

Manitoba Beef and Forage Conference



Speaker Biographies

Keynote Presentations



Frank Mitloehner, PhD, Professor, University of California, Davis

Climate Smart Livestock: Separating Science from Scare Tactics

Frank is a Professor and Air Quality Specialist in Cooperative Extension in the Department of Animal Science at UC Davis. He is also the Director of the CLEAR Center (Clarity and Leadership for Environmental Awareness and Research). In these roles, Frank regularly collaborates with the animal agriculture sector to create better efficiencies and mitigate pollutants. Frank shares his knowledge and research, both domestically and abroad with students, scientists, farmers, policy makers and the public at large.



John Basarab, PhD – RDAR Research Professor, Associate Professor, University of Alberta

Genomic Strategies for Improving Beef Cattle Efficiencies in a Changing Environment

John is an Associate Professor of Livestock Genetics/Genomics in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta. He is also CEO for Livestock Gentec and past Associate Editor for the *Canadian Journal of Animal Science*. John has over 30 years of experience working in the field of beef cattle management and production. His current research areas include improving feed efficiency, DNA pooling as a low-cost genotyping strategy, development and evaluation of indexes for replacement heifer selection, more profitable feeder cattle for beef-on-beef and beef-on-dairy production systems, and management strategies to improve the resilience of beef cattle to climate change. John's work has led to numerous global collaborations, the development of one of the largest genotype-phenotype databases for genetic marker discovery for beef cattle in Canada, and the validation of genomic tools like EnVigour HX. John has contributed to more than 300 scientific and extension articles and is the winner of the 2010 Canadian Animal Industries Award in Extension and Public Service, and co-recipient of the 2023 ASTech Award for Best in Agriculture.



John Hart, Wildlife Biologist, Custom Wildlife Capture and Consulting, LLC

Keeping the Wolf from the Door – Effective Tools and Techniques for Producers to Reduce Wolf Damage

John is a certified wildlife biologist with a wildlife degree from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. He currently owns and operates his own business, Custom Wildlife Capture and Consulting, LLC. John has been involved with wolf damage management in northern Minnesota since 1989. Throughout his past employment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services Branch, John was involved with the capture of depredating wolves, training and supervision of trappers, and assisting with development of the Minnesota Wolf Management Plan.



Patti Durand, Strategic Action Planner and Speaker, Brightrack Consulting

Strategies for Low Stress Handling of Family Succession Planning Conversations

Patti Durand, based in Humboldt, Saskatchewan (SK), is a Strategic Action Planner and Speaker at Brightrack Consulting, bringing skills honed in agricultural and small business advising within finance and the private sector. Born and raised in Teulon, Patti holds a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba and is a certified Family Enterprise Advisor and Professional Agriologist. In her agriculture career spanning over 25 years, Patti has guided hundreds of Canadian farm business families to confidently navigate the paths of transition decision making. As a dynamic speaker and workshop leader, Patti aims to provide relatable, actionable ideas to help business families move ahead, together and with certainty. Her positivity, practical experience and strategic thinking means Patti can help "move a lot of dirt" quickly toward impactful results to achieve farm business goals.

Breakout Session Presentations



Stephanie Hansen, PhD, Professor, Iowa State University

Smart Mineral and Vitamin Nutrition for Stronger Beef Herds

Stephanie Hansen is a Professor in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University. An Iowa native, she earned her BSc from Iowa State and her MS and PhD from North Carolina State University. With over 100 peer-reviewed publications and over \$11-million in funding as Co-Principal Investigator or Principal Investigator, she has established an original and impactful beef cattle research program. A major focus of her program is the refinement of mineral requirements for feedlot cattle. She has received early or mid-career awards in research from Iowa State University, the Midwest section of American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), and ASAS. Dr. Hansen is passionate about training the next generation of animal scientists. She teaches courses in animal nutrition, ruminant nutrition, and micronutrient metabolism. She also co-hosts a podcast on graduate mentoring called Mentoring Matters and the Beef Podcast Show. Graduates of her program are serving industry and academia. She enjoys hiking, photography and writes crime thrillers as well.



