



## 2025 Agriculture in the Parkland Professional Development Program

May 1st-3rd, 2025

*We acknowledge that this program takes place in the traditional territories of the nations represented by Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 which includes the Cree, Nakoda Sioux, Saulteaux and Dene Tsuu T'ina, the Iyârhe Stoney Nakoda including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Good Stoney bands, and the Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika Nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Central Alberta is the homeland to the Northwest Metis people and the Otipemisiwak Metis government of the Battle River territory, including the Red Deer and Medicine Hat districts.*

*We come together with respect for the land, a connection to the environment and a responsibility for stewardship of our natural resources.*

### Wednesday, April 30th - by invite

Welcome to Red Deer! Those who have requested accommodation on April 30th can check in to the [Sandman Hotel Red Deer](#) starting at 4:00pm

Rooms will be single and under your own name - no roommates for the first night! Inside Education will cover hotel rooming costs, but incidentals will be your own responsibility.

Dinner and breakfast will also be your own responsibility - there is a Moxie's in the hotel, and there are any number of other restaurants and fast food within walking distance. The hotel will also accept deliveries from any food delivery service.

*There will be one Inside Education staff on site after 5pm,  
Mackenzie Wegewitz, 1-780-779-7887*

### Day 1: Thursday, May 1st

**Bus Start Location:** [Sandman Hotel Red Deer](#)  
(2818 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, AB T4R 3H5)

**Alberta Coach Bus will pick up participants at 10:00 am.**

All participants are free to leave their cars parked at the Sandman for the duration of the weekend. We will be returning to this hotel on Saturday, May 3rd by 4:30pm.

**Program Start Location:** Red Deer Polytechnic, classroom 2303  
**Program Start Time:** 10:30am

**Overnight Accommodations:** [Sandman Hotel Red Deer](#)  
(2818 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, AB T4R 3H5)

#### What to bring in your daypack:

- Closed-toed shoes (outdoor walking on farms)
- Other weather appropriate layers (jacket, etc.)
- Water bottle
- Notebook/pencil

#### Important Notes:

- Coffee, tea and light snack available at registration and program introduction

### **Daily Itinerary:**

**9:45 - 10:15 am - Registration and get on the bus!**

#### **10:30 - 11:00 am - Welcome, Introductions and Program Kickoff**

Inside Education kicks off our 2025 Agriculture in the Parkland PD! We are so excited to be your hosts and are looking forward to getting to know everyone as we gear up for our learning adventure

*Hosts: Kat, Jayme, and Mackenzie, Inside Education*

#### **11:00 - 11:45 am- Nitrogen Cycle, Ammonia Production, and Nutrient Stewardship in Alberta**

Aside from water, light and carbon dioxide, plants also require nutrients in the soil in order to grow. The development and use of fertilizers in agriculture is not an unknown practice, but we can always learn more about how, why and who it's done by. A representative from Nutrien will tell us about their local facility, and their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Speaker: Stephen Hicks, *Nutrien*

#### **11:45 - 12:30 pm - Lunch catered by Red Deer Polytechnic**

#### **12:30 - 2:00 pm - Native Bees and Honey Bees- Insect Biodiversity and Agriculture**

We've all heard that we need to save the bees but what does that mean? Charity Briere, instructor at Red Deer Polytechnic and director of the board of the Alberta Native Bee Council, will walk us through the biodiversity within bees in Alberta. She's working on completing a master's thesis studying the impacts of hobby beekeeping on bumblebees in Red Deer. Thanks to RDP's Red Hot Science programs, we'll have the opportunity to explore this topic through a hands-on workshop in the lab!

Speakers:

Charity Briere, *Red Deer Polytechnic and Alberta Native Bee Council*

#### **2:00 - 2:30 pm- Travel to The Jungle Farm**

#### **2:30 - 4:00 pm- The Jungle Farm: Community Farming and Connecting Students to their Food**



The Jungle Farm started in 1897 as a grain farm and now under the care of Leona and Blaine Staples offers a strawberry u-pick, vegetable CSA boxes, and onsite general store. We'll be learning how they engage students in connecting to the food on their plates and throughout the tour participating in activities on the farm. Weather permitting we might even get a wagon ride!

Speakers: Leona Staples, *The Jungle Farm*

#### **4:00 - 4:30 pm - Travel to Sandman Hotel, Red Deer**

#### **4:30 - 5:45 pm - Hotel check in and decompress time!**

#### **5:45 - Get on bus for dinner**

#### **6:00 - Dinner at Cilantro and Chive, Red Deer**

## Day 1: Connections and Reflections

- What was your a-ha! moment of the day?
- Today's presenters focused a lot on community
- Tomorrow we'll be visiting Rocky Mountain Equipment, a large farming equipment dealer. What questions have you always wanted to ask about farm equipment you've seen in the fields driving through Alberta?

