

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

DECEMBER 1 - 4, 2025

| DELTA SOUTH CONFERENCE CENTRE, EDMONTON

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Hosted by the Northeast Region



WELCOME,

On behalf of the Northeast Region of the AAAF

We are excited to host another year of In-Service Training on December 1-4, 2025, at the Delta Hotel and Conference Center in Edmonton. A warm welcome to our Association members representing the 69 municipal districts across the province and to our valued industry partners. We hope you take full advantage of this learning and networking opportunity.

This handbook was created to help guide you through the event. Included in the handbook are:

- Daily Agendas and Challenges
- Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Bios
- Our Proud Sponsors

Thank you for attending, we look forward to having you!

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CREDITS

12 credits have been approved including Professionalism, Human Health, Pest Management, Regulations, General Information, and Application Technology!

Class Key:

A - All Classes

Ag - Agriculture

I - Industrial

F - Forestry

L - Landscape

Ae- Aerial

Delegates must be present to sign credit sheets.

DAILY CHALLENGES

One of the best parts of the conference is the networking opportunities and bonds forged with peers from across Alberta! You will find a challenge on the agenda page for each day of the conference. Daily ballots can be picked up and entered into the draw at the registration desk. *Prize draws will be made following the final presenter daily.*



ICEBREAKER & CRIB TOURNAMENT

Thank you to the continued generous sponsorship of our partners Envu and Advantage VM, IST 2025 will be kicking off with the Icebreaker and Crib Tournament on Monday night from 6:00-10:00pm! All **AAAF members** are invited to attend.



Note: sign up for the Crib Tournament when registering for IST.

YOUR HOSTS OF THE NE REGION



Working for a better agricultural industry across Alberta, Canada
aaaf.ab.ca



IN-SERVICE TRAINING

MONDAY DECEMBER 1ST, 2025

- 10:30am – 4:00pm **New Fieldman Orientation (Edmonton Room)**
Presented by: Fieldman Orientation Committee
- 10:30am – 12:00pm **This Is Your Brain on Videoconferencing: How to Master Virtual Meetings (Diamond/Emerald Room)**
Presented By: Lauren Sergy, Up Front Communications
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm **Core Communication for Leaders: Essential Skills for Improving Workplace Communication (Diamond/Emerald Room)**
Presented By: Lauren Sergy, Up Front Communications
Credit: Professionalism (2) A
- 9:00am – 4:00pm **Possession and Acquisition License Course for Canadian Firearms (PAL) (Jasper Room)**
Presented By: Tim Purnell & Bobby Hinman, Instructors
Max 24 participants, first come first served

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL MONDAY COURSES



MORNING SESSION

Join communication professional Lauren Sergy for a behind-the-scenes view of the unique communication psychology of virtual meetings, and learn how you can quickly and significantly improve your on-camera communication. . In this funny, eye-opening, and actionable workshop, you will learn: easy-to-implement strategies to increase your overall polish, how to boost engagement and create more connection with those on the call, and strategies for reducing virtual meeting burnout so you can use this medium in your workplace in a way that's sustainable and productive.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Get ready to boost your leadership communication skills with communication professional Lauren Sergy! This intensive half-day workshop helps you develop fundamental communication skills and strategies needed by leaders of all stripes. You will increase clarity and effectiveness of communication, decrease interpersonal conflict and relieve tension, and help cultivate a positive communication culture. With a strong emphasis on practical application, you will learn about workplace communication behavior, strategies for improving clarity and openness in communication, and techniques for communicating in tense environments.

NEW FIELDMAN ORIENTATION

Highly recommended for new AAAF members or those who have not taken it in the past. Participating in this course is a requirement to receive Certified Agricultural Fieldman status.

The Envu/AVM **Ice Breaker and Crib Tournament** is proudly brought to you by Advantage VM and Envu on Monday night
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Location: Top of the Inn, Delta





IN-SERVICE TRAINING

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2025

INDUSTRY DAY

- 7:00am – 8:15am **Breakfast**
- 8:15am – 8:30am **Announcements, National Anthem & Opening Remarks**
Presented by: MC - Nathanael Berg, AAAF President
Stephen Bevans
- 8:30am – 9:30am **Pesticide Exposure and Risk in the Workplace**
Presented By: Emily Carpenter, Health Canada
Credit: Human Health and Pesticide Safety (1) A
- 9:30am – 10:30am **Overview of Selective Application Technology**
Presented By: Bill Wilt, PD Solutions
Credit: Application Technology (1) Ag, I, F, L
- 10:30am – 11:00am **Break**
- 11:00am – 12:00pm **Aerial Application: When and Where to Incorporate it into your Spray Program**
Presented By: Corey Lange, Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators
Credit: Application Technology (1) Ag, Ae
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm **Lunch Break**
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm **Using Emotional Intelligence to Promote Conflict Resolution**
Presented By: Dr. Hayley Hesseln, eiAdvantage
Credit: Professionalism (1) A
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm **Decoding Herbicide Modes of Action: Best Practices for Resistance Prevention**
Presented By: Dr. Rory Degenhardt, Corteva
Credit: General Information (1) A
- 3:00pm – 3:15pm **Break**
- 3:15pm – 4:15pm **A Closer Look at Important Regulatory Updates**
Presented By: Tanya Rushcall, AB Environment & Protected Areas
Credit: Regulations (1) A



