



2019 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2018 (Tuesday)

William Glesby Centre, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Speaker and Panelists Profile

Hon. Ralph Eichler
Minister, Manitoba Agriculture

Manitoba Government updates and public trust.



Ralph Eichler was appointed Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba in 2016. He was first elected to Manitoba's Legislative Assembly in 2003 as the representative of Lakeside.

Prior to entering politics, Ralph was a purebred cattle producer, the former owner/operator of Prairie Farm and Ranch Supply, and owner of Ray's Auction Service. Aside from agriculture, Ralph has had lengthy careers in business, finance and education.

Ralph values honesty, integrity, compassion, and community. Ralph's vision as Minister, is to form strong working relationships, assist Manitoba's young farmers, to create a thriving rural economy, improve our infrastructure, and provide real tax relief to all Manitoba families.

Since assuming the role of Minister, one of Ralph's central mandates is targeting sustainable growth strategies in protein, livestock and agri-processing. In less than two years, Ralph has attracted over \$1 Billion dollars of private investment to Manitoba. Ralph and his wife Gail have two sons, a daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren.



**Dr. Karin Wittenberg, P.Ag.
Professor
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
University of Manitoba**

“Prairie Agriculture: Preparing for the Future”



Karin has a doctorate in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Manitoba, where she was previously Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Karin led an initiative that resulted in the establishment of the National Centre for Livestock and the Environment (NCLE) at the University of Manitoba. Completed in 2007, NCLE plays a major role in training and research related to the complex economic, social and environmental issues facing animal agriculture. Undergraduate and graduate students training in this program are highly sought by employers as a result of their field experience and ability to work on large, multi-disciplinary teams. The Centre’s mission is to further the economic and environmental sustainability of integrated livestock and crop production.

Karin also led the concept development, fundraising and construction of the Bruce D Campbell Farm & Food Discovery Center which features interactive displays and programming to explain the role of science in making food. To date, more than 15,000 visitors have come to the Centre to participate in activities that help them understand current food production in Canada.

Karin’s work as a university academic and professional agrologist reflects the continuing need to improve economic competitiveness and to address key issues facing animal agriculture. She provided keynote address entitled “Moving toward Prairie Agriculture 2050” at the 10th annual Alberta Institute of Agrologists, based on a green paper that considered adaptation and resiliency of Western Canadian food production in light of a changing climate. Karin has been recognized for her contributions by the Canadian Society of Animal Science Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science in 2004, the YMCA Woman of the Year in Science and Innovation in 2008, the Education award from Manitoba Pork Council in 2009, and a Canadian Society of Animal Science fellowship award in 2013.

Karin’s research has focused on the plant and animal interface with more than 200 publications. This includes technology development to improve harvest and storage of forages as hay and silage; the study of animal energetics in grazing systems and application of novel technologies to allow us to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from cattle in commercial production systems.



Dr. Brian Amiro, P. Ag.
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
University of Manitoba

“Prairie Agriculture: Preparing for the Future”



Brian is an expert in micrometeorology and ecology especially related to the dynamic exchange of mass and energy between the atmosphere and land surfaces. His focus has been on measurements of these exchanges but have also used mathematical models to estimate transfer.

His career has taken him through fantastic opportunities with:

- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited as an Environmental Scientist working on the environmental consequences of disposal of nuclear waste, emergency response in the event of a nuclear accident, and the effects of radiation on the natural environment;
- The University of Hawaii as a professor and researching the environment of tropical shade houses;
- The Canadian Forest Service (Natural Resources Canada) as a research scientist working on forest fires and fire ecology, and the role of fire in carbon exchange and climate change; and
- Professor in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba where he focuses on research and graduate and undergraduate education.

Along the way, he has contributed to several professional activities, such as President of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Meteorology, Chair of the American Meteorological Society Standing Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, and President of the Manitoba Soil Science Society. Brian has also been Regional Editor for the journal Agricultural and Forest Meteorology and on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity, the Forestry Chronicle, the International Journal of Wildland Fire, and Agricultural and Forest Meteorology. He has been elected Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology.

Session 3, Three-Person Panel

“Trust Issues in Agriculture”: Issues on the minds of Manitobans and Canadians will be identified and discussed from panelists representing food/nutrition; primary production–animal production; and, environment sectors.

