

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Agriculture for New and Beginning Teachers

October 17-19, 2019 | Calgary - Lethbridge

A multi-day, hands-on learning opportunity to support new and future teachers as they work to enhance agriculture education in their classrooms.



Introduction

Inside Education developed the [2019 Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Program](#) to explore Alberta's agricultural sector and how agriculture topics connect to the Alberta Program of Studies. The program explored the agriculture sector and agri-food industry as a key component of sustainable natural resources development in Alberta using the lens technology, innovation, sustainability and careers. We showcased a variety of perspectives that influence our economy, environment, and society as Alberta aims to meet a growing global demand for food. The program aimed to build awareness and understanding and provide teachers with ideas and resources to enhance agriculture education in the classroom through speaker sessions, tours, workshops, and learning materials.

A total of **33 teachers** from across Alberta participated in the program, many of whom were still completing their teacher training at Alberta post secondary institutions. Connecting with teachers early in their careers is an important strategy ensuring these agriculture topics can become foundations for their entire teaching careers with the potential to impact thousands of students.

We are thrilled to share the outcomes from this unique teacher professional development program through this summary report. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from teacher participants indicates a strong desire for future agriculture education initiatives in Alberta.



The Program

Through this dynamic program 33 educators:

- **EXPLORED** the agriculture topics of through tours including a working ranch, aquaponics, seed and fertilizer facility, agri-food research lab and more!
- **CONNECTED** with people and perspectives that give insight into Alberta's agriculture and agri-food sector.
- **ENHANCED** their lessons with current, accurate and meaningful agriculture content that will engage future generations of environmental stewards.
- **REFLECTED** on issues and innovations through discussions with experts representing multiple perspectives and agri-food sectors.
- **CREATED** lasting networks with like-minded educators from across the province.



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Thursday, October 17

- Welcome & Getting To Know Each Other
- Agriculture 101* with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry Assistant Deputy Minister Katrina Bluetchen
- Perspectives in Agriculture Panel Discussion
- Aquaponics & Agriculture Education Tour - Granary Road
- A7 Ranch Tour

Friday, October 18

Interactive Workshops:

- *Soil Science and Nourishing the Planet in the 21st Century - Nutrients for Life*
- *From the field - Altario School Agriculture Program*
- *Hot Topics in Agriculture - Coretva AgriScience*
- Corteva Canola Seed Facility Tour
- Plants for Food, Fibre and Fuel - Natural Resources Canada Agronomy Research Centre Talk & Tour
- Dinner & Tour - Windy Rafters Barn Dance and Curriculum Programs

Saturday, October 19

- The Future of Agriculture: Innovations That Are Feeding The World
- Education Workshop featuring Agriculture for Life, Alberta Parks and Inside Education

The Participants

Inside Education was pleased to invite 33 engaged educators to take part in the 2019 Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program.

Ultimately it will be the thousands of students these teachers impact every year who will benefit from this commitment to agriculture education. We proudly recognize these exemplary teachers and cannot wait to learn about the exciting means through which their experiences impact the lives and learning of their students.

- Naomi Akkermans** | Mecca Glen School - Ponoka
- Ryan Barfuss** | Mountain View School - Calgary
- Jennifer Barranoik** | Our Lady of Peace School
- Bryanna Belanger** | Cold Lake Middle School
- Cassandra Bollinger** | Mount Royal University
- Melissa Capicio** | T.D. Baker School - Edmonton
- Amanda Fox** | Gilbert Paterson Middle School
- Nicole Hauk** | Summit West Independent School
- Neil Korotash** | Morinville Community High School
- Diana Kurila** | Mount Royal University
- Warren Lake** | Robert Thirsk High School - Calgary
- Suzanne Lewis** | Paul Kane High School - St. Albert
- Kalli Lirette** | Westmount School
- Simon Lyon** | Coalhurst High School
- Christine Magsombol** | Mount Royal University
- Miriam Mahaffy** | The Kings University
- Summaya Mohammed** | University of Alberta
- Nicole Muldrew** | University of Alberta
- Rose Rumball** | Ecole St. Joseph School
- Kaycee Stern** | University of Alberta
- Tayyaba Tahir** | University of Calgary
- Kate Tucker** | Inside Education
- Carley Webb** | Simon Fraser School
- Carolyn Webb** | University of Alberta
- Colton Weibe** | University of Alberta
- Amy Welsh** | University of Alberta
- Makayla Widmer** | Herons Crossing School - Airdrie
- Kalli Lirette** | Westmount School
- Kendell Wiens** | Kate Andrews High School - Coaldale
- Erin Wu** | Edmonton Public Schools



“This was an incredibly **INSPIRING** experience for me in the beginning of my teaching career. Leaving this **EXPERIENCE** I feel more passionate about **EDUCATION** as a whole, very passionate and **INFORMED** about **AGRICULTURE** in Alberta both in my own life and in the classroom, and I feel **CONFIDENT** in sharing my passion with others.”