Visit **6** tradeshow booths. Write the vendor name on the ballot card and have them initial beside it. Enter it into the draw to win a prize.

Thank you to our industry partners for joining us today!





IN-SERVICE TRAINING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

- 7:00am – 8:15am **Breakfast**
- 8:15am – 8:20am **Announcements**
Presented by: MC - Brett Sauder
- 8:20am – 9:20am **Livestock Emergency Response Planning**
Presented By: Katherine Altman, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- 9:20am – 10:20am **Engage and Retain: Practical HR Strategies for Your Summer Workforce**
Presented By: Grant Gaumont, Tenfold Solutions
- 10:20am – 10:30Am **Break**
- 10:30am – 11:00am **Update on 1080 Requirements & Reporting**
Presented By: Karen Wickerson, AB Ag & Irrigation
- 11:00am – 12:00pm **Strategies for Effective Resolution Development**
Presented By: Warren Noga, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm **Lunch Break**

●●●●●●●●●● *Afternoon Breakout Sessions* ●●●●●●●●●●

Main Ballroom:

- 1:00pm–2:00pm **Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Hutterites, But Were Too Afraid To Ask.**
Presented By: Mary-Ann Kirkby, Polka Dot Press
Credit: Professionalism (1) A
- 2:00pm–2:30pm **FS: Clearwater County's Youth Ag Program**
Presented By: Jill Longacre, Clearwater County
- 2:30pm - 2:45Pm **BREAK**
- 2:45pm - 3:35pm **FS's: Ag Master Plans & Strategies**
Presented By: Kristyn Lines, Rocky View County & Dave MacTaggart, Strathcona County
- 3:35pm - 4:10pm **FS: Reclamation and the Key to Social License in Municipal Operations**
Presented By: Lisa Stang, M.D. of Provost

Edmonton Room:

- 1:00pm–2:30pm **Grass ID Theory & Practical**
Presented By: Tannas Conservation Services (Max 20 Attendees)
Credit: Pest Management (1) Ae, Ag, I, L, F
- 2:30pm - 2:45pm **Break**
- 2:45pm–4:30pm **Grass ID Theory & Practical**
Presented By: Tannas Conservation Services (Max 20 Attendees)
Credit: Pest Management (1) Ae, Ag, I, L, F

Jasper Room:

- 1:00 pm–2:30pm **Sweep Calm and Carry on: Insect Monitoring Tips and More**
Presented By: Amanda Jorgensen, AGI
Credit: Pest Management (1) Ag
- 2:30pm - 2:45pm **BREAK**
- 2:45pm – 3:45pm **Fine-Tuning Cereal Disease Management Options in Our Crop Production Toolbox**
Presented By: Kelly Turkington, AAFC
Credit: Pest Management (1) Ag, Ae



Meet someone new from each Region you are not a part of. Fill out the ballot and enter it into the draw.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING

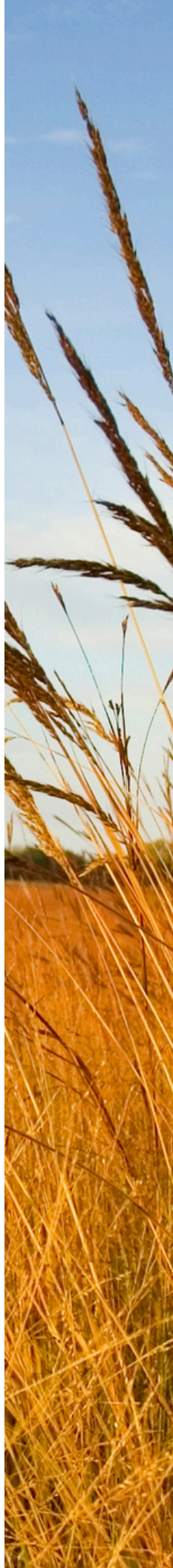
THURSDAY DECEMBER 4TH, 2025



Talk to someone from a different Region that did NOT do a Fieldman Showcase/Panel and find out about a program they run that you're interested in! Fill your ballot and enter it into the draw.