Panelists:

Food and Nutrition Sector

Issue(s) will be selected and presented based on information and data collected by The Centre for Food Integrity.

Myrna Grahn, PHEc
Assistant Operations Manager, Glenlea
Research Station and Instructor with the
School of Agriculture’s Diploma
University of Manitoba



Myrna hails from a grain and cattle farm near Riding Mountain, Manitoba and is an alumna of the University of Manitoba. Myrna has a degree in Human Ecology and a minor in Commerce in Marketing.

Most recently, Myrna was the National Manager for the Canadian Public Trust Steering Committee, a pan Canadian Hub that provides governance, structure and guidance to the Canadian Food System Public Trust initiative.

Prior to working at the University of Manitoba, Myrna spent 17 years with the Province of Manitoba in the Department of Agriculture. During her time with Manitoba Agriculture, she held a variety of positions including Functional Food and Nutraceutical Specialist, Business Development Specialist, Value Chain Management Specialist, Home Economist and 4-H and Youth Specialist.

Myrna has worked in the private sector doing marketing and advertising with Dairy World Foods. She has extensive experience in business and customer service having owned several businesses including a photography business since 1992 and a Sears Dealer store for four years.

Myrna is a professional home economist with over 30 years’ experience working in the agriculture and food industry in areas such as extension, ag awareness, industry relations, and others. She is passionate about making a difference in the lives of others and promoting local, healthy food and the facts about where your food comes from!

After living in five different rural communities, Myrna now lives in Winnipeg with her family. She is the parent of two teenagers and thoroughly enjoys being a Hockey Mom and Dance Mom and avid volunteer.

Food Production (Animals) Sector

Exploring issues concerning the impact of animal production on human health, the environment and the economy.

**Dr. Kim Ominski, P.Ag.
Professor and Associate Head
Department of Animal Science
University of Manitoba**



Kim is a professor and associate head in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Manitoba. Through the National Center for Livestock Environment, Kim has established a research program improving the productivity and sustainability of beef cattle production in Western Canada. This work includes identification of greenhouse gas mitigation strategies conducted in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of researchers from across Canada. This research program currently holds close to \$3 million dollars of research funding support from organizations including the Beef Cattle Research Council, Manitoba Beef Producers, as well as the provincial and federal governments. These efforts have resulted in 35 published papers in the last six years. Kim has trained more than 50 research personnel and also considers herself fortunate to teach in the both degree and diploma students at the University of Manitoba.



Environmental Protection and Management (Oil and Gas) Sector

How is the public impacted by this/these important extraction industry issues, and protected at the same time?

**Jill Caldwell, B.S.A., P.Ag., E.P.
Remediation Manager
Good Lands Environmental Inc.**



Jill is the co-owner of Good Lands Environmental Inc. where she currently acts as the Remediation Program Manager. She grew up on a small dairy farm in southwest Manitoba before obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 2002. Following a term as a research assistant with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Jill returned home where she has been involved with the oil and gas industry since 2003 as an environmental professional. She has worked extensively with oil and gas production companies, landowners, regulators and colleagues to remediate and reclaim lands impacted by oil and gas production, ensuring that they are returned to their previous agricultural capability. She has been a member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists for more than ten years (minus a short stint with the Alberta Institute) and has been a Canadian Certified Environmental Practitioner since 2006. She is a lover of red wine and currently lives near Pierson (where red wine varieties are limited) with her husband and two kids.



Allan Dawson, Manitoba Cooperator journalist will facilitate the question and answer and discussion periods.

Allan has been reporting on agriculture 39 years, most of it with the Manitoba Co-operator.

He was one of the owners of Farmers' Independent Weekly, which operated from 2002 until merging with the Co-operator in 2007.

Allan has written for a number of publications including the Winnipeg Free Press, Country Guide, Grainews, Alberta Farmer Express and Reuters.

His assignments have taken him across Manitoba, Canada, the United States and overseas.

He has been lucky enough to win a few writing awards.

Raised in Altamont where his parents ran the general store and a small farm, Allan and his wife Joyce have lived near Miami, Man., since 1980.

They have two daughters, three grandchildren and another one due in May.



Allan Dawson
Reporter
Manitoba Co-operator