

Speaker Bios for CFGA Conference and AGM 2011

Biography – Ken Belcher

Dr. Ken Belcher is an Associate Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics and the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He holds an undergraduate degree in agriculture (B.S.A), and a Masters in natural resource management (M.N.R.M) both from the University of Manitoba, and received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Saskatchewan. His research program is in the area of environmental, resource and ecological economics and has primarily focused on the interactions between economic systems (primarily agricultural systems) and the environment. Recent research activities have examined environmental and agri-environmental policy, ecosystem services management and policy, natural capital, climate change and agricultural sustainability. He teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in the areas of environmental and natural resource policy, resource and ecological economics.

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Biography - Kevin Gilbert

Following high school Kevin pursued an accounting Diploma at a nearby college. However, farming has been his passion and he returned to the farm. In 2005, he purchased a hog farm and some cash crop land, some of which was alfalfa. Not being satisfied with the local market, Kevin started to explore the U.S. market. While down in Florida, Kevin noticed the beautiful hay being purchased from Western Canada. It was then that he decided to purchase hay land in Saskatchewan.

In 2008, he and his partner started shipping hay from Lestock, Saskatchewan into the U.S. market. Although every business has it growing pains, they have adapted to the changing markets. New markets and venues for alfalfa are always being presented. We are still in our early years of production, however, we see an unlimited potential for growth.

Kevin lives near Stratford, Ontario with his wife and two daughters.

Dan Jorsvick, Olds, Alberta

Dan, his brother and families, own and operate Jorsvick Farms Inc. in the parkland region of west, central Alberta, where our family has farmed for 5-generations. With our land situated at an elevation of 3,500 feet, we have a short growing season, luxurious rainfall and limited crop choice. We try to maximize land use on our 2,000 acres with a small beef herd to utilize downgraded crops, custom graze beef pairs on marginal land, raise barley specifically for feedlot customers, wheat for ethanol plants, canola for export or crush, oats for export and timothy hay for the long-fiber export market. As the cost of agricultural land escalated, we focused on quality and targeted marketing, rather than economies of scale.

Dan received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Calgary in 1979, and was privileged to participate in the TEPAP management program at Texas A & M during 1992-93. My interest in forage quality control and hay dryers, has introduced me to a fascinating group of innovators from across Canada, the US, Australia and parts of Europe. This research continues with our own hay dryer and the experience of colleagues using similar processes

Dave Kerr, Kerr Bros Livestock, Lashburn, SK.

Dave operates Kerr Bros Livestock with his wife Darlene, brother Harry and his wife Sharon at Lashburn in West Central Saskatchewan. In 2001 they switched from a mixed farm to a livestock operation. They were running about 300 cows and back grounding some calves and calving in Feb. and March. Over the next few years they increased our grassland and started putting our yearlings on grass and increasing our cow numbers. They have implemented various grazing and feeding options over the years including cell grazing, swath grazing, bale grazing, corn grazing, straw bunches, stockpiled grass etc. This year they will calve approx. 1000 cows in April, May, and June, custom feed a couple of hundred cows and back ground 700 calves. These calves will either be sold in March or grassed until September depending on grass and market conditions. Their goal is to minimize equipment and labour requirements and make the cattle do as much work as possible while still maintaining a high level of production.

Rollie Bernth, President/General Manager, Ward Rugh Inc., Ellensburg, Washington/Past President of the National Hay Association US

Rollie began working in the hay industry in January of 1978 after being in the clothing business (dept. store) and the electronics business (Motorola).

In 1978 he went to work for my father-in-law, Ward Rugh, who had started his business in 1934. At that time he didn't know a bale of hay from a block of ice. In the early 70's Ward had ventured into the export business by supplying some timothy hay to a couple of U.S. exporters that were shipping to Japan. Shortly after that, sales to Japan stopped due to Hessian fly issues. After three years of shipments to Japan being stopped, a fumigation protocol was approved between the U.S. and Japan. That's when Rollie became heavily involved in the timothy export business.