- 7:00am – 8:15am **Breakfast**
- 8:15am – 8:20am **Announcements**
Presented by: MC - Devon Lloyd
- 8:20am – 8:35am **FS: Red Deer County Fenceline Program**
Presented By: Roland Krusi, Red Deer County
- 8:35am – 8:50am **FS: Shelterbelt & Eco-buffer Demonstration Sites**
Presented By: George Bloom, Wheatland County
- 8:50am – 9:25am **FS: Working with the Wetland Replacement Program as a Municipal Partner**
Presented By: Cassandra Chabot-Madlung, County of Grande Prairie
- 9:25am – 10:15am **Fieldman Panel: Working with Alberta Transportation**
Presented By: Jordan Holst (M.D. of Taber), County of Grande Prairie
- 10:15am – 10:35am **Break**
- 10:40am – 11:45am **Fieldman Panel: Weed Notices – Walk softly, carry a big stick / Uninvited guests: Managing Invasive species in Yellowhead County**
Presented By: Sheila Kaus, MD of Greenview / Jennifer Benson, Yellowhead County
- 11:45 am – 12:30pm **Lunch Break**
- 12:30pm-1:00pm **Weed Review Update**
Presented By: Krista deMilliano & Gayah Sieusahai, AGI
- 1:00pm – 2:15pm **Keynote Burn Bright, Not Out: 3 Steps to Ditch Burnout For Good**
Presented By: Jennifer Keable, The New You Mindset & Life Coaching Corp.
- 2:15pm – 2:45pm: **Break**
- 2:45pm – 4:15pm: **AAAF Annual General Meeting**
Presented By: AAAF Executive Committee
Business attire required
AAAF Executive Committee
President - Stephen Bevans, Cardston County
1st Vice President -Dawn Fortin, Woodlands County
2nd Vice President - Sara Miller, County of Two Hills
Secretary - Laura Poile, Rocky View County
Treasurer - Janice Boden, M.D. of Bonnyville
Regional Directors -
 - **NE Region** - Shelby Oracheski, M.D. of Wainwright
 - **NW Region** - Travis Wilson, Lac Ste Anne County
 - **Central Region** - Ryan Hallett, Starland County
 - **South Region** - Shayna Jones, M.D. of Ranchland
 - **Peace Region** - Tracelle Hinze, County of Grande Prairie
- 4:15pm – 5:30pm: **Free Time**
- 6:00pm **Banquet, Awards & Entertainment - Top of the Inn**
Entertainment provided by **Twilite Music Services** - Experience the **Fabulous Feud Game Show**, a corporate twist on the classic family favorite. Delightfully competitive, surprisingly gripping, and hilariously funny, challenge your team's wits against popular opinions.

Thank you for joining us for IST 2025! We hope you enjoyed your time and have a safe journey home. - *Your Hosts, NE Region AAAF*





IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

MONDAY DECEMBER 1ST, 2025

Lauren Sergy, Up Front Communications

Communication expert Lauren Sergy has helped thousands of people become more effective leaders through skilled communication. She has worked with audiences and organizations in Canada, the US, the UK, and Europe, including KPMG, 3M, Cargill, Farm & Food Care, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, FCC, and many more. She holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies, a Bachelor of Arts in English, and a certificate in Management Development. She has taught business communication programs at the University of Alberta and Concordia University of Edmonton, and regularly guest lectures at other post-secondary industries. Her book, *The Handy Communication Answer Book*, was featured on Library Journal's Best Reference Books of 2017 list. Her most recent book, *UNMUTE! How to Master Virtual Meetings and Reclaim Your Sanity* is now available at all online book retailers. You can find out more about Lauren and her work at LaurenSergy.com.

Session 1: **This Is Your Brain on Videoconferencing: How to Master Virtual Meetings**

Session 2: **Core Communication for Leaders: Essential Skills for Improving Workplace Communication**

**Descriptions in agenda*

Tim Purnell & Bobby Hinman, Instructors

Mr. Purnell has extensive background in firearms from a very young age to present, including military service. Tim is a certified instructor through the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association with many years experience instructing firearms classes as well as technical classes and seminars in industry.

Mr. Hinman is also a certified instructor with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association and has worked with firearms for many years. Mr. Hinman is a firearms verifier and analyst as part of his job in law enforcement.

Possession and Acquisition License Course for Canadian Firearms (PAL)

All required information including study books, demonstration firearms (disabled) and related ammunition and written and practical testing for the Canadian Firearms licensing program.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2025

INDUSTRY DAY

Emily Carpenter, Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Officer, Health Canada

Emily Carpenter is a Regional Pesticide Compliance and Enforcement Officer with Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program. Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP) is responsible for promoting, monitoring, and enforcing compliance with the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA). She works with all levels of the pesticide industry, from manufacturers to end-users, to promote safe pesticide practices and reduce the risk of pesticide misuse. Prior to joining the compliance team, she worked as a scientific evaluator with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and research assistant at the University of British Columbia School of Occupational & Environmental Health.

