include the study and application of food, resource and environmental economics issues. Members are economists and other social science professionals in universities, government, non-government agencies and the private sector, as well as undergraduate and graduate students in Canada and elsewhere.

What We Do

The CAES provides opportunities for professional development, association, and networking among individuals who make contributions to solving important agricultural, food, environmental, and resource problems of the day and anticipate new challenges and opportunities. The principal activities of the Society include publishing the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics; convening an annual summer meeting to share research results and to conduct Society affairs; hosting the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference on topics of interest to members (e.g., agricultural, food, resource, environment, policy); sponsoring awards for academic excellence, including the best theses related to agricultural, food, and resource economics at Canadian universities; and maintaining a website and Newsletter designed to facilitate the communication of information, ideas and

Qui nous sommes

La Société canadienne d'agroéconomie est une association de personnes ayant un intérêt professionnel pour les sujets liés à l'économie de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement. Fondée en 1929 pour faire avancer les connaissances en économie agricole à travers diverses activités, la SCAÉ a évolué pour inclure l'étude et l'application des enjeux d'économie alimentaire, des ressources et de l'environnement. Les membres sont des économistes et d'autres professionnels des sciences sociales dans des universités, le gouvernement, des agences non gouvernementales et le secteur privé, ainsi que des étudiants de premier cycle et des cycles supérieurs au Canada et ailleurs.

Ce que nous faisons

La SCAÉ offre des opportunités de développement professionnel, d'association et de réseautage entre les individus qui contribuent à résoudre des problèmes importants liés à l'agriculture, à l'alimentation, à l'environnement et aux ressources actuels et anticipent de nouveaux défis et opportunités. Les activités principales de la Société comprennent la publication de la Revue canadienne d'agroéconomie; l'organisation d'une rencontre estivale annuelle pour partager les résultats de recherche et pour conduire les affaires de la Société; l'accueil de la Conférence canadienne sur la politique agroalimentaire sur des sujets d'intérêt pour les membres (par exemple, agriculture, alimentation, ressources, environnement, politique); le parrainage de prix d'excellence académique, y compris les meilleures thèses liées à l'économie agricole, alimentaire et des ressources dans les

research results by CAES members and other professionals. Members of the CAES manage the affairs of the Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Foundation. Our activities support research excellence, professional development and knowledge exchange and let you get involved, stay informed – and be part of the conversation. If you are interested in topics related to the economics of agriculture, food, natural resources, and the environment, and you would like to network, share your work and learn from others who are solving problems and anticipating new challenges in these areas, the CAES is your professional home.

universités canadiennes; et le maintien d'un site web et d'un Bulletin conçus pour faciliter la communication d'informations, d'idées et de résultats de recherche par les membres de la SCAÉ et d'autres professionnels. Les membres de la SCAÉ gèrent les affaires de la Fondation canadienne d'économie agricole et de gestion agricole. Nos activités soutiennent l'excellence en recherche, le développement professionnel et l'échange de connaissances et vous permettent de vous impliquer, de rester informé et de faire partie de la conversation. Si vous êtes intéressé par les sujets liés à l'économie de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, et que vous souhaitez réseauter, partager votre travail et apprendre des autres qui résolvent des problèmes et anticipent de nouveaux défis dans ces domaines, la SCAÉ est votre foyer professionnel.

GENERAL INFORMATION | INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRAL

Engage with the session by asking questions and participating in surveys through Slido!

Step 1 Open your phone's camera and scan the QR code.

Step 2 Follow the link that appears.

Step 3 Join to ask questions (Q&A) and participate in polls and surveys.



CONFERENCE AGENDA | PROGRAMME DE LA CONFÉRENCE

THURSDAY | JEUDI

January 22 janvier

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

**BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION | PETIT DÉJEUNER ET
INSCRIPTION**

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS | BIENVENUE ET OUVERTURE

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

KEYNOTE I | CONFÉRENCIER PRINCIPAL I

Trump Trade Policy 2.0 and its Implications for the Global Trading System

Chair: Lars Brink, Independent Advisor on Agricultural Support Policies,
and Fellow and Former President of the CAES

Speaker: Joseph Glauber, Senior Research Fellow Emeritus, The International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI)

Since his return to the White House in January 2025, Donald Trump has, in a few short months, upended the global trading system with a series of tariff announcements that threaten trade and have created much uncertainty in global markets. Citing the persistent U.S. trade deficit and what he considers unfair practices by other countries, the U.S. President announced across-the-board supplemental tariffs that have left US average tariffs at their highest levels since the 1930s. This presentation will focus on the short and long term impacts of these tariff actions on trade flows and the global economy.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

NETWORKING BREAK | PAUSE RÉSEAUTAGE

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
SESSION I

Understanding and Addressing Food Security in the Twenty-First Century

Sponsor: McCain Family Chair in Food Security

Chair: Brady Deaton, Professor & McCain Family Chair in Food Security, University of Guelph

Speakers: William Kerr, Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan;

Jamie Naylor, Senior Research Associate, University of Guelph;

Erin Kropac, Senior Policy Analyst, Food Policy Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The session is designed to support a substantive discussion of a host of issues related to food security. The session speakers address three fundamental questions: How is food security produced? What is the state of food insecurity in Canada? How can we develop effective policies to strengthen food security in Canada?

William Kerr, When Are You Food Secure?

My presentation will make the following points. Food security has three major elements: first, food must be available; second, individuals must have sufficient resources or income to access that food; and third, over the long run, agricultural productivity must increase to keep pace with global population growth. To feel secure, sufficient food must be available on a daily basis. However, local self-sufficiency does not necessarily guarantee food security, as disruptions to local food supplies—such as droughts, crop failures, pest infestations, severe weather events, civil conflict, or war—cannot always be prevented. Moreover, promoting self-sufficiency may hinder the development of transportation infrastructure necessary to bring in food during local disruptions. The ability of food to move and take advantage of arbitrage opportunities, through inter-regional or international trade, is therefore central to ensuring food security. When developing food security policies, it is important not to confuse problems of availability with issues of inadequate income. Finally, underinvestment in productivity-enhancing measures in agriculture, both in the public and private sectors over the past 20–30 years, may reduce long-term food security.

