

Agriculture and Water

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

May 26-28 | Lethbridge



Inside Education hosted the 2022 Agriculture and Water Teacher Professional Development Program to help teachers understand the intersection between agriculture and water resources in the province. The program was designed to guide participants through a thoughtful examination how Alberta can be a leader in food production while protecting our water resources. The overarching goal is for students to be informed and engaged stewards of our environment and natural resources and support education about sustainable agriculture. We are excited to share the outcomes and impacts from this unique teacher professional development program through this summary report.



The Program

Through this dynamic program participants:

- **CONNECTED** with the people, places, and perspectives that give insight into Alberta’s agriculture sector.
- **DISCOVERED** how local agriculture operations work through tours of academic institutions and farms.
- **PARTICIPATED** in a unique professional development opportunity that modeled a hands-on, experiential and inquiry-based approach to learning.
- **CONSIDERED** how modern agriculture issues are addressed through innovation and technology.
- **CREATED** lasting networks with like-minded educators from across the province.
- **ENHANCED** their lessons with firsthand experience and classroom-ready resources designed to engage their students.

Working with experts, Inside Education developed a dynamic program that exposed teachers to on-the-ground operations and innovations representative of the agriculture sector in Alberta. From touring an aquaculture facility, to meeting a sugar beet producer, we created a one-of-a-kind education event that inspired conversations, ideas and meaningful classroom connections.

PROGRAM THEMES

- **Agriculture Innovation & Technology**
- **Water Use in Agriculture**
- **Industry Careers**
- **Agriculture Education Best Practices, Tools & Resources**

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Thursday, May 26

Introductions & Icebreakers

Feeding the future of 10 billion with sustainable agriculture in Alberta - *David Hill, University of Lethbridge*

Agriculture Innovation & Technology Tour - *University of Lethbridge*

Agriculture Education in Action & Indigenous Connections to Agriculture - *Piikani First Nation*

Friday, May 27

Lethbridge College Aquaculture & Irrigation Demonstration Farm Tour

Quattro Farms - Mixed Agriculture Tour
Kolk Farms - Feedlot Producer Tour
Tokariuk Farms - Sugar Beet Producer Tour

Saturday, May 28

Economic and Social Connections to Agriculture - *Trevor Lewington, Lethbridge Economic Development*

Carbon, Climate and Sustainable Agriculture - *Carlos Romero, Nutrien*

Education Workshop featuring Inside Education, Calgary Stampede Foundation, Oldman Watershed Council, Nutrients for Life, Fluid Planet & Careers NextGen

The Participants

16 teachers and administrators representing schools across Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan joined together to discuss the importance of bringing agriculture and water topics into their classrooms.

- Lisa Corbett** | Rundle College Jr./Sr. High School
- Kelly Craigue** | Apostles of Jesus School
- Morgan Dilts** | Jaffray Elementary Jr. Secondary
- Karen Ellert Garber** | Erle Rivers High School
- David Erickson** | Twelve Mile Coulee School
- Charlene Foster** | Palliser School Division
- Benjamin Gee** | Edmonton Islamic Academy
- Karen Hammond** | James Fowler High School
- Wanda Landshoff** | Edmonton Islamic Academy
- Kent Lewarne** | Nutrients for Life Foundation
- Janine Morrish** | David Thompson High School
- Corry Pepper** | Careers: Next Generation
- Colleen Tkachuk** | Crowsnest Consolidated High School
- Donna Kirchner** | Careers: Next Generation / Eagle Butte High School
- Barbara Ann Hession** | Crowsnest Consolidated High School
- Brett Weighill** | Piikani Nation Secondary School



After participating, what would you tell a colleague about Inside Education Professional Development Programs?

“You will be surrounded by like-minded inspiring educators and will learn so much. If you are looking for motivation, ideas, meaningful learning opportunities and a great community of practice- go!!!”

Lisa Corbett, Rundle College

*“You will come away with **EXTREMELY USEFUL** experiences, tools, resources and networks.”*

Charlene Foster, Palliser School Division

Partners, Expert Guests, and Tour Hosts

Thanks to the generous support of Inside Education’s program partners, the teachers and administrators on this tour received a full scholarship to attend the Agriculture & Water PD. Participants expressed that financial accessibility greatly added to the value of the program, and that they appreciated the opportunity to participate in high-quality, experiential PD for no cost, with the added support of a supply teacher subsidy. Our partners’ commitment to supporting natural resource and environmental education across the province has continually allowed us to provide valuable, comfortable, and enjoyable teacher professional development opportunities, and we thank them for their support!

“This PD opportunity exceeded my expectations and literally allowed me to walk back into my classroom as a more passionate and informed teacher. Seeing these facilities in person and getting to hear directly from the people involved is so much more valuable than watching a video or reading an article.”

