

2022 Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship Recipients:

DAN COLCUC



Dan Colcuc is a MSc Candidate in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. His MSc thesis is looking at managing novel forage cover crops to enhance nitrogen credits and subsequent

corn yield. By completing this research, he hopes to incentive to farmers to plant more cover crops in Ontario, hence increasing the sustainability of Ontario agriculture.

Growing up on a fruit and cash crop farm in Woodstock On, Dan has been involved in the agriculture industry since early childhood. This natural interest led him to the University of Guelph, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2021. Throughout these years, he worked within a variety of agricultural sectors including primary agriculture, retail as well as research. It was during his last two summers of his undergraduate degree where he developed a passion for research, which led him to pursue a MSc degree. As sustainability is one of the primary foci on his family farm, it is no surprise he chose this area of research.

In the future, Dan would like to continue to pursue his research interests in soil health and sustainability. At the same time, he would like to stay involved in his family farm and continue to implement the knowledge gained through his research on his own farm.

PAIGE KENNEDY



Paige Kennedy is a Master's student at the University of Saskatchewan and a scholar in the CREATE – Climate Smart Soils program that works to address climate change through a soil science lens. Paige's

current research evaluates the potential impacts that cover crops have on soil health in the Canadian Prairies, primarily through analyzing the presence, abundance, and shifts in soil microbial communities.

Originally from rural Ontario, Paige's passion for agriculture and soil science started young and was piqued through on-farm soybean inoculant trials. While obtaining her BSc. in Agriculture, Paige held numerous volunteer and research positions and helped provide resources to subsistence farmers in Latin America, South and East Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East.

Paige supplemented her MSc studies with agronomy training specific to Western Canada by completing a certificate in agronomy from Olds College.

Paige plans to stay in Western Canada when she finishes her degree and hopes to pursue an industry career in agronomic research or agricultural extension work, while farming with her partner.