Pesticide Exposure and Risk in the Workplace

This presentation provides an overview of how Health Canada assesses occupational exposure to pesticides and the health risks. Emily will discuss ways Health Canada aims to reduce workplace exposure with specific requirements on pesticide labels including personal protective equipment (PPE), restricted entry intervals (REIs) and precautions. It will also highlight how factors such as gender and age may alter exposure and risk.

Bill Wilt, Free Wing Industries Ltd.

Bill has 40+ years of experience in the vegetation management industry and has been researching and developing IPM solutions for rough-terrain-complex-vegetation management. Field scale application equipment was developed. This has led to working with specialists in the National Research Council, the Centre for Research and Innovation, the University of Alberta Mechanical Engineering Department, and other specialized Industry consultants.

Overview of Selective Application Technology

This presentation will raise awareness of the emerging "Selective-Application" technology and the tremendous significance and influence that recent technological advances may exert on the entire industry.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2025

INDUSTRY DAY

Corey Lange, Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators Ltd.

Corey Lange, owner/operator of Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators, has been a professional aerial applicator for 18 years. He holds both commercial helicopter and fixed-wing pilot licences, as well as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer licence. Corey is a recognized spray calibration analyst in Alberta and active member of the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association and the National Agricultural Aviation Association. Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators operates 5 airplanes and 3 helicopters specializing in aerial application operations, including dry spreading and liquid spraying. Their main focus is agriculture aerial application, but they have extensive experience with forestry applications as well. Corey is also a training pilot, teaching aerial application in their 2 seat Air Tractor 504's and Bell 206 Helicopters, both in house and 3rd party. Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators was started in 1981 with Corey and his wife, Hope, buying the business in 2019.

Aerial Application: When and Where to Incorporate it into your Spray Program

In this session Corey will explain and describe the various aspects of aerial application. Both helicopters and airplanes will be discussed along with their similarities, differences, capabilities, pros and cons. There will be content on GPS guidance systems, auto-booms, precision mapping (GIS), data capabilities and recording, nozzle types and where they are utilized, various spray pump options, loading systems, flow control systems and other aerial related hardware and technology. We will dive into the science of droplet size and spectrum and how speed, boom pressure and nozzle design affects such. In this presentation we will examine coverage, water volume and efficacy. Weather conditions affecting spray operations will be analyzed as well.

Dr. Hayley Hessel, eiAdvantage

Hayley Hessel is co-founder of eiADVANTAGE, which provides coaching and training based on the foundation of emotional intelligence. She is an economist and Department Head of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan with extensive experience working with students across the Circumpolar North. Hayley is a Certified Master Trainer in Emotional Intelligence, with Multi Health Systems Inc., an alumnus of the Royal Roads University Executive Coaching program in Victoria, BC, Canada, and a Member of the International Coaching Federation. She was honoured to receive the Master Teacher Award at the University of Saskatchewan in 2017 and the Medal of Bravery from the Governor General of Canada.

Using Emotional Intelligence to Promote Conflict Resolution

Conflict is inevitable in human interactions, but emotional intelligence (EI) can be a powerful tool for managing and resolving disputes effectively. This presentation explores how EI—composed of self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills—enhances conflict resolution by fostering understanding, reducing emotional escalation, and promoting collaborative problem-solving. Effective conflict resolution begins with self-awareness and recognizing one's emotional triggers and biases. Self-regulation helps individuals manage their emotions and respond thoughtfully rather than reactively. Motivation plays a role in maintaining a constructive mindset and encouraging persistence in finding mutually beneficial solutions. Empathy is crucial in understanding others' perspectives, de-escalating tension, and building trust. Lastly, strong social skills—such as active listening, assertive communication, and negotiation—allow individuals to navigate conflicts with diplomacy and respect.

