



Registration Information

Includes all seminars, nutrition breaks and noon meals. Tax 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 12, 2025

On-line*

- atlanticgrainscouncil.ca/pei-conference-2025

For more information contact us at:

Email* / telephone:

- mibutcher.pasi@icloud.com
- heather@atlanticgrainscouncil.ca
- Margaret Butcher (902) 432-0462

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

*If pre-registering online or by email, please indicate name(s) and which days each person plans to attend

Conference agenda is available online:

- peiscia.ca
- atlanticgrainscouncil.ca

Certified Crop Advisor Credits Available

2025 PEI Soil & Crop Conference

Taking Charge, Moving Forward

Cereals and Oilseeds 2025

Atlantic Grains Council

PEI Department of Agriculture

February 19-20, 2025
Red Shores Racetrack & Casino
58 Kensington Road, Charlottetown, PEI



Peter Sikkema

Peter Sikkema has retired from a faculty position at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus. Peter taught numerous courses including "Applied Weed Science" and "Herbicide Biochemistry and Physiology". Peter conducted research on weed management in field crops with a focus on glyphosate-resistant weeds. Peter published more than 445 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Peter is a source of practical solutions for farmers and readily shares his knowledge with primary producers. Peter has presented the results from his research program at hundreds of grower meetings/scientific conferences across Canada, the United States, and globally.



Steve Kell

Steve Kell has worked in the Ontario grain and feed industry for the past 33 years in all phases of the industry - as a farmer producing grain; as a country elevator manager conditioning, storing, and shipping grain, and as a merchandizer, hedging and trading commodities. This has included 9 years in the Co-op elevator system. 20 years as a trader at P&H in Toronto, and for the past 4 years as the Grain Merchandizer for Kell Grain with 4 elevator locations spread across central Ontario.



Steve farms in Simcoe County where he grows corn, wheat, and soybeans. In addition to farming Steve writes a column on the commodities markets for Farmers Forum newspaper.

Laurent (Woody) Van Arkel

Woody, along with his wife Catherine, have been farming near Dresden for 35 years after taking over the family farm from Laurent's parents. He has grown a variety of crops typical of the Dresden area including corn, soy beans, wheat, processing tomatoes, sunflowers, and sugar beets. Interested in expanding their crop rotation, they grew their first crop of sunflowers in 2020.



His interest in soil sustainability has led to their use of and experimentation with cover crops and reduced tillage, along with partnerships with the University of Guelph, OMAFRA, and the AAFC Living Labs Initiative. It also led Laurent to co-found the Ontario Soil Network (OSN) and is now chair of its board of directors.

Laurent was the past director and past president of the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAo), and is a farmer representative of the Mid-West Covercrop Council (MCCC).

Peter Johnson

@WheatPete is the resident agronomist with Real Agriculture, where he posts a weekly podcast "Wheat Pete's Word". He is a regular on "Agronomy Monday" on RealAg radio, Sirius Satellite Radio 147. Peter spent 30 years as the Ontario Cereal Specialist, and loves to talk anything agriculture, especially wheat! He leads the Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association's applied research program, is the Environmental Advocate for the Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario, and is a member of the Ontario Compaction Team. He was named as one of the Top 50 in Canadian Agriculture in 2021, inducted in to the Middlesex County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2022, and named as the Honorary President of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for 2024. Peter operates a small farm near Lucan, Ontario, where he constantly tries out new production ideas, and where the "rubber hits the road"! He is enthusiastic and passionate about agriculture, and loves to be challenged by growers.



Dr. Tony Vyn

Dr. Tony J. Vyn is a Professor and Cropping Systems Extension Agronomist in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. Tony grew up on a hog and cash crop farm near Ridgetown in Southwestern Ontario, Canada. He earned his degrees from the University of Guelph, after studying biology for 2 years at Trinity Christian College in Chicago. He was a faculty member in the Crop Science Department at Guelph from 1987 until he left for Purdue University in 1998. He was named the Henry A. Wallace Chair in Crop Science at Purdue in 2018. Dr. Vyn advises graduate students in research focused on understanding the interactions of tillage, crop rotation, plant density, and (or) nutrient placement systems with corn response and soil properties. Tony has served as Co-Chair of the Indiana Crop Advisor Conference since 2003. He particularly enjoyed cash-crop farming on a spare-time basis with his own family near Guelph, from 1980 to 1998. He and his wife are blessed with 4 children who live with their respective families in Canada or the USA.



