

## Speakers and presentations on Thursday, January 17th:

**Matt Spangler**, University of Nebraska “Using Genomics to Improve Cattle; Now and in the Future”  
Matt Spangler grew up on a diversified crop and livestock farm in Kansas. He received degrees from Kansas State University (BS; 2001), Iowa State University (MS; 2003), and the University of Georgia (PhD; 2006) and is currently a Professor and Extension Beef Genetics Specialist at the University of Nebraska. He works as part of a team with colleagues at UNL and US MARC to improve genetic/genomic selection tools and methods.

**Nathan Spickler**, Spickler Ranch South, North Dakota “Genomics at Work on the Ranch”  
Nathan Spickler, along with his wife Emily and family, operates Spickler Ranch South, raising registered Angus cattle near Glenfield, ND. Nathan is a graduate of North Dakota State University, where he received his B.S. in Animal Science. Upon completing his degree, Nathan continued in the family seedstock business, hosting an annual production sale the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in May at their ranch, where they market yearling bulls and heifers. Spickler’s bulls and registered heifers all sell with genomic enhanced EPDs, and parent verification.

**Dr. Sylvain Charlebois**, Dalhousie University  
“The rise of the conscious carnivore? The good, the bad and the awfully ugly.”  
Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is a Professor in food distribution and policy in the Faculties of Management and Agriculture at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He is also the Interim Scientific Director of the Institute of Agri-food Analytics and the former Dean of the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University. Before joining Dalhousie, he was affiliated with the University of Guelph’s Arrell Food Institute, which he co-founded. While at the University of Guelph, he was also the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Business and Economics. Known as “The Food Professor”, his current research interest lies in the broad area of food distribution, security and safety. He has authored five books on global food systems and is one of the world's most cited scholars in food supply chain management, food value chains and traceability. He supports many organizations as a board member and is often asked to act as an advisor on food and agricultural policies across North America, and globally.

**Rick Burton**, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Province of Saskatchewan  
Rick became Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Agriculture, effective July 1, 2016. He has been with the Ministry for over 25 years in various positions that included Director for the Crop Development Branch and the Director of Policy Branch. Rick previously held the position of Policy ADM, since October of 2013, and Regulatory and Innovation ADM, from April 2008 to October 2013. He sits on the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors and the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership Board of Directors. Born in Kipling, Saskatchewan, where he was raised on the family farm, Rick has a BSA in Agriculture Economics from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Regina. Rick lives in Regina with his wife Anna and two sons, Hunter and Lane.

**Dr. Tim DelCurto**, Montana State University “Weaning Weight Ratio as a Measure of Efficiency”

Tim DelCurto is a Professor and Nancy Cameron Chair in Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University where his position is focused on sustainable beef production systems research. Prior to coming to Montana State University, DelCurto served as the Director and Program Head of the Eastern Oregon Agricultural & Natural Resource Program which included two range livestock research stations of Oregon State University. DelCurto was born and raised on a 4th generation cattle ranch in eastern Oregon and earned his BS (1984) and MS (1986) degrees from Oregon State University, and doctorate degree from Kansas State University (1989) in Ruminant Nutrition. His research is internationally recognized and focuses on beef cattle grazing behavior/management, and subsequent relationships to wildlife and vegetation diversity relative on both private and public rangelands.

**Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro**, University of Calgary “Improving Fibre Digestibility for Beef Cattle”

Dr. Ribeiro comes from a family of beef and dairy farmers in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. He obtained his Veterinary Medicine degree, and MSc. and Ph.D. in Animal Science (ruminant nutrition) from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Brazil. After the completion of his Ph.D. he worked as post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Tim McAllister at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Lethbridge Research and Development Centre. Currently, Dr. Ribeiro is an Assistant Professor of Production Animal Nutrition in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Ribeiro research interest is in ruminant animal production and nutrition. His research focus on uncovering nutritional strategies to improve animal health, performance, and profitability, while simultaneously lessening the environmental impact of beef cattle production. Dr. Ribeiro is interested in research focused on optimizing grain and forage processing technologies, consequently improving rumen health, feed efficiency, and beef cattle productivity. Other areas of interest are the development of nutritional strategies to reduce methane emissions in beef cattle, and alternatives to the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. Overall, his research goal is to identify nutritional practices to improve sustainability and productivity of forage-based and feedlot beef cattle production systems.