Dr. Rory Degenhardt, Corteva

Dr. Rory Degenhardt is the Integrated Field Sciences Leader for the Canada and US Northern Crops teams at Corteva Agriscience. Rory and his team are responsible for developing new crop protection technologies to meet the evolving needs of farmers and consumers. Rory grew up on a mixed grain and cattle farm in east-central Alberta and has always been passionate about agricultural science. He holds a BSc in Biological Sciences and an MSc in Plant Science from the University of Alberta, and a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from the University of Saskatchewan. Rory joined Corteva in 2008 as a field scientist, became the Cereal Herbicide Biology Team Leader for Canada in 2011, and assumed his current role in 2017. He has extensive e

Decoding Herbicide Modes of Action: Best Practices for Resistance Prevention

This presentation delves into the essential aspects of herbicides, their modes of action, and the implications for managing herbicide resistance. Herbicides are vital tools in modern agriculture, offering high efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and environmental benefits such as reduced soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions. The presentation covers the classification of herbicides based on their mode of action, including ACCase inhibitors, ALS inhibitors, synthetic auxins, and HPPD inhibitors, among others. It highlights the importance of understanding these modes of action to effectively manage resistance.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

INDUSTRY DAY

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2ND, 2025

Tanya Rushcall, AB Environment & Protected Areas

Tanya Rushcall, is a local Albertan with a B.Sc. in biology from the University of Alberta and a background in all things aquatic. Tanya has been with the Government of Alberta for 15 years, first working in fisheries management and aquatic invasive species management. Tanya is a certified pesticide applicator in fish and aquatic invertebrates and aquatic vegetation. Her interest in pest management led her to her current role as the Provincial Pesticide Approvals and Registration Specialist.

A Closer Look at Important Regulatory Updates

This session will cover Alberta's Environment and Protected Areas recent updates to the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides and changes to regulatory reporting. This presentation will also highlight updates on water monitoring and enforcement activities.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

Katherine Altman, Emergency Management Officer, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Katherine first became involved in emergency management as part of the southern Alberta 2013 flood response and recovery. Her experience working as an advocate with and for indigenous communities in their pursuits of self-determination coupled with spending her childhood on a community pasture in Alberta's peace country created a great foundation for working with distinct and remote communities. Since then Katherine transitioned into working full time in the emergency management field with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.

Livestock Emergency Response Planning

Emergency preparedness for farming and ranching operations is becoming more important as natural disasters appear to be more frequent and more complex. Developing a Livestock Emergency Response Plan clarifies what support, if any, the municipality will do during an emergency response and what livestock producers/ rate payers need to manage to ensure their animals are taken care of.

Grant Gaumont, Tenfold Solutions

Grant brings grounded, hands-on experience supporting organizations with short-term hiring, fieldwork operations, and performance support. He connects easily with frontline leaders and delivers ideas in a way that feels relatable and immediately useful.

Engage and Retain: Practical HR Strategies for Your Summer Workforce

This session is designed for Fieldmen and municipal leaders who manage short-term and seasonal staff. Presented to a large audience of approximately 150 attendees, the speaker will deliver a PowerPoint-based presentation that includes practical, actionable takeaways. Drawing on Tenfold HR Solutions' experience with employers across Alberta, the session will focus on effective strategies for engaging and retaining summer workers — particularly student employees — with time for Q&A at the end.

Karen Wickerson, AB Ag & Irrigation

Karen Wickerson has worked for the Government of Alberta for fourteen years, eight years as a post mortem technologist and six years as the Rat and Pest Specialist.

Update on 1080 Requirements & Reporting

The Government of Alberta is required to develop a Product Stewardship Program to maintain the registration for Compound 1080. This session will provide an outline of the program.

Warren Noga, Manager of Policy and Advocacy, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

1. Warren Noga is RMA's Manager of Policy and Research, leading a team that undertakes research and advocacy on a wide range of issues impacting rural municipalities and rural communities more broadly. Since starting at RMA in 2019, Warren has filled a number of roles within the Policy and Advocacy team, which has led to a strong understanding of how important and complex Alberta's rural municipalities are. Warren has a master's degree in agricultural economics and public administration. Outside of work, Warren enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

Strategies for Effective Resolution Development

Resolutions are a core component of member direction in advocacy. This presentation will provide an overview of the role resolutions play in advocacy, the process by which an idea can be effectively developed into a resolution, common attributes of effective resolutions, and strategies for ensuring resolutions have a clear intent, are attainable, and will resonate with government.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

Mary-Ann Kirkby, The Polka Dot Press

Mary-Ann Kirkby grew up at the Fairholme Hutterite Colony in Manitoba. She is a former television journalist whose ground-breaking memoir *I Am Hutterite* was an instant national best-seller, winning major awards in Canada and the U.S. Her follow up book, *Secrets of a Hutterite Kitchen* won the Gold Medal at the Taste Canada in Toronto and was a #1 Globe and Mail best seller. Kirkby has won major awards for her contribution to creating a better understanding between Hutterites and non-Hutterites through her books, blogs and speaking engagements."

Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Hutterites, But Were Too Afraid To Ask.

