

IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE :

CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR THE CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

Sixth Annual Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference

JANUARY 20-22, 2016 • CHÂTEAU LAURIER • OTTAWA

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, January 20

13:00-16:00 **Agriculture in Canada: A Discussion**
(Organized by Statistics Canada)

This half-day event is part of [Talking Stats: A discussion series with StatCan](#) being held across Canada in 2015-2016. Wayne R. Smith, Chief Statistician of Canada will be hosting this event on the topic of agriculture. Mr. Smith's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with experts and audience questions.

18:00-20:00 **Welcome Reception and Packet Pick-up**

Thursday, January 21

7:45-8:45 **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:45-9:00 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Maurice Doyon, Laval University, CAES Past-President

9:00-10:15 **Keynote Session 1 : The Future of the WTO and Regional Trade Agreements**
(Sponsored by the Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy)

Given the multiplication of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and the failure of the Doha Round, what is the future of the WTO. In light of the most recent development, the implication of regional trade agreement on the U.S. and Canadian agri-food sector will also be discussed at the aggregate level.

Chair: Alan Ker, University of Guelph, CAES President-Elect

Speaker: Joe Glauber, Retired Chief Economist at the USDA and current Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute

10:15-10:45 **Networking Break**

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10:45-11:55

**Keynote Session 2: Canada's Evolving International Trade Landscape –
What Should Canada's Agri-food Sector Expect?**

Canada has a number of major new Trade agreements in process. By 2020 if all of these negotiations are successfully completed and ratified the new markets that will be opened are one and a half times the size of the NAFTA market by value and five times its population. The presentation will examine the agricultural implication of the public know parts of these agreements and speculate on what the yet to be finished TransPacific Partnership.

Chair: Derek Brewin, University of Manitoba, CAES President

Speaker: Bill Kerr, University of Saskatchewan

11:55-12:00

A Word From the Agricultural Institute of Canada

Serge Buy, Chief Executive Officer

12:00-13:15

Lunch

13:15-15:00

Session 1: Farm Revenues Insurance: Is there a greater role for the private sector?

Historically, farm revenue insurance programs have been mostly backed by governments. However, following scales back of the government AgriStability, some growers are contracting private insurance. Are does private program for the few or will they play a greater role in the future?

Chair: Maurice Doyon, Laval University, CAES Past-President

Speakers:

Grant Kosior, Global Ag Risk Solutions

Kevin Hursh, CEO of Hursh Consulting & Communications

Barry Barnett, Mississippi State University

15:00-15:30

Networking Break

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15:30-16:30 **Session 2 : Mind the Gap: Future Sector Viability & Success Requires Focused Attention on Labour Issues** *(Sponsored by CanFax Research Services)*

In the midst of all this change, the Canadian agri-food sector will be pressured to take advantage of export opportunities while managing increasing competition on its domestic market. Will the sector be able to have access to quality human resources and sufficient numbers as well as a good access to foreign workers?

Introduced by: Brenna Grant, *CanFax Research Services*

Speaker: Portia MacDonald-Dewhirst, Executive Director, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council

16:30-17:00 **Wrap up of Day 1 Sessions**

17:00-19:00 **Wine & Cheese and Poster Competition**
(Sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Canada)

Friday, January 22

7:45-8:45 **Continental Breakfast**

8:45-10:30 **Session 3 : Capturing the New Value Added Opportunities**
(Sponsored by the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute)

With a changing landscape new value added opportunities are emerging. What kind of policies do we need to facilitate the capture of these opportunities?

Chair: David McInnes, CAPI

Speakers:

JoAnne Buth, Canadian International Grains Institute

Jill Hobbs, University of Saskatchewan

Guy Seguin, Dairy Farmers of Canada

10:30-11:00 **Networking Break**

11:00-11:15 **Presentations of Poster Finalists** *(3 min each)*

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11:15-12:15

Keynote Session 3: Whither value added? Can we attain coherence between public policy and private strategies in the new food economy?

(Sponsored by La Coop fédérée)

Dynamism in the contemporary agri-food system has led to emergence of nimble entrepreneurs eager to take swift action on value-added opportunities. At the same time, a traditional commodity based approach to agricultural production and marketing continues. Coexistence of the value-added and commodity perspectives can pose challenges insofar as design of policies and institutions that facilitate timely action on emerging opportunities is concerned. One size does not fit all. This talk will frame this issue in the context of public policies and private strategies, and relate these challenges to where to place a value-added perspective within the broader context of Canada's agri-food policies.

Introduced by: Gaétan Desroches, CEO, La Coop fédérée

Speaker: John Cranfield, University of Guelph

12:15-12:30

Closing Comments and Announcement of Contest Winners

Derek Brewin, University of Manitoba, CAES President