

Cultivate: Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit

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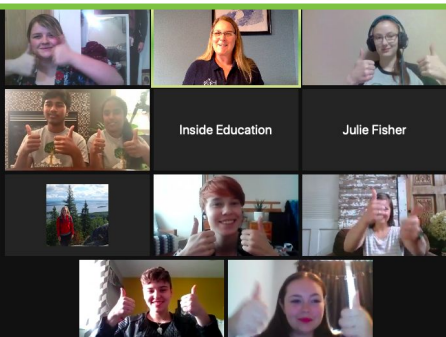
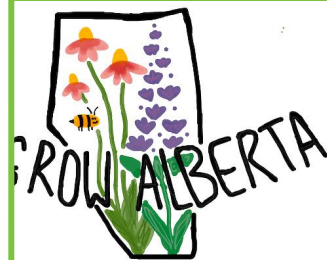
May 19, 2021 | Virtual Edition

www.cultiv&summit.ca

Inside Education brought together 363 students from 16 junior and senior high schools to explore current and emerging agriculture topics. This ½ day interactive program featured guest speakers, scavenger hunts, video interviews and a youth leadership panel featuring the Grow Alberta initiative.

Welcome to Cultivate
2021 Virtual Edition

Watch the livestream below!



Introduction

Virtual Cultivate 2021 came only one year after Inside Education’s first agriculture-focused Youth Leadership summit, Cultivate 2020. With the closure of schools followed by adjustments between in-person and online learning, Virtual Cultivate 2021 brought Alberta’s agriculture story to life in the form of a virtual half day summit for junior and senior high school students and teachers across Alberta.

Virtual Cultivate 2021 offered students and teachers a unique look inside Alberta’s Agriculture sector from a variety of perspectives with variety of online and offline, hands-on activities, focused on the following themes:

- Alberta’s agriculture story
- Innovation and technology in agriculture
- Agriculture and climate change
- Leadership and stewardship

The program was streamed via Youtube on a customized web page built specifically for Cultivate. Representatives from partner and other agricultural organizations contributed videos highlighting their work that are housed on the customized Cultivate webpage, in addition to other videos, links and resources. This webpage will continue to exist on the Inside Education website as a free learning resource, and is set up in a way that teachers could host their own virtual Cultivate if they wish.

We are thrilled with the outcomes of this program and excited to share more about it in this report!



Images & Videos captured during the agriculture scavenger hunt.

The Participants

Virtual Cultivate 2021 included 16 schools from 7 communities across the province, from Glendon, to Calgary, and many communities in between.

This format offered a unique opportunity to include schools and individuals that may not always have the opportunity to travel to an in-person youth summit, as well as a chance for larger classes to take part in the program. Students had the option of registering as individuals as well.

This program took place at a time when all students across the province were learning from home, which presented its challenges, but the coordinators were able to work with teachers ahead of time to help ensure that students were able to communicate with their classmates, and that activity materials were distributed ahead of time.

- Apostles of Jesus School** | Calgary
- Argyll Centre** | Edmonton
- Career and Technology Centre** | Calgary
- École St. Joseph School** | Whitecourt
- Glendon School** | Glendon
- Griffith Woods School** | Calgary
- Headway School** | Edmonton
- École St. Joseph** | Whitecourt
- Jasper Place High School** | Edmonton
- James Fowler High School** | Calgary
- Morinville Community High School** | Morinville
- Robert Thirsk High School** | Calgary
- Sir John A MacDonald School** | Calgary
- St. Francis of Assisi Middle School** | Red Deer
- Vincent Massey Junior High School** | Calgary
- The BRICK Learning Centre** | Ponoka
- Willow Home Education** | Calgary



The Program

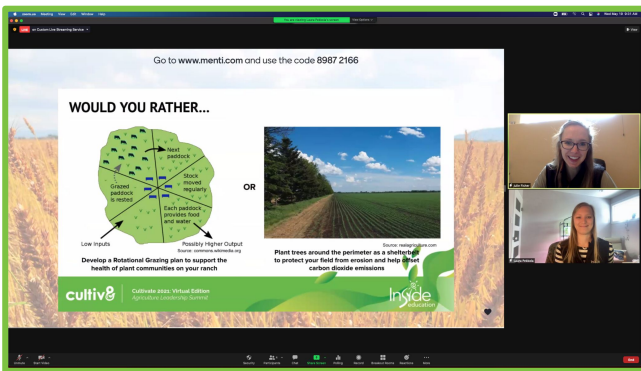
9-9:45 am
Welcome and AG 101

9:45-10:30 am
Discover Agriculture Scavenger Hunt (offline)

10:30-11:15 am
Agriculture and Climate Change: Panel Discussion and Q&A

11:15am-12:00pm
Youth Agriculture Leadership Showcase and Summit Wrap Up

The program began with a lively kick off and “Ag 101” session where students and teachers could participate directly through polls and trivia questions related to Alberta’s agricultural history, technological advancements and climate change.