Since then Ward has seen our yearly volume of exports steadily rise. We now ship timothy, alfalfa and Sudan grass. Over 90% of their business is the result of exports. Japan remains our largest customer but in the last two years we had seen significant volume of alfalfa going to the U.A.E.

Rollie has been the Vice-President and now President/General manager of Ward Rugh, Inc. located in Ellensburg, Washington. He just finished his year term as President of the Nation Hay Association this past September.

Darren Chapman, Chapman Bros. Farms, Virden, Manitoba

Darren grew up on the family farm south of Virden, Manitoba, and has been involved in agriculture all his life. He received his Agriculture Diploma from the University of Manitoba in 1986. He farms with his brother Parry, cousin Rob and the latest addition, junior partner Jeff Elliott. Darren and his wife Laura have four daughters Andrea (15), Erin (14), Morgan (12) and MacKenzie (10). Darren enjoys playing hockey, big game hunting and following the girls in their school sports.

The Chapman's farm of 16,000 plus acres includes crops and livestock with over 2000 acres in forage production. Chapman's have a long history of producing and marketing quality forages for both domestic and export markets. In 2010 the Chapman Bros. Farms received the Red River Exhibition Farm Family Award. Darren is an active member of the Manitoba Forage Marketers group and the CFGA.

Ron Maynard, Dairy Producer, Tyne Valley, PEI Vice President, Dairy Farmers of Canada

Ron graduated from NSAC, in Truro, NS and McGill (McDonald) with a BSc(Agr). He spend 6 years with Ralston Purina in sales and sales management throughout Atlantic Canada. He returned to the family farm in 1982 and expanded from 25 milking cows to the present 150. He has been involved in countless Dairy boards and is currently president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. Ron lives with his wife Liz and they have three grown daughters.

Trent Whiting, SeCan Marketing Representative Alberta/British Columbia

Raised on a mixed grain and beef farm at Worsley in the Peace region of Alberta, Trent has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta and a Diploma in Agriculture Technology from Fairview College. He has worked in the seed industry since 1994 in a range of roles with Proven Seed/United Grain Growers/Agricore United, Brett Young and now as Marketing Representative for SeCan. Trent works with SeCan members and retailers in Alberta and British Columbia to increase sales of SeCan products. He provides technical support and coordinates local activities with SeCan's national communications strategy.

Trent has a passion for the seed business. He is an avid outdoorsman, skilled home handyman and enjoys sports of all kinds. He, his wife Janine and their two daughters, live on the family farm north of Lamont, Alberta.

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Brad Wildeman

Brad Wildeman is currently the President of Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd., a 28,500 head one-time capacity cattle finishing operation, a grain and grass farming operation, and a 13 million litre ethanol facility located in Lanigan, Saskatchewan. During his tenure, the company has grown from a 7500 head capacity feedlot with 12 employees with sales of \$12 million to a 28,500 head feedlot, a 12 million litre per year ethanol operation, 3000 acre grass operation with company revenues of in excess of \$60 million and 50 employees.

Brad is immediate past President of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. He has served as previously as Vice-President, Chairman of the Foreign Trade, CanFax, and the Value Creation and Competitiveness Committees. He chaired the newly formed committee of the Cattlemen Young Leaders program to facilitate young people involved in the cattle industry to experience leadership opportunities, meet industry leadership, and be trained in industry advocacy.

He is a member of the Federal Beef Roundtable, an advisory committee to the Canadian Minister of Agriculture. Brad has also been appointed co-chair of two national advisory groups; the Beef and Cattle Trade Advisory Group, a high level industry advisory group, and the Beef Cattle Market Access Advisory Committee, a multi-sectoral advisory group comprised of industry, provinces and federal officials to the Agricultural Market Access Secretariat.

Brad is the current Chairman of the newly created Canada Beef Inc. that has resulted from the merging of the Canada Beef Export Federation, the Beef Information Center, and the National Checkoff Agency into a single organization responsible for collecting checkoff and marketing and promoting Canadian beef products domestically and around the world.