- Cassandra Bollinger, Mount Royal Teacher Candidate





“The program provided me with so many credible resources that I can provide to my students. I want my students to come to their own conclusions about agriculture, and now I have a stronger foundation of knowledge to better help me guide my students in their own research.”

- Diana Kurila, Calgary

“Great job organizing an informative event! I am excited to start incorporating more agriculture into my lessons. I look forward to more opportunities to work with inside education! .”

- Rose Rumball, Whitecourt

Participant Feedback...

“Inside PD provides a comprehensive and immersive educational experience for teachers. They helped me to feel confident in an area that I had practically no background knowledge of (agriculture). Being a city kid, I had an enthusiasm but no real foundation. I am grateful for the PD that I have been able to do and the learning that they have facilitated, which ultimately benefits the students at our school.”

- Kalli Lirette, Edmonton

“Learning about seed production, pulse crops and the growing demand for food, I plan to integrate these topics into sustainability discussions around growth and globalization. I plan to teach about supply chains in relation to economics, I plan to teach about pulse crops in regards to sustainability.”

- Simon Lyon, Coalhurst

“Thanks for the adventure!”

-Carolyn Webb, University of Alberta

Partners, Expert Guests, and Tour Hosts

We extend deep thanks to our program partners for their support of the 2019 Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program. Participants voiced their appreciation for making the program such an accessible opportunity and everyone expressed gratitude at being provided a full scholarship to attend the program.

Inside Education is proud to work with partners committed to excellence in natural resource education.

“I want to bring more agriculture perspectives into the classroom as my school is in the middle of a city and I don't think my students have seen a farm before.”

- Jennifer Barranoik, Edmonton



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE EXPERT SPEAKERS AND TOUR HOSTS. YOUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN OUR PROVINCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Katrina Bluetchen | *Alberta Agriculture & Forestry*

Neil Korotash | *Morinville High School*

Margo Redelback | *Alberta Irrigation Districts Association*

Jenn Walker | *Alberta Pulse Growers Association*

Brie Nelson | *Alberta Water Portal Society*

Nicola Irving | *Irving Farm Fresh Pork*

John Cross | *A7 Ranch*

David Pinzon | *Corteva Agriscience*

Kevin Van Lagen | *Altario School*

Kent Lewane | *Nutrients for Life*

Ray Cochrane | *Nutrients for Life*

Brian Beres | *Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada*

Monty Orr | *Windy Rafters*

Trevor Lewington | *Lethbridge Economic Development*

Alison Jonk | *Agriculture for Life*

Sarah Downey | *Alberta Environment and Parks*



Program Impact and Feedback

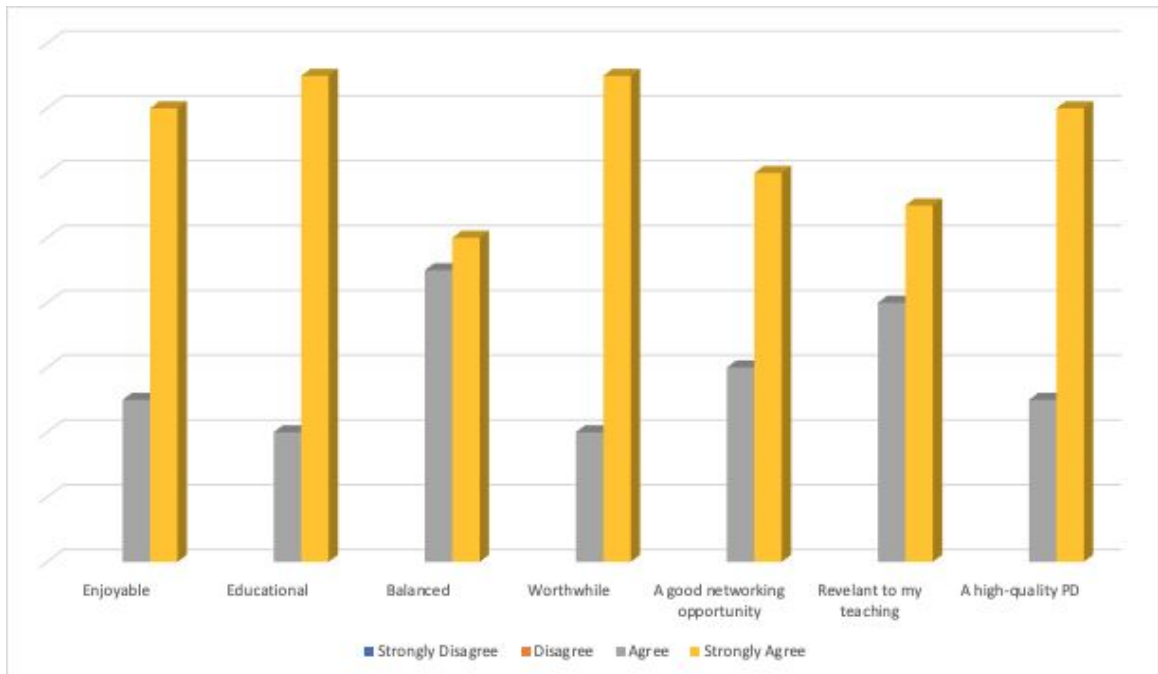
Inside Education is proud of the many successes of the Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program. The follow-up survey results indicate that it was an exceptional learning experience that is already having meaningful impact in classrooms across Alberta.

