

CFFAE | FCEAA

Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education
La fondation canadienne pour l'éducation alimentaire et Agricole



Younyoung Lee was the 2022 Ivarson Agriculture PhD scholarship recipient. She is a PhD student in plant biology at the University of Calgary whose research focuses on developing drought tolerance wheat through a plant physiology perspective, ultimately improving wheat yield under the impact of climate change to enhance food security for everyone.

Younyoung was born in South Korea and after moving to Winnipeg, her interest in agriculture grew and she pursued studies in agriculture at the University of Manitoba where she obtained a BSc in plant biotechnology and MSc in plant sciences. During undergraduate studies, Younyoung worked as a research assistant in the wheat breeding laboratory assisting in plant pathology and plant breeding research with the overall goal of improving crop yield. During her master's degree, she served as a teaching assistant for Principles of Plant Improvement.

Younyoung has been actively involved in different communities in various roles. She was a Department of Plant Science council representative and a social director of the Plant Science Graduate Student Association at the University of Manitoba. She volunteered as a representative of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the open houses hosted by the Association of Korean Canadian Scientists and Engineers (AKCSE) and served as a president of AKCSE's Manitoba Young Professional chapter. She had mentored high school students and undergraduate students who were interested in agriculture program.

Younyoung's goals are to advance basic knowledge in plant science and agriculture and contribute to world food security by improving agricultural production. Ultimately, she wants to contribute to basic discovery research to solve problems for Canadian farmers.



Natalie LaForest was the 2022 Ivarson Agriculture MSc scholarship recipient. During her Master of Science in the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta, her research investigates the suppression component of integrated pest management through

conservation biological control. Using molecular methods, she hopes to determine what species of insect pests and weed seeds are being consumed by ground beetles in field crops grown in Alberta.

Raised in Drayton Valley, Alberta, Natalie also attended Lakeland College for a diploma in Ecology and the University of Saskatchewan for a degree in Agricultural Science, where she was involved in student groups such as the U of S Agriculture Students' Association, the Horticultural Club, as well as being a peer mentor through the school library. While attending the University of Alberta, Natalie is involved with the University's Multi-species Judging Club and WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science, and Technology). Outside school, Natalie volunteers with the Alberta Native Plants Council and the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

Natalie has worked with various producers and associations within Alberta's agricultural industry, including alfalfa leaf-cutter bees, bison, cattle, pork, canola breeding and production, hydroponics, as well as urban and rural local food production. Natalie hopes to help grow and diversify Alberta's agricultural sector, make it more sustainable and strives to increase collaboration between producers, industry, and government and educate society on the importance of agriculture while continuing to advocate for women in agriculture and support for Alberta's rural communities.