Alberta is home to the highest concentration of Hutterites in the world, yet, there is no other culture in the Canadian prairies that so many know so little about. Through her award-winning presentations, best-selling Hutterite author, Mary-Ann Kirkby provides insights and answers to questions you've always had about Hutterites but were too afraid to ask. People have lived around Hutterites all their lives but have almost no understanding of how and why they live the way they do. That's because Hutterites, contrary to most other cultures, do not share their story. This has caused misperceptions and misunderstandings to thrive.

Kirkby is the missing link between agencies seeking a better and more profitable relationship between Hutterites and outside world. Through candor and humour Kirkby unravels Hutterite history, hierarchy, and traditions that have made Hutterites an agricultural powerhouse in Western Canada and the U.S. A presentation not to be missed!

Jill Longacre, Agriculture Programs Supervisor, Clearwater County

Jill started her career in environmental monitoring, but agriculture has always been her true passion. She grew up on a commercial cow calf farm, was an active 4-H member and continues to be a huge advocate for agriculture. She is proud and very excited about her recent transition into the AAAF community!

Educational Agriculture Tour

Clearwater County, in partnership with the Rocky Agriculture Society and numerous donors, has been participating in E.A.T for over ten years. This incredible program allows every grade four student in Clearwater to take part in a highly interactive farm tour consisting of diverse local farms. These kids explore agriculture operations which include beef, dairy, equine, sheep, goat, poultry, swine, grains and crops. Our common goal is reducing the gap between urban and rural communities by positively influencing agriculture in youth.

Kristyn Lines, Manager, Agricultural & Environmental Services, Rockyview County

Kristyn manages the Agricultural and Environmental Services team at Rocky View County, where she has spent the past 11 years supporting sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. She led the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan, a strategic initiative to guide the future of agriculture in the County and is working with her team on implementation.

Rocky View County Agriculture Master Plan

This presentation will provide an overview of Rocky View County's 2025 Agriculture Master Plan, outlining its purpose, development process, and key objectives. It begins with a brief history of the original 2011 Agriculture Master Plan, highlighting its successes in promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting rural landowners, as well as the lessons learned through its implementation. These insights have shaped the direction and priorities of the 2025 AMP. The session will explore how Rocky View County has approached the development of the updated plan, including emerging agricultural trends, arising issues, and policy. Particular focus will be given to the County's engagement strategy—both internal and external—that guided the planning process. This includes collaboration with Council, the Agricultural Service Board, staff, producers, and industry stakeholders to ensure the plan reflects a shared vision for the future of agriculture in the County.

Dave MacTaggart, Strathcona County

Dave grew up on a small farm near Lacombe. He joined Strathcona County in 2024 after completing his university in Saskatchewan and working in agriculture research and finance. In his role, he leads the Agriculture Initiatives Team, developing agricultural strategy and extension programming to engage residents interested in agriculture.

Strategic Planning for Agriculture in Strathcona County: Where we've been and what we've learned

Strathcona County is continuing its strategic actions to support the agriculture industry with the development of its Agriculture Framework. This follows the Agriculture Master Plan (2015) which led the way in Alberta's capital region for agriculture related strategy at the municipal level. Since 2015, progress has been made through the development and implementation of many strategies including Urban Agriculture (2016), Tourism (2020), supporting the development of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (2021), and Agriculture & Food Sector Development (2024). In 2024, the Agriculture Master Plan was recognized as substantially completed which provided an opportunity to reflect on the County's agricultural priorities and consider a future direction. It is critical that agriculture continues to be prioritized by County council and staff so that the sector can thrive. The new Agricultural Framework looks to accomplish this through its four priority areas which are governance, people, business, and production, which each include several outcomes and objectives. Considered together, the framework seeks to provide Strathcona County council and administration with a consistent guide for decision making, policy, and programs to support the agriculture industry.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

Lisa Stang, MD of Provost

Lisa Stang is the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman for the M.D. of Provost No. 52, who specializes in Vegetation Management and Reclamation. She's always been passionate about leaving the world better than we found it, which naturally drew her towards Reclamation. Lisa has an educational background in both Environmental Science and Agricultural Science and has worked at the M.D. of Provost for 8 years. Her connections recently provided the opportunity to teach a drone course at the University of Agriculture in San Ignacio, Belize. Outside of work, Lisa likes being outside (unless its cold) and learning new things. She is excited to be part of the AAAF and looks forward to sharing her knowledge about reclamation. You can connect with Lisa at LStang@mdprovost.ca.