Jamie Naylor, Food Security in Canada and the North

Erin Kropac, Canadian Food Security Indicator Framework

The terms food security and food insecurity are complex and have been used inconsistently across jurisdictions resulting in confusion around appropriate policy and program interventions to address the unique circumstances of each. National surveillance of food security in Canada focuses on a household's financial ability to access food. While this gives us important insight on economic access, it doesn't capture broader issues with food systems that can impact national food security, for example, whether food is physically available and if it meets the dietary needs and cultural preferences of Canadians. Current Canadian food security data are limited in terms of providing information on the stability, sustainability, and control of our food supply chains.

Through the development of a Canadian Food Security Indicator Framework, AAFC is proposing to build a platform to organize and track data across the multiple factors that influence the food

security of Canadians, including on availability, access, utilization, stability, agency, and sustainability. Data on many of these factors is being collected by various federal departments or partners, but it is not currently integrated to build a comprehensive picture of how we are doing as a country. This will help us identify gaps and coordinate action across sectors to make a bigger difference.

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
**LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK | DÉJEUNER ET PAUSE
RÉSEAUTAGE**

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
SESSION II:

Evolving Dynamics in Canada's Agri-Food Trade

Chair: Jasen Aussant, Senior Policy and Markets Analyst, Alberta Grains
Speakers: Mathieu Frigon, President & CEO, Dairy Processors Association of Canada;
Felix Fosu, Postdoctoral Fellow, The Smith School of Business, Queens University;
Will Holowaychuk, Policy Analyst, Alberta Canola;
Justin Shepherd, Senior Economist, Farm Credit Canada

Mathieu Frigon, The End of the Ricardian Dream?

From Otto Von Bismark to David Ricardo and back, the return of realpolitik and its implications on the Canadian agri-food sector.

Felix Fosu, Emerging Trends in Canada's Agricultural Trade Amid Rising Global Tensions

Will Holowaychuk, Insights Into the Demand for Canadian Canola in 2026

Canola, a Canadian agricultural innovation has been subjected to a myriad of international trade policy changes that have led to dramatic changes in trade flows. This presentation and subsequent discussion will highlight what hurdles canola has been subjected to over the past twenty-four months and how demand has shifted. In addition to highlighting the focus of the Canadian canola industry to stabilize demand for canola in the world we currently find ourselves living in.

Justin Shepherd, From Tariffs to Non-Tariff Trade Barriers: Challenges Facing the Canadian Agriculture Sector

This presentation will examine recent shifts in agri-food trade policy and their implications for the year ahead. Discussion will cover the on-again, off-again application of tariffs on various products, the resulting short-term trade impacts, and a look at which tariffs remain in place globally. The

presentation will also explore non-tariff barriers in the United States, including Voluntary Country of Origin Labelling (VCOOL) and possible effects of changes to U.S. biofuel policy. Finally, trends in farmland affordability across Canada will be considered, along with expectations for stakeholders in the coming year.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
NETWORKING BREAK | PAUSE RÉSEAUTAGE

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
SESSION III:

Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Agri-Food Industry and Policy

Chair: Elise Bigley, Director of Strategic Projects, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI)

Panelists: Rozita Dara, Professor, School of Computer Science, and Founding Co-Director of Artificial Intelligence for Food (AI4Food), University of Guelph;
Phyllis MacCallum, Senior Program Manager AgriLM, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC);

Kara Beckles, Executive Director, Privacy and Responsible Data Division, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS)

From productivity and efficiency gains to workforce transitions and data governance challenges, AI is reshaping the agri-food sector. Panelists will examine what AI adoption means for labour and skills, who controls and benefits from agricultural data, and how governments are approaching responsible AI, privacy, and data-sharing frameworks. The discussion will highlight practical opportunities for AI in agri-food alongside the policy and governance foundations needed to ensure adoption is a benefit to the sector.

Rozita Dara, AI-Driven Agriculture and Food: Opportunities and Key Challenges

Phyllis MacCallum, Is Automation the Answer to Our Agricultural Labour Needs?

Kara Beckles, Accelerating the Responsible Adoption of AI in the Public Sector

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
**RECEPTION AND STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION | RÉCEPTION
ET PRÉSENTATION D'AFFICHES PAR LES ÉTUDIANTS**

Poster Competition Organizer & Chair: Mary Doidge, Assistant Professor, McGill University

FRIDAY| VENDREDI
January 23 janvier

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST | PETIT DÉJEUNER

Sponsor: Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), University of Guelph

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

SESSION IV:

Canada's Supply Management System

Chair: Tyler McCann, Managing Director, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI)

Speakers: Annie AcMoody, Chief Policy & Economics Officer, Dairy Farmers of Canada;
Ryan Cardwell, Professor, University of Manitoba

Annie AcMoody, Dairy Supply Management: Balancing Stability and Innovation

This presentation will explore the fundamentals of dairy supply management, outlining its core principles and mechanisms. It highlights its relevance in today's global economy and its economic and social contributions, including how it compares to the US dairy system. Current trends in dairy consumption are analyzed, alongside key risks facing the sector, including trade pressures, extreme weather, animal disease threats, and changing consumer preferences. Finally, the presentation identifies emerging opportunities for innovation, sustainability, and long-term growth within the dairy industry.