## Day 2: Friday, May 2nd

**Program start time:** 8:15am

Breakfast available from 7:30 - 8:30 in the hotel banquet room, but we'll be starting our program at 8!

### What to bring in your daypack:

- Closed-toed shoes (some outdoor walking)
- Other weather appropriate layers
- Water bottle
- Pencil/notebook
- Pillow for the bus

### Overnight accommodations:

Golden Prairie Hotel and Lodge  
5006 43 St, Consort, AB T0C 1B0

### Important notes:

- Closed-toed shoes are required for each of the tours we will be going on this afternoon

## Daily itinerary:

### 8:15 - 9:00 am- Water Availability in Alberta

Drought is a topic at the front of many people's minds living here in Alberta. We use water for a variety of activities and it provides us and our landscapes with life. Inside Education will lead an activity exploring how we measure the amount of water available in the mountainous snowpack, where the majority of our watersheds start.

### 9:00 - 9:15 am- Break and load up bus

### 9:15 - 9:30 am - Travel to Rocky Mountain Equipment- Red Deer

### 9:30 - 10:00 am- What Does That Machine Do?



With the help of the sales manager at Rocky Mountain Equipment, we'll have the chance to ask every question you have ever had about tractors, seeders, combines, balers, or whatever other equipment you can think of! How does an air seeder work? Why do some farmers prefer a green tractor to a red one? Why is a haying rake shaped like that? How accurate is the GPS system inside the combine?

Speakers: Vince Miller, *Rocky Mountain Equipment*

### 10:00 - 11:30 am- Travel to Castor

### 11:30 - 12:30 pm- Lunch at White Goose Family Restaurant, Castor

Menu here: <https://www.facebook.com/CastorWhiteGooseFamilyRestaurant/about>

### 12:30 - 1:00 pm- Coronation Seed Cleaning Co-op and Alberta's Top Crops



How do we prepare the crops grown in Alberta to be shipped, stored or processed into other food products?! We'll explore the inner workings of the Coronation Seed Cleaning Plant and see how it's all done. We'll also take the chance to play Inside Education's favourite game, Top Crops!

Speakers: Glen Hartel, *Coronation Seed Cleaning Co-op*

### 1:30 - 2:30 pm- Travel to Hadwin Cattle Co.

### 2:30 - 4:45 pm- Rotational Grazing and Riparian Ecosystems on the Ranch



Hadwin Cattle Co. is home to one of the Advanced Grazing Systems in Alberta, a project supported by the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association. While here we'll hear from the Hadwins about their grazing practices, and do some hands-on pasture and riparian assessments with the help of the Chinook Applied Research Association, and a private riparian specialist

Speakers:

Erica and Rick Hadwin, *Hadwin Cattle Co.*

Karin Roen, *Chinook Applied Research Association*

### 4:45 - 5:00 pm- Travel to Golden Prairie Lodge and Hotel, Consort

### 5:00 - 6:20 pm- Hotel check in and decompress time

### 6:20 pm- Get on bus to dinner

### 6:30 pm- Dinner at 50th and Main Restaurant

### Day 2: Connections and Reflections:

- What was your a-ha! moment of the day?
- With the grassland and parkland regions of Alberta primarily converted into agriculture, what practices, ideas, or plans did you hear today that work with natural processes on the landscape, rather than in competition?

## Day 3: Saturday, May 3rd

**Breakfast start time:** until 8:30 am

**Start time:** 8:30 am

\*eat breakfast and load the bus for a 8:30 departure

#### What to bring in your daypack:

- Closed-toed shoes (some outdoor walking)
- Other appropriate outdoor layers
- Water bottle
- Pillow for the bus (optional)

#### Expected time back to Red Deer:

4:30 pm

#### Important Notes:

- Please complete our post-program survey once the program has concluded!

**Daily Itinerary:****8:30 - 9:00 am- Travel to Altario School****9:00 - 10:30 am- Now What? Bringing Agriculture Education to your School**

Altario School is home to the Altario Agriculture Academy where students can complete their high school diploma while learning about agricultural practices, through school farm operations, speakers, off-site tours, and other learning experiences.

Speaker: Kevin van Lagen, *Altario School*

**10:30 - 10:45 am- Break****10:45 - 11:30 am-Classroom Connections Workshop**

Inside Education will join forces with the Battle River Watershed Alliance to help you debrief this program and learn about other resources and education partners who can help you bring these ideas and innovations to life in your classroom.

**11:30 - 12:00 pm- What else?**

Inside Education is ready to help support you through the future to turn your environmental ideas into actions! We'll also provide the link to the follow up survey at this point.

**12:00 - 1:00 pm- Lunch****1:00 - 4:30 pm- Return to Red Deer, ending at the Sandman Hotel**