Reclamation and the Key to Social License in Municipal Operations

Reclamation plays a critical role in fostering positive relationships with landowners and ensuring the continued success of municipal projects. When roads or infrastructure are built or repaired, the surrounding land is often impacted. Proper reclamation demonstrates respect for the landowners by restoring their property as closely as possible to its original state or better. This commitment to stewardship builds trust and goodwill, showing that the needs and concerns of landowners are valued. From a practical perspective, maintaining strong relationships with landowners ensures smoother collaboration and fewer disputes during future projects. Landowners are more likely to grant access or easements when they know their land will be responsibly managed and restored. Reclamation also supports environmental sustainability by preventing soil erosion, restoring vegetation, and protecting water resources. These efforts minimize the long-term impacts of construction, aligning with regulatory requirements and community expectations. In essence, reclamation is not just about repairing the land—it's about preserving partnerships. By prioritizing reclamation, we demonstrate accountability, build trust, and lay the foundation for continued cooperation, enabling us to carry out essential projects that benefit the broader community.

Stephen Tannas, Tannas Conservation Services Ltd.

Stephen is the owner of Tannas Conservation Services and a senior restoration ecologist and vegetation ecologist. Steven was born and raised in the world of plants and followed in his parents footsteps, becoming a vegetation specialist and ecologist. He has a particular passion for native species, their importance and their potential for restoration, and understanding their roll in ecosystem function. He's been identifying, assessing and propagating native plants for nearly three decades. Steven actively works within the agricultural sector and environmental sectors across western Canada and is currently updating his family Plant Identification Texts "Common Plants of the Western Rangelands".

Grass ID Theory & Practical

This presentation is a focused workshop that will be interactive. There will be plant samples present and each person will get the chance to actively work with keying plants of specific groups such as grasses, flowers (weeds included) and shrubs. The workshop will review some of the best resources available for plant identification along with methods to make plant identification more effective.

Amanda Jorgensen, Insect Management Specialist, AGI

Amanda Jorgensen joined Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation as the province's insect management specialist after working in insect surveillance and research for 13 years with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Beaverlodge. After receiving a B.Sc. from Thompson Rivers University in 2015, Amanda completed a M.Sc. focusing on wheat midge monitoring and biology in the Peace River region in 2019. As an AAFC research technician, Amanda worked on a wide range of insect pests and beneficials in annual and perennial crops in the Peace River Region. Now, they are excited to share their entomology fieldwork and identification expertise in a hands-on, collaborative way.

Sweep Calm and Carry on: Insect Monitoring Tips and More

Amanda Jorgensen, the new provincial entomologist, will demonstrate entomology tips and tricks to make monitoring and identifying insect pests easier. Amanda will also go over a summary of the 2025 field season and outlook for 2026.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

Kelly Turkington, Research Scientist, Lacombe Research & Development Center AAFC

Kelly was born in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, but was raised mainly in Saskatoon, while he spent most of his summers on his father's small grain farm near St. Brieux, Saskatchewan. Kelly's graduate work at the University of Saskatchewan focused on the epidemiology of sclerotinia stem rot of canola and the potential of using petal testing as an indicator of disease risk and fungicide need. Currently, Kelly is a plant pathologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lacombe Research and Development Centre (AAFC) and has been in this position since December of 1996. Kelly's main focus is on cereal diseases, especially those of barley and wheat, while he also works on canola as part of collaborative integrated crop and pest management studies with colleagues from across Canada. He has a passion for common sense plant pathology research and technology transfer that provide outcomes that matter to farmers, the agricultural industry and society.

Fine-Tuning Cereal Disease Management Options in Our Crop Production Toolbox

Although we have good options for cereal leaf disease control, effective management of fusarium head blight (FHB) continues to be a challenge for Prairie producers. Although producers follow recommendations to use an integrated approach, combining rotation, variety choice and fungicide application, significant issues related to downgrading, end use market acceptability and mycotoxin contamination of harvested grain still occur. One factor that may be related to poor FHB and deoxynivalenol (DON) suppression is fungicide timing. Current label application windows for cereals start too early and may compromise disease management. The target for a FHB fungicide application are cereal heads themselves and thus coverage should focus on fully emerged heads. However, there are concerns that delayed fungicide timings may compromise efficacy. Kelly's presentation will focus on when FHB infections occur and how this relates to getting the most out of your fungicide application for FHB and DON suppression. In addition, he will discuss the current FHB situation in Alberta and how management options may vary depending on region, and will also talk about integration of cereal leaf disease and FHB control strategies.

Roland Krusi, Assistant Agriculture Manager Red Deer County

Roland Krusi started with Red Deer County in 2007. He started as a sprayer and has several roles on the way to be the Assistant Ag Manager.

Red Deer County Fenceline Program

A summary of the Red Deer County fenceline program. Originally the program had a few signups for \$100 per half mile. Now its just under 300 sites with no charge. Will cover why the program was developed, how and why we changed it over the years, how we see this program changing in the future.