Ryan Cardwell, Understanding the Persistence of Supply Management in Canada

Supply management (SM) policies have persisted in Canada for approximately 50 years, during which time support for farm incomes in other sectors, and in other OECD countries, has evolved away from market price supports, towards less distortionary payments. Canadian agricultural policy stands out; support to the SM sector is high compared to other Canadian agricultural sectors, and this support is provided through relatively distortionary market price supports. This talk will discuss why SM persists in Canada, drawing on recent research that investigates how people form opinions about public policies, and research about how reforming SM policies could present significant risk for Canadian political parties. Results from this research will be put into the context of current debates about SM policies, including international trade agreements and compensation payments.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
NETWORKING BREAK | PAUSE RÉSEAUTAGE

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
KEYNOTE II | CONFÉRENCIER PRINCIPAL II

Internal Trade and Productivity in Canada's Food System

Sponsor: Grain Farmers of Ontario

Chair: Sankalp Sharma, Senior economist, Grain Farmers of Ontario

Speaker: Trevor Tombe, Professor of Economics and Director of Fiscal and Economic Policy at The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary

Canada's agriculture and food markets sit at the heart of the country's productivity challenge. Internal trade barriers—fragmented rules, restricted market access, and regulatory duplication—raise costs, limit competition, and contribute to higher food prices and weaker competitiveness. But productivity gains in agri-food matter far beyond the farm gate. Improvements in efficiency, scale, and innovation ripple through supply chains, lowering costs, boosting incomes, and strengthening the broader economy. This talk links agri-food to Canada's productivity agenda, showing how internal trade reform and sectoral productivity gains can deliver economy-wide benefits.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTER AND POLICY BRIEF COMPETITION
WINNERS | ANNONCE DES LAURÉATS DU CONCOURS D’AFFICHES
ET DE NOTES DE POLITIQUE**

Poster Competition Organizer & Chair: Mary Doidge, Assistant Professor, McGill University

Policy Brief Competition Organizers & Judges: Laura Stortz, Jennifer Syme, & Jill Smilestone, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
**LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK | DÉJEUNER ET PAUSE
RÉSEAUTAGE**

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
SESSION V

**Farm Management Research and Extension: Mapping Canada's Farm Business
Management Research Landscape and Path Forward**

Chair: Derek Brewin, Professor, University of Manitoba and Director, Farm Management Canada

Organizers: Derek Brewin, Director, Farm Management Canada;
Heather Watson, Executive Director of Farm Management Canada;
Stephen Duff, Board Chair, Farm Management Canada

Speakers: Heather Watson, Executive Director of Farm Management Canada;
Aaron De Laporte, Senior Research Associate, University of Guelph;
Ataharul Chowdhury, Associate Professor, School of Environmental Design and Rural
Development, University of Guelph;
Peter Slade, Associate Professor, University of Saskatchewan;
Stephen Duff, Board Chair, Farm Management Canada
Derek Brewin, Director, Farm Management Canada;

Join us for an interactive session exploring the current state of farm business management research across Canada. Together, we'll map who is working on what, highlight emerging insights, and uncover gaps that represent opportunities for future collaboration. This session hopes to share perspectives, strengthen relationships, and help shape a national network dedicated to advancing farm business management. Participants will leave with new connections, a clearer picture of the farm business management research ecosystem, and will be invited to join a new network aimed at bridging academic and industry needs in support of farm management excellence through research and extension.

Bring your ideas, your experiences, and your curiosity—this conversation is meant to spark lasting connections.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM
NETWORKING BREAK | PAUSE RÉSEAUTAGE

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
LIGHTNING TALK SESSION | SESSION DE PRÉSENTATIONS ÉCLAIR

Chair: Philippe Marcoul, Professor, University of Alberta

**Enock Desmond Opoku, University of Guelph, Assessing the Impact of Geopolitical
Tensions and Economic Diplomacy on Canada's Agri-food Trade**

Rising geopolitical uncertainty not only raises trade costs but also increases risks in sectors characterized by high substitutability, making the agri-food sector of Canada highly sensitive to political shocks. Using OMAFA trade data from 1989 to 2021, this study investigates the impact of geopolitical tensions—measured via UN voting-based diplomatic disagreement and trade sanctions—on Canada’s agri-food exports and focuses on the mitigating role of economic diplomacy. We find that economic diplomacy significantly increases total exports and mitigates the negative effects of geopolitical conflicts, particularly trade sanctions on total agri-food exports. At the disaggregated level, sanctions sharply reduce bulk and intermediate exports, while diplomatic disagreement primarily affects consumer-oriented goods. These findings underscore the relevance of economic diplomacy as a policy instrument for safeguarding Canada’s agri-food trade during periods of geopolitical tensions. Maintaining diplomatic presence and engagement can reduce trade vulnerability, support market access in highly competitive commodity markets, and enhance the resilience of export relationships in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

Tia McDonald, University of Saskatchewan, Measuring Changing Weather and the Effect on Land Use

The agricultural economics literature has made important contributions identifying temperature thresholds and degree-day accumulations that affect crop productivity, though these approaches often summarize weather using measures that compress distributional information. This research develops novel measures of localized weather abnormality and distributional change that generalize across seasons, geographic regions, and agricultural systems. Using high-resolution daily climate data, we calculate z-scores relative to 30-year climatological baselines and aggregate these into monthly counts of days within z-score bins—preserving distributional information that threshold approaches discard. We quantify long-run climate change intensity using Wasserstein distances that measure how local weather distributions have shifted over time, capturing the information available to producers when making adaptation decisions. This methodology distinguishes between short-run weather shocks and long-run distributional shifts, enabling separate identification of biological responses to abnormal conditions and behavioral adaptation to changing climate expectations. We demonstrate the approach using US land use data, but the measures are designed for broad application to crop yields, livestock productivity, and climate adaptation research across North American agricultural systems.

José Nuño-Ledesma, University of Guelph, Welfare Effects of Disease and Trade Disruptions in Ontario's Beef and Pork Sectors

This talk examines how large external shocks—animal disease outbreaks and international trade disruptions—propagate through Ontario’s beef and pork supply chains. Using a structural partial-equilibrium framework, the analysis links biological production constraints, interprovincial flows, processing capacity, and cross-border trade to prices and welfare outcomes along the value chain. The objective is to provide a unified way to think about sectoral exposure, adjustment margins, and vulnerability in highly integrated livestock markets. The results are intended to inform policy discussions on biosecurity, border measures, and supply-chain resilience in Canada’s agri-food system.

