



## Registration Information

*Includes all seminars, nutrition breaks and noon meals.  
Receipts are available upon request.*

### Pre-Registration

**2 days: \$100; 1 day: \$50**

### Late Registration

**2 days: \$110; 1 day: \$55**

### Pre-register by February 24, 2026

On-line Registration at:  
[atlanticgrainscouncil.ca/pei-conference-2026](http://atlanticgrainscouncil.ca/pei-conference-2026)

### For More Information Contact us at:

*Email\* / telephone:*

- [mibutcher.pasi@icloud.com](mailto:mibutcher.pasi@icloud.com)
- [heather@atlanticgrainscouncil.ca](mailto:heather@atlanticgrainscouncil.ca)
- [pabairdgill@gov.pe.ca](mailto:pabairdgill@gov.pe.ca)
- Margaret Butcher (902) 432-0462

Payable online (debit or credit) OR at the door (cash, cheque, debit or credit).

\*If pre-registering multiple people online or by email, please write each person's name and which days each individual plans to attend

### Conference agenda is available online:

[peiscia.ca](http://peiscia.ca) *or* [atlanticgrainscouncil.ca](http://atlanticgrainscouncil.ca)

## 2026 PEI Soil & Crop Conference

### Taking Charge, Moving Forward

### Cereals & Oilseeds 2026

PEI Department  
of Agriculture

Atlantic Grains Council

**March 4 - 5, 2026**

Credit Union Place

511 Notre Dame Street  
Summerside, P.E.I.



#### Brian Dougherty

Brian is a regenerative agriculture consultant for Understanding Ag and a student of soil. His roots are planted in Northeast Iowa where he managed the family dairy farm. He is now a partner at Wild Type Ranch where they produce direct-to-consumer pastured meat and eggs. He applies his passion for working with nature and his background as a farmer and agricultural engineer to help heal broken nutrient, water, and energy cycles to make regenerative food production a reality and make farming fun again.



#### Stewart Skinner

Stewart Skinner is a sixth generation farmer from Listowel, Ontario. He has been a strong advocate for mental health in farmers and is known for sharing his very real and authentic struggles with mental health.

Stewart has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Agricultural Business and a Master's of Science in Agricultural Economics. Prior to a return to farming, Stewart worked in politics as a policy advisor to a previous Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs and as a commodity trader at a local co-operative. In 2016 Stewart returned to his roots to grow Imani Farms, a swine production company founded alongside his partner Jessica in 2015. Today Imani Farms sells over 40,000 pigs annually for various 3rd party verified programs including Certified Humane and Certified Organic for customers across North America.



#### Aaron Breimer

Aaron Breimer is an experienced agronomy professional. He grew up on a farm in South Western Ontario and holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Guelph, where a semester exchange in New Zealand sparked his passion for soil chemistry. He is currently the Principal at Moose-Ag, a high-definition topsoil mapping and agronomic data service. He is Past-Chair of the Ontario CCA Board and Chair of the International CCA Board. His presentation will explore how to unlock the full potential of farm data. Aaron will guide producers through the layers of information they already collect or could easily access and show practical ways to turn that data into actionable insights for smarter, more profitable decisions.



#### Jocelyn Smith

Dr. Jocelyn Smith is an Assistant Professor in Field Crop Entomology in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Dr. Smith's research focuses on management strategies for insect pests of field crops (corn, soybean, and cereals) and resistance management for insect-protected transgenic corn. Her presentation will deliver insights on Bt resistance in European Corn Borer (ECB) and address the growing challenge of corn rootworm resistance, offering practical strategies that producers can implement to safeguard yields.



#### Josh Linville

Growing up in northwestern Missouri on a family farm growing tobacco crops and cattle, Josh brings a unique perspective to the fertilizer markets. With over 20 years of experience in this industry, Josh has operated in roles that have given him market perspective as a North American Logistics Specialist, US-based Nitrogen Producer, and General Manager of Commerce in Melbourne, Australia. Josh and his team, which spans the globe, have worked hard to educate the market on how to use the fertilizer futures markets to not only offset price risk, but also to be able to sell produce to farmers well before fertilizer producers release their physical sales program.