George Bloom, Wheatland County

George has been with Wheatland County for over 10 years, beginning his AAFC membership at Yellowhead County. His interest in trees was ensured during his time as a Forest Health Assistant for the GoA, before transitioning to the ASB world. Wheatland County has made significant progress in developing a practical and equitable program for its residents. At the demonstration sites, the health and viability of 30 different species will be monitored to assess their success.

Shelterbelt & Eco-buffer Demonstration Sites

Describe how the Shelterbelt Tree Funding Program and Demonstration Sites came in to being in Wheatland County. What can make or break projects - challenges, successes and future opportunities for the program.

Cassandra Chabot-Madlung, Project Manager, Municipal Utilities, County of Grande Prairie

Cassandra is a Project Manager at the County of Grande Prairie, currently in the Municipal Utilities division of Transportation & Utilities, formerly Public Works. I have worked with the County in varying roles since 2010, including summer positions, and full time positions after graduating from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science, Specialization in Geology. Since then, I have taken additional environmental, wetland, and water/stormwater management courses to assist with my current role where my focus is on water/wastewater, storm, environment, and wetlands.

Working with the Wetland Replacement Program as a Municipal Partner

Presenting on The County of Grande Prairie's partnership with EPA's Wetland Replacement Program. Looking at how it all started to where we are at today, past projects, recent changes, and helpful tips for successful projects.



IN-SERVICE TRAINING PRESENTERS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3RD, 2025

Fieldman Panel: Working with Alberta Transportation

Todd Green, County of Newell

Small town Manitoba kid moved to Alberta for one year in 2004. Got stuck, and haven't looked back. Spent the majority of his working career at the County of Newell which just so happens to be the best County in Alberta.

Jorden Holst, M.D. of Taber

Jorden has spent most of his life in Southern Alberta. After graduation university, he was hired as the Assistant Ag Fieldman for the MD of Taber, and in 2023 took on the role of Manager of Ag Services/Ag Fieldman. Jorden enjoys spending time with his wife and four kids in the outdoors

Stephen Majek, County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

Stephen Majek has been an Agricultural Fieldman for over 30 years, starting in the County of Thorhild in 1995 then moving to the County of Wetaskiwin in 1999 where he became the Director of Agricultural Services. He has been involved in the AAAF serving as Secretary Treasurer from 2000 until January 2017.

Sheila Kaus, Manager of Agricultural Services, M.D. of Greenview

Sheila is the Manager of Agricultural Services for the MD of Greenview and a self-described nerd. She's hoping she doesn't put everyone asleep.

Weed Notices – Walk Softly, Carry a Big Stick

While ensuring that the Weed Control Act and Regulation is complied with in our various municipalities, we all employ different approaches, tactics and navigate different political realities. Take a walk on the wild side and learn how Greenview has successfully employed an unconventional series of tactics to achieve high rates of compliance.

Jennifer Benson, Agricultural Services Supervisor, Yellowhead County

Jen has had a long vibrant career working in municipal government.

Uninvited guests: Managing Invasive species in Yellowhead County

Over view of Yellowhead Counties Weed Inspection program

Jennifer Keable, The New You Mindset & Life Coaching Corp.

Jennifer Keable is a powerhouse in burnout prevention, professional effectiveness, and workplace well being. As a transformational speaker, workshop facilitator, and coach, she helps high performing professionals - especially Yes Women and the organizational teams that rely on them - break free from burnout, reclaim their time, and lead with fulfillment - without guilt or compromise. With a BA in Psychology and firsthand experience as a two time burnout survivor, Jennifer brings both science backed strategies and real world insights to her work. Over the past four years, she has helped 90% of her clients achieve job promotions, greater work-life balance, and life changing health improvements.

Burn Bright, Not Out: 3 Steps to Ditch Burnout for Good

This high-impact session is designed for agricultural professionals who are driven to succeed - but tired of running on empty. "Burn Bright, Not out" delivers a powerful blend of insight and practical strategy to help attendees recognize the warning signs of burnout before it's too late. Through an engaging and relatable approach, participants will identify which stage of the burnout cycle they're currently in and learn how to interrupt it early with a clear, personalized plan. Rooted in real world experience, this session introduces a proven 3-step system to break free from chronic stress and exhaustion. Attendees will walk away with simple but effective tools to restore energy, boost performance, and build a sustainable work-life rhythm - without compromising their passion or purpose. Whether you're leading a team or managing a demanding operation, this session offer the clarity and confidence to keep going without burning out.

Thank - YOU -

Thank you to everyone that make's In-Service Training possible! The NE Region of the AAAF extends their appreciation to the Delta South Conference Center for their hospitality and services, the knowledgeable presenters, generous sponsors and wonderful attendees for making this week a success!