Brad Dunnington

A transplanted Saskatchewan native who now calls Nova Scotia home, Brad has farmed, operated a seed plant for pulse export, and, since 2008, has served the original SWAT map maker. Now a proud Haligonian, he brings extensive experience in field mapping and GIS to the 80 international partners across Canada, USA, Australia, and South Africa with whom he works.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Agenda - Day 1

PEI Soil & Crop Improvement Association Conference

Wednesday February 19, 2025

- 8:15 **Registration and Trade Show**
- 8:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
PEISCA President, John Hooper
- 9:00 **ALUS Program - 2025**
Jake MacKinnon, PEIDA
- 9:15 **Why do Herbicides Provide Variable Weed Control**
Dr. Peter Sikkema, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph
- 10:05 **Nutrition Break and Tradeshow**
1888 Lounge
- 10:25 **My Experiences with Soil Health, Strip Tillage and On-Farm Research**
Laurent 'Woody' Van Arkel, 2022 OSCIA Soil Champion, Dresden, Ontario
- 11:20 **Operation Pollinator**
Erica MacDonald, PEIDA
- 11:35 **Technology Forum**
- 12:00 **Farmers Feast and Awards Presentation –**
Top of The Park
- 1:15 **Trade Show**
- 1:30 **Capital Gains Tax and Succession Planning...Considerations for Every Farm Operation**
Jennifer Dunn, BDO Charlottetown

February 19 - Day 1 (continued)

- 2:00 **Artificial Intelligence on the Farm: The Future is Here**
Darrell Petras, CEO, Canadian Agri-Food Automation & Intelligence Network
Chad Matthies, Ukko Agro
Brad Dunnington, Croptimistic Technology Inc.
Dr. Aitazaz Farooque, UPEI School of Climate Change and Adaptation
- 3:00 **Why do Registered Herbicides Cause Crop Damage**
Dr. Peter Sikkema, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph
- 3:45 **Demonstrating Innovative Sorgham Sudan and Sudan Varieties for Plowdown or Forage**
Scott Anderson & Roger Henry, AAFC Charlottetown
- 3:55 **Afternoon Break Until Evening Session**

Evening Program

- 6:30 **Fall Cover Crops: What's Stopping You?**
Ryan Barrett, PEI Potato Board
- 7:00 **Living Labs Producer Panel, Beef and Potatoes, Rotational Grazing**
Andrea McKenna, Moderator
Ryan Barrett, Preliminary Results
Participating producers - Experiences / Benefits to Date
- 7:40 **ECODA Research – Brown Mustard for Grain Harvest Versus Plow-down**
Dr. Yunfei Jiang or Dr. Claude Cladwell, Dalhousie University
- 8:15 **Adjourned**

Agenda – Day 2

2025 Cereal and Oilseeds Conference

Thursday, February 20, 2025

- 8:15 **Registration and Trade Show Opens**
- 8:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Neil Campbell, Vice Chair, Atlantic Grains Council
- 9:00 **Weed Management in Corn and Soybeans**
Dr. Peter Sikkema, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph
- 9:50 **Planning for the Future Markets and Opportunities**
Steve Kell, Kell Grain Elevator
- 10:30 **Nutrition Break and Trade Show**
1888 Lounge
- 11:00 **How do you Manage Winter Wheat in Our Climate?**
Peter Johnson, Real Agriculture
- 12:00 **Lunch - Top of The Park**
- 1:00 **AGC Research Update**
Alan Miller, Science Coordinator
- 1:30 **Reading Corn Leaves**
Dr. Tony Vyn, (Retired) Purdue University
- 2:20 **Lessons Learned from Yield Enhancement Network (YEN)**
Dr. Aaron Mills, AAFC, Charlottetown
- YEN Grower Panel - How We Did It!**
Top PEI Producers
- 3:00 **Understanding Nitrogen Losses and Use of Urease and Nitrification Inhibitors**
Dr. John Lauzon, University of Guelph
- 3:45 **Adjourned**

Darrell Petras

As an entrepreneur, business owner, and former beef producer, Darrell brings a unique perspective to agtech commercialization and is committed to advancing Canada's agri-food sector. As CEO of the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN), he leads a team dedicated to building a community that supports data-driven agriculture technology. CAAIN funds the development of agricultural innovations that increase the profitability and productivity of farmers and primary processors, and it funds smart farm networks as platforms for technology validation and demonstration. Before joining CAAIN, Darrell held several innovation leadership positions focused on assisting inventors and founders with intellectual property management and the acceleration and growth of technology startups.



Chad Matthies

Chad Matthies is the Chief Growth Officer at Ukko Agro, where he leverages his extensive experience in ag tech to drive innovation and expand the company's footprint in the agricultural technology sector. A dedicated professional known for his strategic vision and commitment to advancing agricultural practices, Chad is passionate about developing solutions that empower farmers and enhance productivity. Hailing from La Salle, Manitoba, he is also a devoted father of two, balancing his professional pursuits with a love for family and community engagement in his hometown.



Dr. John Lauzon

John Lauzon has been a soil science professor at University of Guelph since 2000. Current teaching include introductory soil science courses, 4th year courses in soil and nutrient management as well as graduate level instruction in soil nutrient management. Research interests focus on crop nutrient management strategies to maximize the agronomic use of plant nutrients and minimize losses.