He currently sits as an advisor to Sask Ag and Food reviewing the future of research investments and activities in livestock in the province; and as a member of the Enterprise Saskatchewan Agri-value Advisory Committee. Brad previously served as Chairman of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association, and chaired the Value-Added Committee of the Action Committee on the Rural Economy in Saskatchewan.

In recent years, Brad has received the Canada Governor General's Award for his contribution to Canadian agriculture; the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce "Agribusiness Leader of the Year" in 2002. In 2004 he was awarded the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association "Cattle Feeder of the Year" award. In 2005, he received an honorary life membership to the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. Also in 2005, he was awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal by the Province of Saskatchewan for his work to grow and diversify agriculture in his province. Brad was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in August of 2008.

Kerry LaForge, Manager of the Range and Forage Division, Agri-Ecology Unit, Agri-Environment Services Branch, AAFC, Swift Current, SK.

Kerry LaForge has worked with Agri-Environment Services Branch for the last 10 years, primarily as a Range Management Specialist focusing predominately on the inventory, assessment and management planning on the AESB Community Pasture. Recently she has taken a position as Manager of the Range and Forage Division, of the Agri-Ecology Unit. In her spare time she, her husband and two small children operate a small farming and ranching operation near her home town of Cadillac, Saskatchewan.

Sam Luckhardt, Forage Exporter, Crops and Beef Producer, Owen Sound, Ontario

Sam farms with his wife Kathie and son Jeffrey at Owen Sound Ontario (bottom tip of Georgian Bay). They own 500 acres and rent approx. 1700 acres. Crops grown include 500 acres corn, 300 soybeans, 150 winter wheat, 100 canola, hay 600 and the balance is in pasture. They have a cow calf operation with 190 cows and background calves and sell at approx 1 year of age. They have been selling hay to equestrian centres and US markets for 15 years.

Richard McBride, PAg, Agrologist, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatoon

Richard is from Saskatoon originally and obtained an Agriculture degree with a major in Soil Science from University of Saskatchewan in 1990. He worked for 4 years for Soil Survey at the University of Saskatchewan mapping soil in south-west and east-central Saskatchewan. He also worked for 3 years with PFRA / Agriculture Canada in Hanna, Alberta as a Soil Conservationist.

Most recently he has worked the last 16 years with Ducks Unlimited Canada as an Agrologist where he is responsible for DUC's agriculture based programs in the Saskatoon area, including rangeland stewardship, forage seeding and promotion of winter wheat production. He also previously worked part time for the Native Plant Solutions division of Duck Unlimited Canada.

Outside of work, Richard is on the Canadian National shooting team and spends most of his vacation time traveling while representing Canada at international skeet shooting competitions.

Logan Murray, Murray Lake Ranching, Seven Persons, Alberta

Logan is a 29 year old, 4th generation farmer and rancher. Logan and his wife Ashleigh have two children. Logan graduated from Lethbridge Community College with a double diploma in general agriculture and irrigation technology. After this, he transferred to the University of Lethbridge and graduated with distinction with a bachelor of arts in agriculture. For the past six years, Logan has been working full-time at Murray Lake Ranching learning things as he goes through the farming operation. He is active in the production and harvesting of crops and forages, feeding and managing cattle, and other farm and ranch duties. Logan's father and brother are more active in the marketing aspects and he will be drawing on their knowledge for the presentation as well as his father-in-law Doug Wray.

Reynold Bergen, Science Director, Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), Canadian Cattlemen's Association

As the Science Director, Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Reynold coordinates research priorities and funding between beef and cattle research funders and the BCRC. To ensure producers have access to current research information, he develops research factsheets and articles that are available through the CCA, provincial beef organizations and various ag media outlets. Reynold also helps various CCA committees gather information and provide relevant facts for industry, public and government communications on specific issues. Reynold is a University of Saskatchewan (Animal Science) graduate.