



CFGA conference speakers to discuss carbon policy

Forages and carbon policy in Canada will take centre stage Wednesday, Nov. 15 during the CFGA's 8th Annual Conference in Guelph, Ont.

Karen Haugen-Kozyra with Viresco Solutions will speak on the topic first when she presents The Role of Forages in Environmental and Carbon Policy. Then Lara Ellis with ALUS Canada will present Canadian Grasslands and EG&S Programs: Valuation and Markets. Drew Black with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will wrap up the subject with his presentation Carbon Policy and Carbon Offset Trading Systems.

Other speakers will focus on soil and animal health, profitable forage systems and forage export development during their presentations. All fit well with the conference's overall theme of Next Generation Forage Cropping Systems: Profit Above, Wealth Below, which recognizes the important role forage and grasslands play in providing both economic and environmental benefits to Canadians from coast to coast.

"With a direct economic value of \$5.09 billion and over 70 million acres in production, forage is the largest land use sector in Canadian agriculture and is the backbone of Canada's ruminant industry," says CFGA executive director Cedric MacLeod. "Perennial forage crops contribute significant carbon sequestration benefits to Canadian society and the CFGA is currently involved in work to quantify the volume and value of this extensive environmental resource through the Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Program."

Conference highlights

The conference begins with an optional pre-conference tour on Tuesday, Nov. 14 which will feature Creek Edge Farms, a modern dairy facility using robotic technology; Marhaven Agri Inc. with state-of-the-art hay drying equipment; Horst Welding, an equipment manufacturer that builds bale spears, buckets, farm wagons, snow blades and more; and the University of Guelph's Elora Research Station's beef and dairy facilities.

As well as the speakers on forages and carbon policy, the conference will include an exhibition of businesses and organizations that provide products or services to forage producers and grassland managers, or represent a conservation or land stewardship-based organization concerned with the continued loss of Canada's grasslands as well as virtual farm tours that feature innovative producers across the country.

A highlight of the conference is the CFGA awards luncheon on Nov. 16 when the CFGA presents the New Holland-sponsored CFGA Leadership Award. This award recognizes an

individual, group or organization that exemplifies or enhances the goals of the CFGA and whose leadership in the forage and grassland sector has impact of national and/or international significance.

"From the excellent pre-conference tour of Ontario forage projects to showcase regional initiatives to the local, national and international speakers who will give presentations during the conference, the Ontario organizing committee has set up a conference that will give all conference attendees an opportunity to bring ideas back to their own farms whether they are in Ontario or elsewhere in the country," says MacLeod.

More info

For more information, or to register, visit the conference website.
<http://canadianfga.ca/conference>