#### Ben Rosser

Ben Rosser works as Corn Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. Ben received a BSc and MSc in agronomy from the University of Guelph. Ben enjoys working on applied research projects with Ontario corn growers, and works out of the Crop Science Building, University of Guelph.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Certified Crop Advisor Credits Available



Agenda - Day 1  
PEI Soil & Crop Improvement  
Association Conference  
Wednesday March 4, 2026

- 8:15 Registration and Trade Show
- 8:45 Welcome and Opening Remarks  
PEISCA President, John Hooper
- 9:00 Rooted in Resilience:  
Harnessing Rhizosphere  
Biology for Stronger Crops  
Dr. Don Smith, McGill University
- 9:20 Building Profit and Resilience  
with a Biological Approach to  
Nutrient Management  
Brian Dougherty, Understanding Ag
- 10:00 Nutrition Break & Trade Show  
Trade Show Foyer
- 10:20 Building Human Resilience  
in the Age of Algorithms  
Stewart Skinner, Imani Farms
- 11:10 Early Season Weed Control in  
Soybeans  
Andrew McKenzie-Gopsill,  
AAFC Charlottetown
- 11:40 Technology Forum  
Latest Products and  
Services for PEI farmers
- 12:00 Farmers Feast and Awards  
Presentation – The Oval
- 1:15 Trade Show

- 1:30 Exploring International Markets  
for PEI Products  
Honourable Wayne Easter, Panel Chair  
Russ Mallard, Atlantic Beef Products  
Neil Campbell, PEI Grain Elevator  
Krista Shaw, PEI Potato Board  
Leonard McCardle, McCardle Bros.

- 2:35 Making Cover Crops Practical and  
Profitable  
Brian Dougherty, Understanding Ag

- 3:15 Turning Data into Value:  
Critical Thinking for Farmers  
Aaron Breimer, Moose Ag

- 4:00 Conference Adjourned

Agenda – Day 2  
2026 Cereals & Oilseeds  
Conference  
Thursday, March 5, 2026


- 8:30 Registration and Trade Show Opens
- 9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Chairman Atlantic Grain Council
- 9:10 Message from the Honourable  
Heath MacDonald, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
- 9:30 Bt Resistance and Resurgence  
of the European Corn Borer  
Dr. Jocelyn Smith, University of Guelph
- 10:00 How Global Markets Affect Your  
Fertilizer Prices  
Josh Linville, Fertilizer/StoneX

- 10:45 Nutrition Break & Trade Show  
Trade Show Foyer
- 11:00 Top Ten Ways to Fail Your Corn Crop  
Ben Rosser, Ontario Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- 11:45 From Field to Forecast: Monitoring  
Agricultural Production Worldwide  
Justin Shepherd, Farm Credit Canada
- 12:15 Lunch Buffet - The Oval
- 1:15 Expanding Winter Wheat  
Alan Miller, Atlantic Grains Council
- 1:25 Insights from YEN: Over the Past  
and Where we are Going  
Steve Howatt, Atlantic Grains Council
- 2:00 Things to Consider When Evaluating  
New Crops Inputs and Biologicals  
Aaron Mills & Tandra Fraser,  
AAFC Charlottetown
- 2:30 Cracking the Yield Code: Lessons  
from Great Lakes YEN  
Dennis Pennington,  
Michigan State University  
Joanne Follings, Ontario Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- 3:30 Conference Adjourned

**Joanna Follings**  
Joanna is the Cereals Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness where she works closely with farmers, industry partners, and researchers to advance best practices for wheat, barley, oats, and other cereal crops. Her role includes delivering technical resources, conducting applied research, and supporting sustainable production systems that enhance profitability and resilience for Ontario growers. She is part of the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network (YEN) leadership team that is helping local farmers better understand their winter wheat yield potential and what is contributing to that yield.



**Dennis Pennington**  
Dennis, the MSU wheat extension specialist, has been employed with MSU Extension for 29 years. Dennis received both his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department from Michigan State University. His current research program includes the wheat state variety performance trials, precision planting, high yield management project and the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network. Dennis is committed to excellence and strives to fulfill the MSU Extension mission by bringing science-based information and knowledge to critical needs and issues.



**Justin Shepard**  
Justin Shepard is a Senior Economist at FCC. He joined the team in 2021, specializing in monitoring agricultural production and analyzing global supply and demand trends. He grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and remains active in the family operation. He holds a Master of Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University and Bachelor of Agribusiness from the University of Saskatchewan.