Mary-Jane Orr, PhD, General Manager, Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives

Smart Mineral and Vitamin Nutrition for Stronger Beef Herds

Mary-Jane is the General Manager of Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives, an applied research farm located in Brandon, Manitoba (MB). Mary-Jane leads a dedicated team to advance the MB beef and forage industries through engaging stakeholders, evaluating on-farm innovation, and delivering extension to farmers and the public. Mary-Jane grew up on a mixed farm in southwest MB and completed her BSc in Botany at Brandon University. Mary-Jane went on to earn a PhD from Purdue University where she studied soil microbial ecology in agricultural systems. She is also a Professional Agrologist, Certified Crop Advisor, and Manure Management Planner. Mary-Jane deeply values the opportunity to collaborate with producers, researchers, education providers, extension specialists, conservation groups, and all stakeholders in field-testing management practices and growing understanding of improved production in MB. Her experience in ecology and field agronomy gives her a unique perspective on the challenges facing agriculture today.



Cheryl Waldner, DVM, PhD, FCAHS, Professor and NSERC/Beef Cattle Research Council Senior Industrial Research Chair, University of Saskatchewan

Investigating Effective Strategies for the Control of Johne's Disease in Western Canadian Cow-Calf Herds – A Potential Economic Loss for your Herd

Dr. Cheryl Waldner is the NSERC/Beef Cattle Research Council Senior Research Chair in Beef Cattle Health at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She is actively involved in research examining factors affecting the productivity of cow-calf herds as the lead investigator for the Canadian Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Enhancement Network (C3H/PEN). Some of her current projects include studying antimicrobial use and resistance, as well as best practices for the control of respiratory disease, calf diarrhea, and Johne's disease. Dr. Waldner has always been very interested in the effects of nutrition on reproductive performance in cow-calf herds – with a particular focus on the copper and selenium deficiency. Dr. Waldner has more than 270 research publications. Cheryl and her husband own and operate a commercial cow-calf herd west of Saskatoon, SK.



Nadine Wohlgemuth, DVM, Virden Animal Hospital

Investigating Effective Strategies for the Control of Johne's Disease in Western Canadian Cow-Calf Herds – A Potential Economic Loss for your Herd

Nadine grew up on a 175-head cow/calf farm south of Oak Lake, MB. She began helping her parents with all aspects of the beef farm at a very young age, learning many important skills. Nadine graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001 and began her veterinary career in Arborg, MB. In 2002, she moved back to her hometown

of Oak Lake to farm alongside her parents and practice in Melita. Nadine joined the Virden Animal Hospital in 2005, where she eventually became a partner in the business. Currently, her primary focus is food animal medicine and surgery. Nadine, her husband Keith, and their two young children, also own and operate a 200-head cow/calf operation and a custom silage business.



Ben Hamm, Farm Management Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture

Safeguarding your Profit – Incorporating Business Risk Management Tools as Part of your Everyday Chores

Ben Hamm is a Farm Management Specialist with MB Agriculture, where he is currently the lead for forage and livestock cost of production in the province. He graduated with an Animal Science degree from the University of Manitoba and has been working with MB Agriculture for over 15 years. Ben has a keen interest in analyzing all aspects of risk management for the forage and livestock industries and believes monitoring risk can cultivate a more prosperous ag industry.



Tyler Fulton, Beef Producer and Vice President of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association

Safeguarding your Profit – Incorporating Business Risk Management Tools as Part of Your Everyday Chores

Tyler is currently the Canadian Cattlemen's Association's Vice President and Co-Chair of the Foreign Trade Committee. He became involved with CCA as a natural extension of his work with the MB Beef Producers. He is also a member of the Domestic Agriculture Policy and Regulations Committee. Tyler is the third generation on his farm and together with his wife, Dorelle, and kids Evan and Mae, they own and operate Tyton Farm Ltd, just south of Birtle, MB. They run about 600 cow-calf pairs and a small backgrounding lot that they use for their own calves. They grow hay and corn for silage and winter grazing and have a small amount of grain production that integrates well with the cattle operation. The farm consists of about 5,500 acres of owned and rented land with most of this as tame and native pasture. The Fultons are focused on constant improvement and are quick adopters of new technology. They are certified by Verified Beef Production Plus and are proud members of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. Tyler is an advocate for improving soil health using Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) Grazing and regenerative agriculture practices. His family is focused on managing risk and are, therefore, strong proponents for using forage insurance and Livestock Price Insurance (LPI).

