

## 2019 CFFAE Ivarson Agricultural Scholarships Awarded

**Kris Guenette** receives the \$17,000 scholarship for PhD students. He is pursuing his degree in Soil Science at the University of Alberta, where his research is aimed at improving cereal crop productivity while reducing its environmental footprint, ultimately providing producers with agronomic information on how to optimize inputs and reduce associated costs.



He is a teaching assistant and has been a guest lecturer for a course on Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Alberta, and is the Alberta Soil Science Workshop student representative. He participates in agriculture field days where he speaks to producers and industry personnel about his research and implementation of best management practices. Kris has also volunteered for the university's U-School, presenting hands-on learning about the importance of soil to elementary students.

He has previously worked at Corteva Agriscience as a research associate where he helped implement and manage their Alberta field research program. Kris' career objectives are to continue contributing to his family farm and to work in the agricultural industry researching agronomic practices that can help improve crop yield, reduce associated costs and mitigate the environmental footprint of farming through novel crop, weed and soil management techniques.

**Nicole Zukiwsky** receives the \$10,000 scholarship for Masters students. She is majoring in Animal Science at the University of Alberta where her research focuses on the management and production of poultry using an automated precision feeding system to study behavior, feeding management and growth performance of broiler breeders and broiler chickens.



She volunteers with two university-based programs, U-School and Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association, to help elementary school children and adults learn about agriculture and animal science. She is a member of the Poultry Research Centre Student Club, serving as Vice President from 2016-19. Nicole has also volunteered as a student learning coach for an undergraduate poultry science course, including lab activities involving commercial farm tours, egg quality evaluation and incubating and hatching broiler chicks.

After graduation Nicole hopes to find a job in the Alberta poultry industry and longer term to pursue a teaching career focusing on animal agriculture, and to have her own backyard flock of chickens.

The Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship was established in 2013 from a bequest from Dr. Karl C. Ivarson who worked as a soil scientist for Agriculture Canada from 1956 to 1988.