- Janine Morrish, David Thompson High School



A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FANTASTIC EXPERT SPEAKERS AND TOUR HOSTS, THEIR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING AGRICULTURE AND WATER EDUCATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

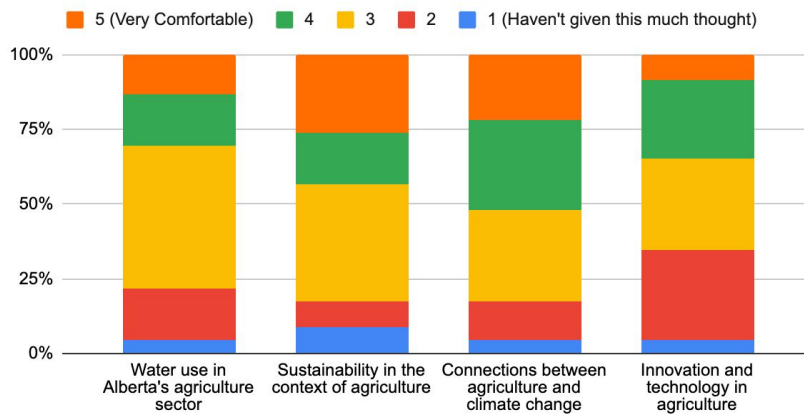
- David Hill | University of Lethbridge
- Tony Montina | University of Lethbridge
- Laura Keffer-Wilkes | University of Lethbridge
- Brett Weighill | Piikani Nation Secondary High
- John Derksen | Lethbridge College
- Emily Ford | Quattro Farms
- Leighton Kolk | Kolk Farms
- Gary & Rebecca Tokariuk | Tokariuk Farms
- Trevor Lewington | Economic Development Lethbridge
- Carlos Romero | Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Brie Nelson & Kaleigh Watson | AB Water Portal
- Austin Lang | Calgary Stampede
- Kent Lewarne | Nutrients for Life
- Donna Kirchner | CAREERS NextGen
- Corry Pepper | CAREERS NextGen
- Dan Pigat | FluidPlanet
- Oldman Watershed Council



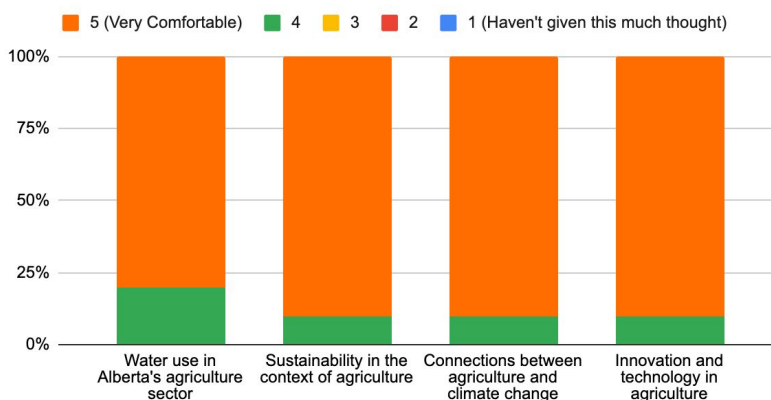
Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is proud of the overwhelmingly positive feedback received in the follow-up survey for the Agriculture and Water Teacher PD. **100%** of surveyed participants indicated that they would recommend an Inside Education teacher PD program to their colleagues after their experience, and the vast majority increased their comfort level around teaching all of the key topics addressed during the program. We are pleased to share details of the program feedback below!

Let us know your comfort level around some key topics for this program (pre-program)



Let us know your comfort level around some key topics for this program (post-program)



90% of surveyed teachers strongly agreed that this teacher PD program was:

- ✓ Enjoyable
- ✓ Educational
- ✓ Balanced
- ✓ Worthwhile
- ✓ Inspiring
- ✓ A good networking opportunity
- ✓ Relevant to their teaching
- ✓ A high-quality PD opportunity
- ✓ A high-value PD opportunity

OVERALL THIS PROGRAM HAS ENHANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT AGRICULTURE AND WILL ENABLE TEACHERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATIVE, ACCURATE, AND HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS.



"I always leave these programs so energized and inspired! I am buzzing with ideas and now just need to keep the momentum going! Thank you for everything!"
- Lisa Corbett, Rundle College Jr./Sr. High School

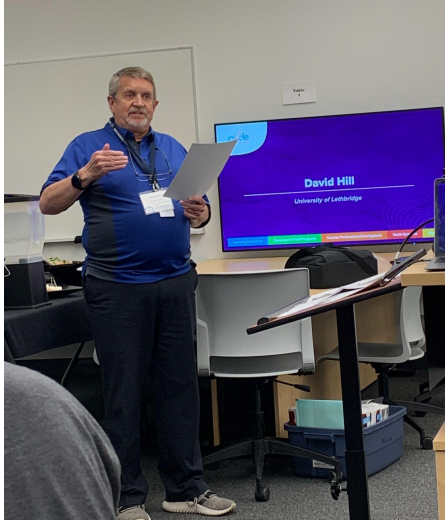


"This was amazing- thank you so much! Was done so well and Information was very very very useful. So amazing to be able to ask lots of questions in person."
- Karen Hammond, James Fowler High School



"It was SO AWESOME to interact with all these people and experiences. It will be very helpful as I communicate opportunities to students across our school division"
- Charlene Foster, Palliser School Division





“The value of this PD goes well beyond just the program that was put together. The chance to meet like-minded colleagues and share our teaching experiences is also invaluable.”

- Janine Morrish, David Thompson High School



“This program was excellent and an amazing networking opportunity!”

- Brett Weighill, Piikani Nation Secondary School



“This was an awesome experience and has gotten me energized for next school year!”

- David Erickson, Twelve Mile Coulee School



Summary and Futures

Inside Education is thrilled by the outcomes of the 2022 Agriculture and Water Teacher Professional Development program and we received an overwhelmingly positive response from participants. We are currently working the following agriculture education projects to complement our full suite of agriculture education programs:

- Cultivate: Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit, October 2022
- Careers in Agriculture Teacher Professional Development Program, October 2022
- In-School Classroom Programming - ongoing

We expect demand for agriculture 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 and recognize agriculture as an important area of study for today's students; the key to creating the next generation of informed stewards and decision makers.

Contact

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