

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Canadian Foundation for Food
and Agricultural Education

Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education

2020 Annual Report

Contents

President's Message	p. 03
Mission and Purpose	p. 05
Board of Directors	p. 06
Honorary Patrons	p. 06
Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship	p. 07
Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship	p. 09
McRorie Memorial Scholarship	p. 10
Our Supporters	p. 11

President's Message



This has been a challenging year for the country as we all learned how to get work done while dealing with COVID-19. Despite the challenges, CFFAE continues to fulfill its mission. Our financial position remains strong, and our scholarships supported students at agricultural colleges and universities across the country. In 2020, we awarded \$33,500 in scholarships to the exceptional students who are profiled in the following pages. We also sponsored female students to attend the Women in Agriculture Conference through our student sponsorship fund.

Our programs are made possible through the generous legacy donations of Dr. Ivarson, funding from the Royal Bank and through individual donations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of all individual and corporate donors whose generosity provides vital assistance to our programs and operations.

2020 was not without its challenges. We had funding for two McRorie scholarships but only received one qualified applicant. The second scholarship will be awarded in 2021. Another challenge in 2020 was the loss of funding for the McRorie scholarship, as the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) changed their funding priorities. These challenges will serve as a catalyst to review our scholarship and funding strategies as well as finding better ways of reaching potential scholarship applicants.

Additionally, we faced a few operational challenges in 2020 as we transitioned between managers. Thank you to James Facette who served as our manager for most of 2020 and improved our procedures by setting up online document storage. Jim did not renew his contract for 2021 and Susan Oliver joined us as our new manager. Susan has already made improvements in our procedures and we are looking forward to her efficient management. Thanks also to Patti Proulx who is doing an excellent job as our treasurer and for being such a great help in bringing our new managers up to speed.

My fellow Board members all helped me adapt to these changing circumstances and I thank them for their continued support and dedication to CFFAE. **Ron Bolton** will be leaving the board this year. Ron joined the Board in 2018 and served as vice president and chair of the governance committee. His dedication and valuable insights made him a valued Board member and I thank him for his service. I also want to acknowledge the dedication of **Diane Duplessis** who chaired our Education and Scholarship Awards Committee. This committee, which reviews scholarship applications and recommends award recipients, is the heart of our Foundation. We welcomed three new Directors to our Board in 2020:

Bill Hardy, lives in the lower mainland of British Columbia. He is a highly qualified management professional in the retail, association, and environment horticulture industry. Bill has had many roles and responsibilities within the horticulture industry over the years and has always had an avid involvement in industry professional development, education, and certification.

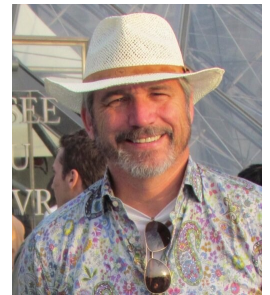


President's Message *Continued*

Greg Boland is a retired Professor Emeritus of Plant Health and Plant Pathology at the Ontario Agricultural College of the University of Guelph. He was active in both teaching and research programs for undergraduate and graduate students and, served as the Research Advisor for more than 50 graduate students from across Canada and other countries.



David Burton is a Soil Scientist and Professor in the Department of Plant, Food, and Environmental Sciences in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University. He teaches courses in Introductory Soil Science, Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management, Soil Microbiology and Air, Climate, and Climate Change. He has been working on the development of blended learning and on-line learning approaches.



The CFFAE Board of Directors is encouraged by the support we continue to receive from our Patrons and the public. On behalf of the Board, I wish all our retiring and incoming directors, committee chairs and staff, all the best for 2021.



Mission and Purpose

CFFAE's mission is to inspire knowledge and understanding of the importance of sustainable agriculture to society.

Our Purpose

To advance education by developing and supporting education programs in the agricultural sciences for Canada's agricultural community and the general public;

To advance education by developing and supporting scholarship programs to foster continued interest in the study of agricultural sciences by university students;

To promote excellence and efficiency in the Canadian agriculture and food sectors by supporting research on matters of importance to the agricultural community and the general public.