Mostafa Shartaj, University of Manitoba, Impact of Land Ownership Policies on Young Farmers

Young and beginning farmers often face significant challenges regarding access to farmland. Over the last 30 years, there has been a steep decline in the number of Canadian farmers under the age of 35 (Qualman et al., 2018). In this research, we utilize the implementation of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act in 1974 to explore how non-resident ownership restrictions may influence the age distribution of farmers and farm consolidation in rural municipalities in the Canadian Prairies. We also aim to disentangle the role of the Saskatchewan Land Bank, which was established in 1972 and is likely to have influenced farmland access for younger farmers. The results of this study can provide important insights regarding the efficacy land ownership policies in facilitating farmland access for young farmers.

**Weizhe Weng, University of Guelph, The Unintended Consequences of Managed Trade:
Evidence from U.S.-Mexico Sugar Suspension Agreement**

The tariff-rate quota (TRQ) system remains a vital agricultural policy tool, but its environmental costs are often overlooked. Using the 2014 U.S.–Mexico Suspension Agreement as a quasi-experiment, this paper presents the first empirical study to quantify the causal environmental consequences of shifting import quotas. Employing a spatial difference-in-differences design with high-resolution remote sensing data, we document a 15% increase in agricultural fires in fields most exposed to the trade shock. This surge, primarily driven by land-use conversion from wetlands and diverse crops to sugarcane, underscores how trade-induced agricultural intensification can adversely affect regional air quality and rural public health.

**Bailey Peterson-Wilhelm, University of Saskatchewan, Recency Effects in Agricultural
Insurance: Examining Decision Heuristics**

Decision makers often use heuristics, or mental shortcuts, to simplify complex decisions. In agricultural insurance, this can occur when producers rely on recent events as a proxy for future risk when making enrollment and coverage decisions. This presentation will provide a brief overview of an ongoing U.S. project estimating the impact of recent payments and weather events on Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) insurance enrollment. It will conclude with a discussion of how similar behavioural insights might translate to Canadian insurance programs.

4:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSING COMMENTS | COMMENTAIRES DE CLÔTURE

Warren Goodlet, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), President of CAES-SCAE

4:40 PM – 5:00 PM

NETWORKING BREAK | PAUSE RÉSEAUTAGE

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
**GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM | COLLOQUE DES ÉTUDIANTS
DIPLOMÉS**

Chair & Organizer: Peter Slade, Associate Professor, University of Saskatchewan, President-Elect of CAES-SCAE

Panelists: Pavithraa Moorthi, Dairy Sector Analyst, Dairy Processors Association of Canada (DPAC);

Tasmia Kabir, Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Canada

Warren Goodlet, Director General of the Research and Analysis Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

This panel brings together recent graduates and a hiring manager to discuss how graduate students can navigate the Canadian agri-food policy job market. Panelists will reflect on their own transitions from graduate school to policy and industry roles, highlight common challenges faced by international students, and share practical advice on job applications, networking, and skill development. The discussion will also cover what employers look for when hiring and how students can position themselves effectively while still in graduate school.

SPEAKER BIOS | BIOGRAPHIES DES PARTICIPANTS



Aaron De Laporte is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph. His work focuses on the economic and environmental dimensions of agricultural sustainability, with a particular emphasis on business risk management programs, climate adaptation strategies, and the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs). Aaron leads national research initiatives in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Farmers for Climate Solutions, and other partners, producing policy-relevant insights that inform program design and delivery. His recent research has examined 4R nitrogen management, soil health, cover cropping, and genomic technologies. Aaron holds a Ph.D. in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Guelph.



Annie AcMoody serves as the Chief Policy & Economics Officer for Dairy Farmers of Canada. She has been with the organization since October 2020, overseeing policies, analysis and recommendations that support DFC's objectives. This includes programs supporting sustainable production practices in the industry, including proAction and DFC's sustainability strategy. Before joining DFC, she served for ten years as the Director of Economic Analysis for Western United Dairies, an association representing dairy farmers in the state of California. Throughout her time there, she provided analysis of the potential impact on dairy farmers of current and proposed policies at state, national and international levels. Annie is originally from Québec City, where she graduated from Laval University with a degree in Agricultural economics and management. She also holds a Master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

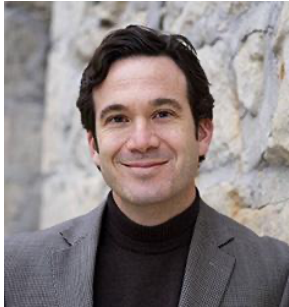


Ataharul Chowdhury is an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator for the Capacity Development and Extension program at the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. He is a past President of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE). Dr. Chowdhury leads collaborative research with national, provincial, regional, and international partners to advance sustainable agriculture and rural development in resource-poor communities. His expertise includes agricultural extension and advisory services, knowledge mobilization, digital and participatory media, technology stewardship, and combating agri-food misinformation. He has received multiple awards for research excellence and leadership and serves as Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*.



Bailey Peterson-Wilhelm is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research focuses on behavioural and production economics, particularly as they relate to agricultural policy and

decision-making. Her work often employs experimental and survey-based methods. She earned her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University.



Brady Deaton, Jr. is the McCain Family Chair in Food Security in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph. His research focuses on food security and land tenure. Professor Deaton provides leadership to an award-winning teaching, research, and outreach program. He received the Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Guelph's Central Student Association and the Distinguished Extension Award from Ontario's Agricultural College. The Canadian Agricultural Economics Society honored him and co-authors with the 2021 Outstanding Journal Article Award for their research on food insecurity on First Nations. He is a Fellow of the CAES.



Derek Brewin is a Professor and Head of the Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba. He has a Ph.D. from Penn State University in Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics. His recent research has focused on spatial grain and oilseed markets and he is a teacher of marketing and risk management. He is a Past President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and a current Director of Farm Management Canada. Derek is also the chair of the Sol Sinclair Institute for Farm Management at the University of Manitoba. Prior to his academic career Derek was a Policy Economist for AAFC and a farm lender with FCC. Derek was raised on a mixed irrigation farm in Purple Springs, Alberta.