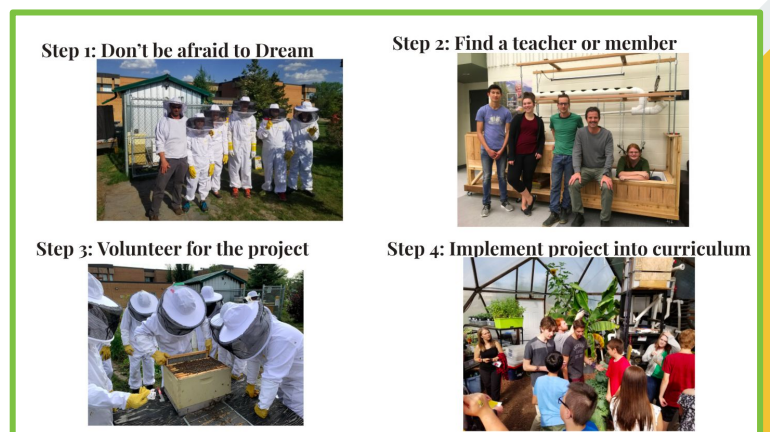


Students also competed in the “**Discover Agriculture Scavenger Hunt**”, where tasks ranged from searching the web for specific agriculture facts and watching videos submitted from stakeholders, to having fun impersonating farm animals and photographing creative interpretations of the farm-to-table process. Students and teachers worked together and the winning schools won a “*Classroom Garden Kit*”.

The summit also included a panel discussion focused on agriculture and climate change featuring Derek Leahy (Rural Routes to Climate Solutions, RR2CS), Jenn Walker (Alberta Pulse Growers) and Mike Nemeth (Nutrien).



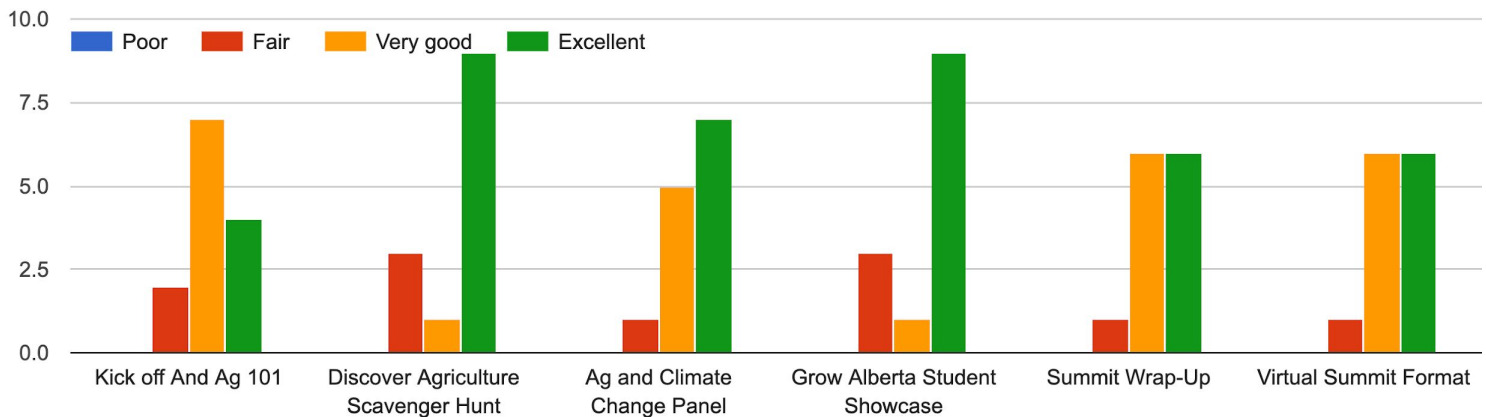
Finally, in our project showcase, student leaders from several schools across the province shared their stories and experiences implementing agriculture action projects in their schools and communities. Projects included assembling and distributing seed kits with the **#GrowAlberta** initiative, building agriculture learning infrastructure at school, experimenting with producing honey, coordinating a community garden, and more. We were inspired as they shared their successes, challenges, and words of encouragement with us!



Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is very proud of the success of this program and the positive feedback that was received from both students and teachers. Fitting a four-day interactive summit into a half-day virtual program was a challenge for the program team, but by implementing lessons learned from earlier online programs, it was possible to coordinate an informative and interactive program that was still able to address the key topics of a Cultivate Youth Summit, while accommodating the new reality of virtual learning.

How would you rate your experience during the different parts of Cultivate?



“The panel discussion, the Student Showcase, and the discussion in general was well-rounded and included superb info on ways youth can get involved in agriculture.”

- Student, Glendon School

It’s a great way to get your students involved, inspired and connected.”

- Carter Cox, Teacher, Vincent Massey Junior High School

“I told my colleagues how great it was and it gave students the opportunity to go on a ‘field trip’ - especially needed through this Pandemic!”

- Allan Wong, Teacher, The BRICK Learning Centre

“I learned a lot from this session and I really enjoyed it!”

- Student, Headway School

Summary and Futures

Inside Education was incredibly pleased with the outcomes of Cultivate 2021. Presented with the challenges of offering a provincial youth summit in a virtual environment, the team is very proud to have coordinated a program that operated very smoothly technically, all while preserving the hallmarks of an Inside Education program - multiple perspectives, expert guests, hands-on and interactive sessions, all addressing the key themes of a Cultivate summit. It is our hope that we will be able to resume with in-person summits next school year, but this program made it clear that including virtual components to this type of program is not only possible, but can actually increase reach and accessibility.

For More Information Contact:

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Thank You to our Program Partners:



Sylvis Canada