Board of Directors 2019-2020

President:

Mary Leggett, BSc, PhD, Saskatchewan

Vice President:

Ron Bolton, BSc, MSc, Ontario

Directors:

Greg J. Boland, BSc, MSc, PhD, Ontario

David Burton, Ph.D., P.Ag. Nova Scotia

Bill Hardy, British Columbia

Iris Meck, BSc, Alberta

Ginelle Pidwerbesky, BComm, Saskatchewan

Honorary Patrons

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Garth Coffin, PhD

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Robert Gordon, PhD

President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Windsor

Kim McConnell, BSc

Founder and former CEO, Adfarm; Member of the Order of Canada

Ed Tyrchniewicz, PhD

Senior Scholar, Department of Agribusiness, University of Manitoba

Hon. Lyle Vanclief, BSc

Minister of Agriculture, Canada, 1997-2003

Dr. Karl C Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship

In establishing this award, Dr. Ivarson wished to support students from his home province of Alberta in their pursuit of studies in agricultural sciences. The Ivarson Agricultural Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, areas of study, community involvement, career interests and letters of recommendation.

JESSICA SPERBER: 2020 PhD Scholarship Recipient



Jessica Sperber is a PhD student in ruminant nutrition under Dr. Galen Erickson and Dr. Andrea Watson at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jessica's PhD research focuses on beef cattle topics that incorporate production efficiency and sustainability. Her master's education in meat science provided a well-rounded understanding of the harvest procedure, feedyard-packer relations, and marketing techniques important for the fed cattle industry. Her current PhD position in ruminant nutrition has offered hands on experience in fed cattle nutrition, animal health, sustainability, feedlot soil and manure nutrient status, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Her dissertation research focuses on feedlot sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions, utilizing a wood-sourced biochar (a by-product of the forestry industry) and measuring its impact, when fed as a cattle feed additive in a grower and finisher diet, on enteric methane production. In addition, she is utilizing biochar as a feedlot soil amendment to improve manure nutrient capture of nitrogen and phosphorous, ultimately aiming to improve the economic value of manure and reduce ammonia volatilization to the environment.

Jessica's family owns and operates a fourth-generation commercial cow-calf and grain operation in central Alberta, and with her parent's assistance, she maintains a small herd of commercial cattle while pursuing her PhD. While in graduate school, Jessica's dedication to the Canadian agriculture industry has remained elevated. In 2016, Jessica was honored as a Cattlemen's Young Leader (CYL) through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and she now serves as a committee member for CYL selections. In 2019, Jessica was elected for a 2-year term as a member at large to the Young Cattlemen's Council (YCC) and assumed the role of Vice President in August 2020. Once she has attained her doctorate, Jessica plans to return to Alberta and pursue a career in the Canadian beef industry.

Dr. Karl C Ivarson

Agricultural Scholarship

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DAVID MACTAGGART: 2020 Masters Scholarship Recipient



David MacTaggart was the top graduating student in the entire College of Agriculture and Bioresources, at the University of Saskatchewan, winning the most prestigious undergraduate Gold Medal award. He is now a MSc student in Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan researching forage breeding and development.

The focus of his research is to develop drone-based tools to identify superior breeding populations of meadow brome grass and cicer milkvetch for stockpile grazing. Stockpiling is when pastures are grazed or cut for hay in the early summer and then left to grow until it is grazed a second time in the fall and winter. Through his research, David hopes to provide a strategy for forage breeders to increase genetic gain by decreasing the time needed to characterize breeding populations. In combination with improved pasture management practices, the release of these forage varieties aims to decrease winter feed costs and greenhouse gas emissions by minimizing the equipment hours and fertilizer needed to prepare winter feed for cattle.

David was born and raised in Alberta and was active in 4-H from the local to the provincial level. While a member and junior leader, he organized events such as the Lacombe 4-H County Fair to showcase food production in Central Alberta and how 4-H develops community minded youth. Since coming to Saskatchewan for university, David has enjoyed engaging students through roles like the Academic Vice-President of the Agriculture Students' Association. Here he planned the Farm to Fork Tour to introduce first year and international students to food production around Saskatoon. As a new Director of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, David is expanding his professional network to improve how information can be shared between private industry, farmers, and researchers in agriculture.