Elise Bigley is the Director of Strategic Projects at Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI). She is responsible for overseeing CAPI's work, including policy

development, engaging partners and communications to advance policy solutions within agriculture and food. Her background is in research and history with an undergraduate degree from Simon Fraser University and master's degree from Carleton University.



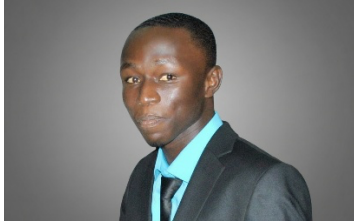
Enock Desmond Opoku is a graduate student in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (FARE) at the University of Guelph. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Ghana. Enock's thesis focuses on "Assessing the Impact of Geopolitical Tensions and Economic Diplomacy on Canada's Agri-food Trade." His research interests are mainly in Empirical Agricultural Trade Policy, International Politics, and Diplomacy.



Erin Kropac is a seasoned policy analyst with more than 15 years of experience shaping nutrition and public health strategies at the national level. She currently serves as Acting Deputy Director in the Food Policy Division at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where she leads initiatives to strengthen food security, with a focus on supporting resilient local food systems.

Throughout her career, Erin has held senior roles in multiple federal health agencies, including Health Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Her work has spanned chronic disease surveillance, regulatory modernization, and public health program and policy development.

She holds a Master's degree in Human Nutrition and a Graduate Diploma in Dietetics from McGill University and is a licensed member of the College of Dietitians of Ontario. In addition to her policy work, Erin has been a part-time professor at Algonquin College for over a decade, teaching food law and nutrition courses for culinary and food service professionals. Erin brings a unique blend of scientific expertise and strategic policy insight to translate evidence into impactful, real-world programs and policies.



Felix Fosu is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smith School of Business, Queen's University, where he conducts research at the intersection of international economics and applied microeconometrics. He completed his PhD in Economics at the University of Calgary in 2023, building advanced empirical skills that inform his current research agenda. His work focuses on how policy and institutional environments shape economic outcomes, with interests that include international trade, applied econometrics, and environmental economics.



Heather Watson leads the team as Executive Director of Farm Management Canada, a national non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation and adoption of farm business management practices to help position Canada's farmers for sustainable growth and prosperity. For well over a decade, Heather has also served as the Canadian representative to the International Farm Management Association. In 2022, Heather was recognized as one of Canada's Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture and in 2025 received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her service to Canada. Heather obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Guelph and went on to obtain her master's degree from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. Heather grew up in southwestern Ontario and now lives in Ottawa.



Jamie Naylor is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Guelph. His work in applied economics studies food and water systems, with a focus on strategic behavior, regulatory compliance, and market structure. He has conducted extensive research on the Nutrition North program and food security challenges in northern and remote communities in Canada. He earned his PhD at the University of Guelph.



Jasen Aussant is a Senior Policy and Markets Analyst with Alberta Grains. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Ottawa and a Master's in Economics and Finance from the University of Alberta. With experience across all levels of government, Jasen brings a unique perspective to policy challenges, focusing on farming practices, sustainability, water policy, and rural economic development. Coming from a long line of farmers, he hopes to support the sector's economic sustainability and strengthen the resilience of Canadian farms.



José G. Nuño-Ledesma is an assistant professor of Food Industry Economics and Management at the University of Guelph's department of Food, Agricultural & Resource economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and an M.Sc. from the University of Minnesota. He works on industrial organization, food policy, and agri-food supply chains, with recent publications in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Prior to academia, he served as senior economist at the Central Bank of Mexico.



Joseph Glauber is a Senior Research Fellow Emeritus at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC and until January 2024 served as interim Secretary of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). He also holds appointments at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the American Enterprise Institute. Prior to joining IFPRI, Glauber spent over 30 years at the US Department of Agriculture, including as Chief Economist from 2008 to 2014. From 2007-2009, Glauber was the Special Doha Agricultural Envoy at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative where he served as chief agricultural negotiator in the Doha talks. He is the author of numerous studies on agricultural insurance, trade policy and U.S. farm policy.



Justin Shepherd is a Senior Economist at the Farm Credit Canada (FCC). He joined the team in 2021, specializing in monitoring agricultural production and analyzing global supply and demand trends. In addition to his speaking engagements on agriculture and economics, Justin is a regular contributor to the FCC Economics blog. Justin grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and remains active in the family operation. He holds a master of applied economics and management from Cornell University and a bachelor of agribusiness from the University of Saskatchewan.



Kara Beckles is the Executive Director within the Privacy and Responsible Data Division at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS). As an active and experienced data leader in the Government of Canada, Kara has held various executive positions across the public service, including Chief Data Officer and Director General of Data and Information Services at the Privy Council Office (PCO), Director General of Data Integration in PCO's Result and Delivery Unit, and Chief Economist at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. She has also held various strategic, policy and analytical roles at Finance Canada, Treasury Board Secretariat, Statistics Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and PCO. Kara holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and business from the University of Winnipeg and a Master of Arts in economics from Dalhousie University.



Lars Brink is independent advisor on agricultural support policies, and Fellow and former President of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society. He has held positions with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and was a representative in WTO and OECD meetings for many years. Governments, international organizations, academics and interest groups seek his advice.



Mary Doidge is an assistant professor of agricultural economics at McGill University. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Guelph, and her Ph.D. at Michigan State University. Her research examines behaviour and decision-making at both the producer and consumer levels, including farmers' adoption of best management practices and consumer willingness to pay for environmentally produced food products.



♦ **Mathieu Frigon** joined DPAC in October 2016 as Senior Advisor, Policy & Economics, and was promoted to President & CEO in June 2018. Prior to joining DPAC, he worked with the Parliamentary Information and Research Service for 9 years where he successively assumed leadership roles with various House of Commons and Senate Committees. Mathieu was also an Assistant Director of Policy and Economics with Dairy Farmers of Canada from 2000 to 2007. Mathieu Frigon graduated with a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Université Laval in 1999. In 2016, he earned a MBA and a Graduate diploma in accounting from Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO). Mathieu became a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) in 2016. Mathieu Frigon is a board member and treasurer of Voie Verte Chelsea, a not-for-profit organization that is raising funds for the development of a community trail in the municipality of Chelsea.