Inside Education estimates that more than 1000 students per year will benefit from the experience of the teacher participants as they infuse their learning from the professional development into their lesson plans. We are pleased to share some of our program feedback below.

“This was without a doubt the highest quality and value I have yet to experience in professional development. This experience was also an amazing networking opportunity for me as a beginning teacher“
 - Suzanne Lewis, Edmonton



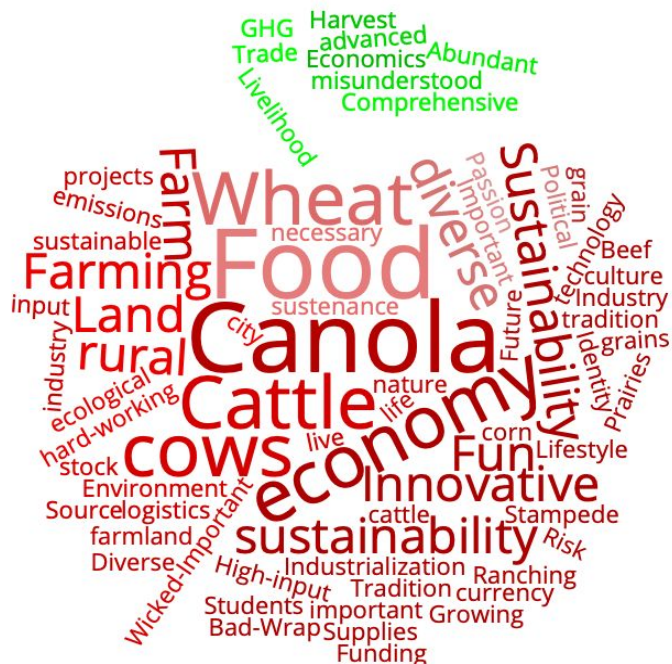
In my opinion the Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Program was:



HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU TEACHING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS IN THE CONTEXT OF AGRICULTURE?



LIST 3 WORDS YOU ASSOCIATE WITH AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA





After participating in the program

100% of survey

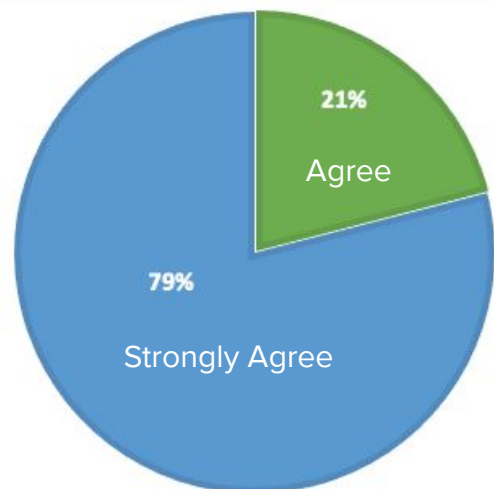
respondents indicated that they have increased confidence bringing agriculture related topics into their classroom.



“Coming into the program I had a fair amount of experience in the agriculture industry, but I still found plenty of opportunities to learn further and how to apply all of it into my classroom. I also made many connections that helped me really visualize how all of this was possible in the context of the classroom.”

- Ryan Barfuss, Coaldale

THIS PROGRAM HAS ENHANCED MY TEACHING AND WILL HELP ME PROVIDE INFORMATIVE, ACCURATE, AND HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR MY STUDENTS



Summary and Futures

Inside Education is thrilled by the outcomes of the 2019 Agriculture for Beginning Teachers Professional Development Program. We received an overwhelmingly positive response from participants which was captured through both the participant's "Dear Inside Education" letters as well as in the program surveys. Overall, teachers left the program feeling supported and inspired to head into the classroom.

In addition to our suite of comprehensive agriculture education initiatives, planning is currently underway for our upcoming **Cultivate 2020: Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit**, March 5-8, 2020 in Olds, Alberta. Cultivate is an experiential youth education and leadership program that brings together high school students and teachers from across Alberta to learn about sustainable agriculture and advance environmental stewardship in our province. www.cultiv8summit.ca

We expect demand for agriculture related programs and resources to grow as teachers share their knowledge, ideas, and experience with their colleagues from across Alberta. We are committed to developing high-quality learning opportunities to support agriculture education in Alberta. Inside Education recognizes that agriculture literacy is an important area of study for today's students - the key to creating a generation of informed stewards and decision makers.

Contact

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