





Roots to Success

The Foundation of Resilient Agriculture

Country Guide YOUR FARM, YOUR CONVERSATION.







Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



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CHAIR REPORT

Welcome



It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the CFGA's 15th annual conference in Guelph Ontario. This year's theme is Roots to Success: The Foundation of Resilient Agriculture and I am looking forward to celebrating the important environmental and economic role forages and grasslands play here in Ontario, across the country and around the globe.

The 2024 crop year has brought many different outcomes for the diverse regions of Canada. The Atlantic provinces experienced a mix of wet and dry while central Canada received abundant rains throughout the summer. Western Canada largely received welcome spring rains followed by a hot dry summer. Across Canada, however, the forage crop volume was above average - good news for forage producers!

This year's conference organizing committee has worked hard to create an agenda filled with forage-related topics and speakers. As CFGA board members, we realize there are diverse interests in the forage and grassland sector. We represent many of those interests including dairy, beef and other ruminant farmers and ranchers, commercial hay growers, forage exporters and industry including researchers and government extension people. Clearly our collective purpose in the Canadian forage sector is to improve production of forages to provide economic stability and long-term viability in our industry.

This event could not happen without the support of all our sponsors, partners and speakers. We appreciate this opportunity to say thank you for your contribution and look forward to working with you throughout the year and in future conferences. I'm certain this conference will be a great opportunity to learn and network with our fellow forage-sector participants. I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you.

Eric Goot

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD **MESSAGE**



Greetings everyone,

Having served in senior leadership roles in my agribusiness career, I know full well that there are no better stewards of our environment and our land than our world-class farmers. Your association and your members embody that reality and I know your conference will celebrate our robust forage industry and its enormous impacts and potential.

Grasslands and forages play critical roles in enhancing on-farm biodiversity, building up environmental resilience and strengthening soil health. I appreciate the work you do to inform and educate on the importance of your work in underpinning Ontario's \$51-billion agri-food sector. 871,000 people work in Ontario agri-food; that is one in nine of all jobs. Since 2018, our government has boosted agri-GDP by almost \$3 billion, agri-employment by nearly 30,000 and agri-exports by 65 per cent to \$26.2 billion. We achieved this dynamism because of partnerships with organizations like the CFGA and we look forward to seizing more opportunities in the near future.

Attendees, I commend your commitments to environmental and economic stewardship.

Welcome to this year's Conference, I hope you have a very informative and enjoyable day!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Flack

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

CFGA CONFERENCE AGENDA

Agenda Subject to Change. All times are Eastern Standard Time. Location, unless otherwise noted, is Ballroom B. Breakfasts, breaks and lunch served in the fover, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesda	av. I	Dec	eml	ber	3
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7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

BREAKFAST

PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Integrating Carbon and Biodiversity Indicators Workshop

Flanders

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Connections and Strategies: A Knowledge Technology Transfer (KTT)

Communications Workshop

John McCrae

10:15 AM - 10:35 AM

HEALTH BREAK

12:00 рм - 1:00 рм

LUNCH

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

HEALTH BREAK

6:00 PM

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Welcome Reception - Ballroom A

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Conference Tradeshow and Exhibits

Gryphon/Ken Danby Room

Wednesday, December 4

Grassland and Pastures

BREAKFAST

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Conference Tradeshow and Exhibits

Gryphon/Ken Danby Room

Policy & Programming

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Welcome Messages

CFGA ED Cedric MacLeod and CFGA Board Chair Eric Boot

CFGA Conference Agenda continued...

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Opening Day 1 Keynote

Perennial Forages as Key Contributors to Sustainable Agriculture

Dr. Ralph Martin, retired from University of Guelph

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry Soil

Study Report: Findings and Recommendations

Hon, Senator Robert Black

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Panel Q&A with speakers

10:45 AM - 11:05 AM

BREAK

11:05 AM - 11:25 AM

Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool for Ontario

Meagan Morey, Blazing Star

11:25 AM - 11:45 AM

Integrating Stakeholder Perspectives - Future Grassland Learning and **Knowledge Collaboration**

Dr. John K. Pattison-Williams, University of Alberta/Pattison Consulting

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Panel Q&A with speakers

12:00 рм - 1:00 рм

LUNCH

Producers' View on the Ground

1:05 PM - 1:35 PM

Grazing Tools, Tips and New Technologies - Virtual Cattle Fence (eShepherd)

Tim Prior, Brussels Agri-Services Ltd./Grazing Meadows Wagyu

1:35 PM - 2:05 PM

Rotational Grazing Experiences - Getting Started and the Journey

Brenda Hsueh, Farmers for Climate Solutions/Black Sheep Farm

2:05 PM - 2:30 PM

Using Decision Support Tools for Dairy Cow Pasture Management

Francois Labelle, Lactanet

2:30 PM - 2:55 PM

Drones: Sustainable Solutions for Forage and Grassland Agriculture

Jenny Chen, Wonderfull Inc.

CFGA Conference Agenda continued...