**Tim McAllister**, AAFC Lethbridge “Straw in Diets for Finishing Cattle”

Tim McAllister grew up on his parents’ cow/calf farm in Innisfail, AB. He obtained a B.Sc. (Agr) and M.Sc. from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and a Ph.D. (with distinction) in ruminant nutrition and microbiology from the University of Guelph, ON. He accepted an NSERC post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Calgary in 1991, and joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge, AB in 1992. Dr. McAllister has been a research scientist in Rumen Microbiology, Feed and Nutrition since 1997. His research focuses on strategies to improve livestock (beef) production, reduce its effects on the environment, and enhance on-farm food safety. Dr. McAllister’s research team comprises postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, technical staff and undergraduate summer and co-op students. Dr. McAllister is the author or co-author of over 400 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 50 reviews, as well as 630 abstracts and conference proceedings, and over 100 final reports for collaborative research projects.

**Dr. Greg Penner**, University of Saskatchewan “Corn and Barley for Feedlot Cattle”

Associate Professor and Centennial Enhancement Chair in Nutritional Physiology, Greg is currently Associate Professor and Centennial Enhancement Chair in Nutritional Physiology. He joined the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan in 2009 after obtaining his BSA (2004) and M.Sc. (2004) degrees from the same University, and his PhD from the University of

Alberta (2009). His research covers forage utilization, ruminant nutrition, and regulation gut function in cattle. He has developed two indwelling pH measurement systems that have been adopted by the research community worldwide. Dr. Penner has a well-funded research program supporting the training of two technicians, one post-doctoral fellow, and six graduate students. He has published over 95 peer-reviewed papers and provided over 60 invited presentations. Greg also participates as a committee member helping to organize numerous outreach activities including the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, the Western Canadian Feedlot Management School, and the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour.

***Dr. John McKinnon*** University of Saskatchewan “Impact of Fat Sources on Calf Growth”

Recently retired from the University of Saskatchewan after 32 years of service, John is currently a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Animal Science. Born in Russell, Manitoba, John graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1978 and worked as a cattle buyer for Canada Packers, Inc., in Manitoba (Winnipeg and Brandon) and Saskatchewan (North Battleford). Graduate studies were undertaken at the University of Saskatchewan (M.Sc. 1986 and Ph.D. 1992). During this time, he also worked as a Beef Specialist for Manitoba Agriculture and later as a Research Associate at the University of Saskatchewan in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science. Upon receiving his Ph.D., he was appointed the Beef Industry Chair at the University of Saskatchewan, a position which he held for 26 years. His interests included extension, research and teaching activities. Extension activities revolved around industry development particularly the feeding sector and with producer groups as well as with individual ranchers / feeders. He was involved in organizing the Western Canada Feedlot School as well as the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference. For the last 8 years, he has written a monthly column on beef cattle nutrition for the Canadian Cattleman’s Magazine. Today Dr. McKinnon operates a nutrition consulting business working with cow/calf operations, feedlots and industry clients.

***Bree Kelln***, University of Saskatchewan “Effective Use of Cicer and Sainfoin”

Bree and her husband Greg Hill ranch near Duval, Saskatchewan. Bree is currently in the final year of her PhD program at the University of Saskatchewan, where she is researching sod seeding non-bloat legumes to improve pasture productivity. Prior to starting her PhD, Bree worked in industry for 10 years, including working with Dupont Pioneer as Livestock Information Manager for Western Canada.

***Dr. Cheryl Waldner***, Western College of Veterinary Medicine “Antimicrobial Use in the Cow-Calf Sector”

A professor in Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Cheryl is part of the outbreak investigation unit and is actively involved in research examining factors affecting the productivity of cow-calf herds in Western Canada. She is particularly interested in antimicrobial use and resistance as well as the prevention and control of infectious diseases such as BVDV, vibrio, trichomoniasis, and neospora. She has also examined the effects of nutrition on reproductive performance in cow-calf herds. Dr. Waldner has more than 210 peer-reviewed publications. Cheryl and her husband own and operate a small commercial cow-calf herd west of Saskatoon

Speakers and presentations on Friday, January 18th:

**Deborah Wilson**, *Senior Vice-President BIXSCO.*

*“Canada – A World Leader in Sustainable Beef Production”*

Senior Vice President of BIXSCO Inc., which operates the Beef InfoXchange System (BIXS) in Canada, Deb’s role includes business development, data management system development, partnerships, pilot projects as well as marketing and communications. Deborah sits on the National Council for the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). She has served on both the National and Provincial Boards of the Canadian Agrimarketing Association, receiving their Honor Roll award in 2013, also receiving the President’s award for Glacier Media in 2014.