Mostafa Shartaj is an agricultural and natural resource economist currently working in the Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Manitoba. He received his PhD from Colorado State University. Mostafa's current research explores the impact of public lands, the cost of invasive species, non-market valuation, land ownership policies, and outdoor recreation. He is also interested in research related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.



✦ **Pavithraa Moorthi** is a Dairy Sector Analyst at Dairy Processors Association of Canada (DPAC), where she supports data-driven decision-making and policy development for the Canadian dairy industry. Her journey to this role spans continents and disciplines. With a Bachelor's in Agricultural Sciences from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, an MBA in Finance and Marketing, and a Master's in Food, Agriculture, and Resource Economics from the University of Guelph, Pavithraa has successfully navigated the complex transition from international student to Canadian professional. Having entered the workforce in September 2024, Pavithraa brings a fresh, on-the-ground perspective to the current job market. She is passionate about discussing how international students can leverage diverse academic backgrounds to overcome barriers and secure meaningful roles in competitive industries.



Peter Slade is an Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan and Canadian Canola Growers Association chair in agricultural policy. His examines the effects of Canadian agricultural policy and adoption plant-based foods and diets. Peter has published widely in food, economics, and agricultural economics journals. He holds a PhD from the University of Guelph and serves as the president-elect of the *Canadian Agricultural Economics Society*.



Philippe Marcoul is a Full Professor of Resource Economics in the Department of REES at the University of Alberta. A specialist in Industrial Organization and agricultural economics, his work focuses on how information, contracts, and organizational structures influence market behavior. His areas of research include the Economics of Cooperatives, Fishery Economics, Development Economics, and Intellectual Property and Innovation. His research has been published in many important scientific journals in the agricultural and resource area (AJAE, JEEM, JAERE) but also, with a more theoretical focus, in the Industrial Organization

area (JEBO, JEDC, JEMS, Rev of Indust. Org.)). Dr. Marcoul earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the Toulouse School of Economics. Prior to joining the U of A in 2008, he was at Iowa State University and held visiting positions at the University of Southern California. Finally, He has also contributed to the academic community as an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization. He is currently an editor of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics.



Phyllis MacCallum is the Director of Research & Knowledge Mobilization at the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council. She brings practical expertise to labor market information research. Raised on a commercial cow/ calf operation in eastern Ontario, Phyllis has a passion for agriculture and business. She pursued a Diploma in Equine from Kemptville College and then finished her degree at the University of Lethbridge in Agriculture Studies – Economics. Phyllis and her partner, along with their twin girls now raise purebred Herefords west of Ottawa.



Dr. Rozita Dara is a professor at the School of Computer Science, and the founding and co-Director of Artificial Intelligence for Food ([AI4Food](#)), at the University of Guelph. Dr. Dara has established an interdisciplinary research program that spans applied artificial intelligence and data and technology governance, with a particular focus on agri-food systems. She has also spearheaded several initiatives related to digital agri-food at both the global and national levels. These initiatives include agri-food data governance and trustworthy artificial intelligence, data and legal interoperability in agri-food, and enhancing automation in agri-food practices. Dr. Dara's agri-food automation projects include the development of advanced decision support systems, digital twin technologies, and innovative AI applications aimed at monitoring and predicting disease such as avian influenza and mastitis, and food safety monitoring and regulatory compliance.



Ryan Cardwell is a professor in the Department of Agribusiness & Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba. Ryan's research interests include the

economics of food policies, international trade regulation, and Canadian agricultural policies. Current, and recent, research topics include understanding support for government policies, the effects of regulations on firm-level productivity, and measuring technological change in crop production. He has recent publications on these topics in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Canadian Journal of Economics*. Ryan has a M.A. in Economics from the University of British Columbia and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatchewan. He served as managing editor of the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* from 2022-2025. Ryan worked as a private-sector economist at Moody's in Philadelphia before his PhD studies.



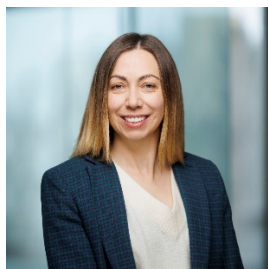
Dr. Sankalp Sharma is a Senior Economist at Grain Farmers of Ontario, a position he has held since January 2022. In this role, he analyzes policy developments that affect Ontario's grain producers, providing insights to support evidence-based advocacy and decision-making. Dr. Sharma earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and holds a Master's degree in Economics from North Carolina State University. His professional background includes serving as an Assistant Professor of Agribusiness at Kent State University (Tuscarawas), as well as roles with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome, Italy), the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and the Council for Social Development. His research portfolio spans risk analysis, crop insurance, grain markets, and land acquisition policy.



Stephen Duff: Coming from dairy and beef background in Northumberland county, Steve Duff completed a Masters in Ag Economics from the University of Guelph in 1996 focusing on trade liberalization in dairy between the US and Canada. After a year as policy researcher for the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, Steve joined OMAFRA in late 1997. For close to 20 years, Steve was OMAFRA's lead on business risk management programs such as AgriStability and the Risk Management Program. Steve is currently OMAFRA's Chief Economist. Steve is a lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Guelph. Steve and his wife Robyn operate a beef and cash crop operation near Colborne Ontario. Steve is currently in his second term on the board of Farm Management Canada as a farmer director and is currently board Chair.



Tasmia Kabir is a Policy Analyst at Natural Resources Canada. Her policy journey began in Bangladesh, where she worked in NGO-based policy research before moving to Canada to deepen her expertise. She completed her Master's in Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph in 2020 and was one of the first scholars selected for the NSERC CREATE–Climate Smart Soils Program in 2019. Today, she brings her international perspective and strong research foundation to federal work on global trade and investment policy.