2:55 PM - 3:10 PM

Panel Q&A with speakers

3:10 PM - 3:20 PM

BREAK

3:20 рм - 3:50 рм

Ten Years of Beef Sustainability Progress and Looking to the Future

Monica Hadarits, Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB)

3:50 рм - 4:50 рм

Closing Day 1 Keynote

Advancing Grassland Management through Research and Producer **Support: Lessons from Ontario Initiatives**

Dr. Angela Straathof, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)

4:50 PM - 5:00 PM

Panel Q&A with speakers

5:00 PM - 5:05 PM

Closing Comments

6:30 рм - 8:30 рм

Conference Dinner

featuring the CFGA Leadership Award

Thursday, December 5

Tame Forages and Markets

7:30 ам - 8:45 ам

BREAKFAST

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Conference Tradeshow and Exhibits

Gryphon/Ken Danby Room

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

CFGA Operational Update - Ballroom B

Optimizing Production

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Welcome & Ontario Forage Council Update

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Opening Day 2 Keynote

Dipping into Perennials to Restore Soil Health, Carbon Content and Resilience of Annual Cropping Systems

Martin Chantigny, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC)

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Advances in Forages Breeding

Annie Claessens, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC)

CFGA Conference Agenda continued...

10:15 AM - 10:25 AM

Panel Q&A with speakers

10:25 AM - 10:45 AM

BREAK

10:45 AM - 11:10 AM

Forage Quality Today: Getting Closer to the Bullseye!

John Winchell, Alltech

11:10 AM - 11:15 AM

Speaker Q&A

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Field to Feed Panel: A moderated discussion featuring industry nutrition and agronomy experts on balanced nutrition and forage

Courtney Vriens, Tom Wright and Patrick Lynch, moderated by Christine O'Reilly

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

Young Farmers Forum Luncheon - Ballroom A

Forage Markets and the Future

1:30 PM - 1:50 PM

Status of Forage Export Markets

Josh Callen, The Hoyt Report

1:50 PM - 2:10 PM

Canadian Economic Outlook: What Now, What Next?

Aaron Goertzen, BMO

2:10 PM - 2:30 PM

Transformational Adaptation in Central and Southern U.S. Agriculture: **Identifying Future Challenges and Opportunities**

Brooke McWherter, Nebraska University

2:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Panel Q&A with speakers

Closing Day 2 Keynote

2:50 PM - 3:00 PM

BREAK

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Build your Farm's Future WITH the Next Generation

Maggie van Camp, Loft32 with special guests Marc and Nia Jones

4:00 PM - 4:05 PM

Conference Closing Remarks

Patricia Ellingwood, Ontario Forage Council and Cedric McLeod, CFGA

6:00 рм - 8:00 рм

Hay Exporters Social - Ballroom A

Friday, December 6

POST CONFERENCE TOUR

Forage Focus 2024: Hay as a Cash Crop

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

BREAKFAST

8:15 AM - 4:30 PM

Forage Focus Tour

8:15 AM

Shuttle leaves Delta Hotels Guelph Conference Centre

Stop One

8:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Marcrest Hay Storage in Gorrie

Stop Two

10:45 AM - 1:30 PM

Marcrest Manufacturing, ft. Bale Barons

Lunch provided, courtesy of Marcrest Manufacturing

Stop Three

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Marhaven Agri Services in Drayton

Onsite Marketing Panel - Value of Forages Tradeshow at Marhaven Agri Services

4:00 PM Shuttle returns to Delta Hotels Guelph Conference Centre



ACCESS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS CONNECT AND LEARN

Find the CFGA's 15th annual conference materials including speaker and workshop resources, speaker background information, sponsorship information, and more on the CFGA's online learning management system (LMS). This is also where you will gain access to speaker session recordings once posted post-conference.

Scan the QR code below to access the learning platform or go to theforageresource.canadianfga.ca/courses/cfga-2024-conference.

Follow the directions to log in OR create an account.



Once inside the platform, click on 'Dashboard' or 'Courses' and select the 2024 Conference to see all conference content. Visit speaker pages, view sponsorship content and explore further talk and workshop resources. Regular content updates will be posted throughout the conference, including links to use the live translation function daily, so check back regularly!

Conference registrants will have access to all content posted on the LMS until June 2025, including the speaker talk recordings. If you have any questions, please reach out to Trudy at info@canadianfga.ca!



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DLF FIBER ENERGY is a quality standard given to forage varieties with increased dNDF. $\underline{\mathbf{D}}$ igestible $\underline{\mathbf{N}}$ eutral $\underline{\mathbf{D}}$ etergent $\underline{\mathbf{F}}$ iber (dNDF) is a benchmark for Fiber digestibility and palatability. DLF forages with the Fiber Energy badge are all tested and evaluated to have overall increased Fiber digestibility year after year.



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- Excellent forage yield
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- Good seasonal growth pattern



KORA TALL FESCUE

- Excellent forage yield
- Excellent winterhardiness
- Early spring growth
- Good forage quality
- Good seasonal growth pattern



CAPTUR ORCHARDGRASS

- Very late maturity
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- Very good seasonal growth pattern



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Canadian dairy farmers follow our proAction® program. With 6 modules, it sets standards of excellence for everything from milk quality, food safety, animal care, and the protection of the environment.

proAction® is what's behind the Blue Cow Logo: supporting the health and comfort of the herd and the stewardship of our land while helping Canadian dairy farmers meet some of the highest standards of milk production in the world.

LA PRODUCTION LAITIÈRE EST PLUS QU'UN SIMPLE TRAVAIL. C'EST NOTRE PASSION.

Les producteurs laitiers canadiens suivent notre programme proAction™. Composé de six modules, ce programme établit des normes d'excellence, que ce soit en matière de qualité du lait, de sécurité alimentaire, de soins aux animaux et de protection de l'environnement.

proAction™, c'est ce qui se cache derrière le logo de la vache bleue : soutenir la santé et le confort du troupeau et l'intendance de nos terres tout en aidant les producteurs laitiers canadiens à respecter des normes de production laitière parmi les plus élevées



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