**Adelle Stewart** *Bridges Health* and **Kim Keller**, *Do More Agriculture Foundation*

*“Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture, a Fireside Chat”*

Director of Operations with Bridges Health, Saskatchewan’s largest locally-owned multi-disciplinary workplace wellness resource. Specializing in assisting organizations with early intervention initiatives, Bridges is dedicated to the health and wellness of employees in the workplace. In her current position, Adelle leads and participates in all aspects of business; including finance, marketing, business development, and is an operational improvement leader. She has strong business acumen and strength in developing and executing strategic planning. As Director, she is responsible for maintaining healthy and progressive relationships both internally and externally. Adelle a Certified Life and Business Coach and facilitates public speaking events as well as organizational and Executive training on Mental Health in the Workplace. Living on a small farm in Saskatchewan, Adelle works within the agriculture community as an Equine First Aid Instructor and runs a small equestrian boarding facility. With rural roots and a business career, she has a strong passion for mental health in agriculture.

Kim Keller farms with her parents and brother in Northeast Saskatchewan. Prior to that, in 2012, she cofounded an Ag Tech company called Farm at Hand. In 2015, Kim and her team began raising awareness about Mental Health in agriculture with the launch of t-shirt campaign supporting famers’ mental health and raising funds for the Farm Stress Line. In 2016, following the acquisition of Farm at Hand, she returned to the farm full-time and her work in mental health awareness in Ag continues today through The Do More Agriculture Foundation that promotes a focus on supporting resources for farmers and breaking the stigma.

**Dennis Laycraft**, *Executive Vice President*, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

Leading the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) and its various divisions, Dennis serves as a spokesperson for the beef cattle industry on trade, product safety, and animal disease issues. A senior policy analyst and lobbyist for the CCA, Dennis addresses issues at the national and international levels which impact Canada's beef cattle industry. He manages any legal actions that the CCA undertakes to defend Canada's beef cattle sector from trade actions or unfair trade practices and is a member of the industry technical advisory group on World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

**Dr. Reynold Bergen**, *Science Director*, **Beef Cattle Research Council**

Reynold has worked as a technician, research associate and post-doctoral fellow at the universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Guelph, and AAFC Lethbridge in areas ranging from live-animal carcass evaluation of beef cattle, cold-weather physiology of ruminants, genetics, and feeding behavior, in addition to work in technology transfer and extension with both government and private industry. Since

2010, Reynold has been the Science Director for the Beef Cattle Research Council. He explains the beef industry to researchers and explains research to beef producers.

**Ron Glaser**, Vice-President Corporate Affairs and Operations, Canada Beef. Ron Glaser, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Canada Beef

For over 20 years, Ron Glaser has been a communications professional specializing in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

In July 2011, he became VP, Corporate Affairs for the newly formed Canada Beef. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Beef Information Centre, and served as Communications Manager with the Alberta Beef Producers. Ron oversees consumer and stakeholder communications, media relations and public affairs. He is also a member of the Executive Leadership Team, which sets Canada Beef's direction and execution of the strategic and business plans.

Ron graduated from Mount Royal College in Calgary with a diploma in public relations.

**Timothy Caulfield**, author, professor and realist! Tim is an unrivalled communicator who debunks myths and assumptions about innovation in the health sector — from research on stem cells to diets to alternative medicine — for the benefit of the public and decision-makers. He is also a Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy, a professor in the Faculty of Law and the School of Public Health, and a Research Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta. Over the past several years, he has been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary research endeavours that have allowed him to publish over 350 articles and book chapters. His research focuses on topics like stem cells, genetics, research ethics, the public representations of science, and health policy issues. The recipient of numerous academic and writing awards, Professor Caulfield is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Trudeau Foundation, and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Professor Caulfield also writes frequently for the popular press on a range of health and science policy issues and is the author of two national bestsellers: *The Cure for Everything: Untangling the Twisted Messages about Health, Fitness and Happiness* (Penguin, 2012) and *Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything?: When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash* (Penguin, 2015). His most recent book is *The Vaccination Picture* (Penguin, 2017). He is also the host and co-producer of the hit documentary TV show, *A User's Guide to Cheating Death*, which has been shown in over 60 countries and is currently streaming on Netflix.