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Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was created in honour of past-president and agri-finance leader, Douglas McRorie, PAg, FAIC. Mr. McRorie served as the Vice-President of Agriculture for the Royal Bank and was a well-respected agricultural leader in Canada. This scholarship is made available through the support of the RBC Foundation and is awarded to agricultural post-graduates majoring in agricultural business, economics, finance or trade.

CHELSEA SUTHERLAND: 2020 Scholarship Recipient



Mrs. Chelsea Sutherland is a Masters student in Agricultural Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include the positive economic and environmental contributions of innovative agricultural technologies. She is currently involved in a large crop rotation survey of farmers in Saskatchewan which documents the changes in management and production practices that have occurred over the past 25 years.

The focus of the survey is on the positive environmental contributions, including improvements to soil and land quality, GHG emissions, and carbon sequestration, made through the adoption of sustainable on-farm practices. Results of the survey will help to inform government and consumers of the role agriculture has played, and continues to play, in helping to meet Canada's climate change goals.

Most recently she has worked as a research lab assistant in while pursuing her studies. She has published two research papers on Canadian consumer perceptions of the food and agricultural system. The goal of these projects was to identify ways to improve upon the present knowledge-gap between consumers and the agricultural industry, with the goal of building greater consumer trust in the food system.

In fall of 2019, she was elected as the M.Sc. Representative of the Executive of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Student Association. In this role, she act as the liaison between the M.Sc. students and the AREC faculty and attend faculty meetings on behalf of the M.Sc. students in our department.

Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Iverson created this scholarship to provide financial support to a student entering second or subsequent year of graduate studies in soil science (in areas of agriculture, agro-ecology, resource management, environment, geology or other related disciplines) at a recognized Canadian university.

JOANNE THIESSEN MARTENS : 2020 PhD Recipient



Ms. Joanne Thiessen Martens is a PhD student in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba. Her PhD research focuses on optimizing the use of struvite fertilizer as a phosphorus source in organic cropping systems.

Joanne is the president of the Soil Science Graduate Students' Association, a position that has given her an opportunity to connect with the diverse graduate student body and to be a liaison between professors and graduate students.

Joanne was previously employed as a part-time research technician in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba and held other short-term research associate positions with other organizations, where she gained many skills related to soil science. She has published six peer-reviewed research papers and review articles and was a co-author on an additional 11 journal articles and one scientific book chapter. She also designed and piloted novel nutrient management tools for organic farmers and agronomists, co-leading training events to equip organic farming practitioners to improve their soil fertility management skills.

Joanne chose to study agriculture for her undergraduate degree partly due to the potential to contribute knowledge and skills to rural development activities in developing countries. Not long after her 1999 graduation from Agroecology, she embarked on a three-year, full-time volunteer experience in rural Brazil (2000-2003), where she provided technical and organizational support to a small, newly formed association of organic fruit and vegetable farmers. She also served as a director on the board of the Manitoba Organic Alliance (2009-2017) which provided her with valuable insights into the commercial organic agriculture sector, and offered an opportunity to support the sector's local umbrella organization.

Thank You to Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of all individual and corporate donors in 2019-20.

Your donations provide vital assistance to our scholarship programs and operations.

Our individual donors in 2019-2020 include:

- Greg Boland
- David Chanasyk
- Garth Coffin
- Corrina Dawe
- Janice Elmhirst
- Graeme Greenlee
- Lynn Lashuk
- Mary Leggett
- W. Brian Little
- Donald Marquardt
- Mary Ruth McDonald
- Patti Proulx
- Frances Rodenburg
- Jean Sullivan

A heartfelt thank you to the RBC Foundation for their support of the Douglas McRorie Memorial Scholarship



Donations to the CFFAE Help Support a Strong Future for Canadian Agriculture

Donating to the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education supports professionalism in the agricultural and food sector in Canada.

The Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education is a registered charitable organization and all donations are tax creditable.

(Federal registration number 12193 4947 RR0001).

Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education

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