Tia McDonald is an Assistant Professor in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department at the University of Saskatchewan, where her research examines how extreme weather and climate change affect farmers, agricultural production, and rural communities. Her current work focuses on wildfire smoke impacts on prairie agriculture and how temperature extremes shape land use decisions across North American farming systems. She earned her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University and brings experience as a Research Economist with the USDA Economic Research Service, where she analyzed farm financial resilience and policy impacts, and as faculty at Ohio University. Her research combines geospatial climate data analysis with farmer surveys to understand how agricultural systems adapt to environmental stressors.

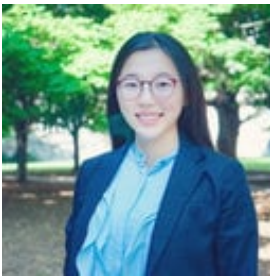


Trevor Tombe is a Professor of Economics at the University of Calgary and Director of Fiscal and Economic Policy at The School of Public Policy. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and the MEI, a Fellow at the Public Policy Forum, and co-director of *Finances of the Nation*. His research spans a wide range of topics in economics, including international and interprovincial trade, fiscal federalism, and public finance. He has published in leading academic journals and is co-author of the textbooks *Public Finance in Canada* and *Macroeconomics*. Beyond his academic work, Trevor regularly advises governments on economic and fiscal issues. He previously served on the Government of Canada's Working Group

on Productivity in the Public Sector, its Advisory Council on Interprovincial Trade, the Bank of Canada's external review panel of its pandemic response, and the provincial AlbertaNext Panel. He holds a PhD and MA in Economics from the University of Toronto and a BBA in Finance from Simon Fraser University. He also contributes to public policy conversations through frequent op-eds, articles, and media appearances. (Website: www.trevortombe.com | Email: ttombe@ucalgary.ca)



Tyler McCann is the Managing Director of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute. He spent almost a decade working in government advising Ministers, serving the Agriculture and Agri-Food minister for most of that time. He has also worked as a consultant for farm groups, industry associations, and small and large agri-food businesses, advising on government relations, policy, and association management. Tyler operates a beef and goat farm with his wife and kids in Western Quebec.



Dr. Weizhe Weng comes to FARE as an Assistant Professor specializing in environmental and natural resource economics. Dr. Weng holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Tech and brings extensive experience from previous faculty roles at SUNY Geneseo and the University of Florida. Her research explores agri-environmental policy, ecosystem service valuation, and human-nature interactions using innovative empirical and modelling techniques. Dr. Weng's work has appeared in leading journals, and she has contributed to major research initiatives totaling over \$10 million. Her leadership in professional associations and editorial roles further enriches our department.



Will Holowaychuk is a Policy Analyst for Alberta Canola and an active fifth-generation mixed farmer in Kalyna Country, in north-central Alberta. His passion for agriculture

was instilled early, and it drove him to complete a Master of Agriculture (MAg) in Agricultural & Resource Economics alongside his Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) in Finance with the University of Alberta. Will is dedicated to economic research, policy analysis, and advocacy efforts that enable the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of farmers in Alberta. Working in Alberta Canola's Government & Industry Affairs department, Will is the subject matter lead on a variety of policy and economic focuses including trade, market development, value-added processing, innovation, and the role agriculture plays in the biofuels sector.



Warren Goodlet joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in 2020 as the Director General of the Research and Analysis Directorate. He leads a team that provides economic analysis, information, and forecasts related to the domestic and international agriculture and agri-food sectors, including economic and social trends, and the structure and performance of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. Prior to joining AAFC he worked at Environment and Climate Change Canada from 2009 to 2020 on a number of regulatory initiatives addressing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as spending over a year in the Deputy Minister's Office as a policy advisor. He also spent five years in the Economic Analysis Directorate as a Director, Executive Director, and Acting Director General, overseeing teams of economists and policy analysts to provide economic analysis and advice on the design and competitiveness implications of environmental policies. Warren has also worked at Finance Canada as an economist on climate change files and spent two years as a public school teacher. He holds a BSc in Biological Science and an MA in Economics from the University of Guelph, as well as a BEd from St. Thomas University.



William A. Kerr is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Saskatchewan. He retired from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in 2024. He has a PhD in Economics and Agricultural Economics from UBC. His research focuses on topics in international food and agricultural trade – trade agreements, trade negotiations and trade disputes including trade issues related to food security. He has published over 300 refereed journal articles and 29 books including *Food Security – Availability, Income and Productivity* (Edward Elgar, 2023). He is a Fellow of the CAES.

RESEARCH POSTER ABSTRACTS | AFFICHES DE RECHERCHES

- **Presenter:** Ashley Whiteman, University of Guelph
- **Title :** Rethinking Investment Decisions in Hydroponic Vertical Farming: Why Accounting for Uncertainty Matters for Food Policy
- **Abstract:**

Hydroponic vertical farming is increasingly promoted as a strategy to enhance food security and climate resilience, yet its economic viability remains uncertain. This study evaluates the financial performance of large-scale hydroponic vertical farms using Net Present Value (NPV) analysis across three Canadian regions with differing energy costs, water prices, and market conditions. To account for uncertainty, sensitivity analysis is applied to key parameters, including electricity costs, water costs, crop prices, and discount rates. Results highlight substantial regional variation in investment outcomes and demonstrate that profitability is highly sensitive to operating costs and market prices. The findings underscore the importance of region-specific policy design and targeted support for controlled environment agriculture.
- **Presenter:** Dimitry Chakma, University of Manitoba
- **Title:** Did Removing the CWB Monopoly Reduce Wheat Acreage?
- **Abstract:**

This study examines the factors influencing farmers' spring wheat acreage decisions in the Canadian Prairie provinces. Small area data for a 40-year period from 1985 to 2024 are employed within a partial adjustment model to estimate the factors affecting spring wheat plantings. Results show that wheat futures markets, prices of substitute crops, lagged wheat yields, and growing season precipitation play roles in shaping farmers' decisions to grow wheat. Effects of the removal of the Canadian Wheat Board in 2012 are also calculated. The study concludes that policy measures should account for both price incentives and the broader production environment.
- **Presenter:** Houman Hashemzadeh, University of Guelph
- **Co-authors:** Alfons Weersink, Aaron Delaporte
- **Title:** Understanding Nitrogen Overapplication through Farmers' Perceived Yield Responses
- **Abstract:**

Canada has committed to reducing nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application by 30 % below 2020 levels by 2030. Achieving this target requires understanding why nitrogen application rates exceed agronomic recommendations. By examining farmers' subjective beliefs about the yield response to nitrogen, this study investigates whether gaps between perceived and agronomic nitrogen effectiveness contribute to fertilizer overapplication. Using survey data from Ontario corn farmers, we construct subjective

nitrogen yield response functions and explore discrepancies between perceived and agronomic response shapes across application rates. The results inform fertilizer reduction policies by highlighting how yield losses from nitrogen reductions influence farmer responses.

- **Presenter:** Minghao Pan, University of Alberta
 - **Co-authors:** Vic Adamowicz, Feng Qiu, David Olefeldt, Brent Swallow
 - **Title:** Is Avoided Peatland Conversion a Cost-Effective Approach to Climate Change Mitigation?
 - **Abstract:**

Peatlands store vast amounts of carbon, but they are being drained and converted to croplands, releasing long-stored GHGs. We estimate the amount of farm income sacrificed when peatlands are conserved rather than converted. Using a 20-year farm-level NPV model with stochastic crop prices, yields, and input costs, we estimate the opportunity costs to be roughly CAD 1,700-2,300 per hectare. This implies that keeping peatlands out of cultivation could be achieved with carbon prices below CAD 10 per tCO₂e. Overall, avoiding peatland conversion appears to be a low-cost way to cut emissions and support climate policy compared to other nature-based climate solutions.
-
- **Presenter:** Neslihan Donmez, University of Guelph
 - **Co-authors:** Mike von Massow
 - **Title:** Canadian Consumers' Perception of and Willingness to Consume Gene-Edited Beef and Milk
 - **Abstract:**

Over the past fifty years, food production has adopted new technologies, including gene editing, which alters specific genes without introducing foreign DNA. Despite increasing awareness of genetic modification, many consumers remain unfamiliar with gene-edited foods and their potential benefits, such as improved animal welfare and enhanced nutrition. This study examines Canadian consumers' perceptions and willingness to consume gene-edited beef and milk using the New Food Technology Neophobia Scale. Benefits were communicated through written, audio, and video formats. Results show that younger, more educated, and less neophobic consumers are more willing to consume gene-edited products. Communicating benefits increases acceptance of gene-edited milk but not beef.
-
- **Presenter:** Tong Liu, University of Guelph
 - **Co-authors:** José Nuño-Ledesma
 - **Title:** Disease, Trade Disruption, and Provincial Transportation Regulations: Welfare Effects on Ontario's Beef Sector
 - **Abstract:**

Ontario's beef sector faces dual vulnerabilities: reliance on Western Canadian cattle and beef imports, and dependence on the U.S. export market. Meanwhile, Ontario's transportation regulations impose frictions on interprovincial trade. This research extends a partial equilibrium model to quantify welfare impacts from: an FMD outbreak with

zoning; a U.S. import ban on Ontario-origin live cattle and beef; and the removal of transportation regulations. Simulations show that FMD generates the largest aggregate welfare loss (-1.73%), exceeding even the U.S. import ban (-1.40%). Deregulation leads to a slight welfare decline (-0.05%), driven by losses in local producer surplus, reflecting intensified interprovincial competition.

- **Presenter:** Gerald Van Tassell, Michigan State University
 - **Co-authors:** Alan Ker
 - **Title:** A New Crop Insurance Design and Geographical Equity of Crop Insurance Subsidies
 - **Abstract:**
 Subsidized crop insurance is an increasingly popular method of providing government support to farmers in Canada and around the globe. In Canada, crop insurance subsidies are paid as a percentage of premiums, with the government paying a combined 60% of premiums. Coverage levels are determined as a percentage of expected yield, meaning riskier crops, practices, and locations receive higher premium subsidies, and on-farm climate adaptation strategies are penalized. We propose and estimate the impacts, using US data, of implementing probability-based coverage levels that adjust coverage to underlying yield risk by setting coverage levels based on probability of loss, reducing the penalty for the adoption of risk-reducing technologies. Subsidized crop insurance is an increasingly popular method of providing government support to farmers in Canada and around the globe. In Canada, crop insurance subsidies are paid as a percentage of premiums, with the government paying a combined 60% of premiums. Coverage levels are determined as a percentage of expected yield, meaning riskier crops, practices, and locations receive higher premium subsidies, and on-farm climate adaptation strategies are penalized. We propose and estimate the impacts, using US data, of implementing probability-based coverage levels that adjust coverage to underlying yield risk by setting coverage levels based on probability of loss, reducing the penalty for the adoption of risk-reducing technologies.
-
- **Presenter:** Stephen Elvis Ampah, University of Guelph
 - **Title:** Beyond Gender Labels: A Constraint-Based Targeting Map for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Ghana
 - **Abstract:**
 To build climate resilience, Ghana must scale up farm technology adoption. Current programmes often use gender as a proxy for need, risking misdirected resources. We diagnose whether tenure insecurity, credit access, or extension differently constrain adoption for female and male decision-makers. Analysing practice-level data from 314 rice households in the Central Region, we shift from documenting if a gap exists to explaining why. The result is a targeting map, replacing blunt demographic tools with precise interventions. This enables smarter policy, higher adoption, and stronger food security per cedi spent in Ghana's rice belt.

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Ashley Klotz, Administrative Assistant

Warren Goodlet, Policy Conference Committee,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, CAES-SCAE President

Peter Slade, Policy Conference Committee & Graduate Student Colloquium Chair,
Associate Professor, University of Saskatchewan, CAES-SCAE President-Elect

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