



*Agriculture Youth
Leadership Summit*

November 6-9, 2025 | Edmonton, Alberta



SUMMARY REPORT



“Attending **Cultivate 2025** was a game-changer for our school. It didn't just shift our understanding of agricultural issues; it opened our eyes to perspectives we didn't even know existed. Inside Education made the entire process easy, fun, and deeply engaging. It didn't feel like a standard conference; it felt like becoming part of a community.”

- Janine Morrish, Teacher, David Thompson High School

PROGRAM GOALS

ENGAGING & INSPIRING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Providing opportunities for students to interact with topic experts, peers, and teachers at a professional summit designed for multiple learning styles.

CRITICAL THINKING

Exploring program themes while providing delegates with tools to develop understanding, evaluate information, and form their own perspectives.

SEE AGRICULTURE UP CLOSE

Get boots on the ground at different farms and agriculture events, and engage with industry experts, academics, environmental leaders, and peers.

SUMMIT THEMES

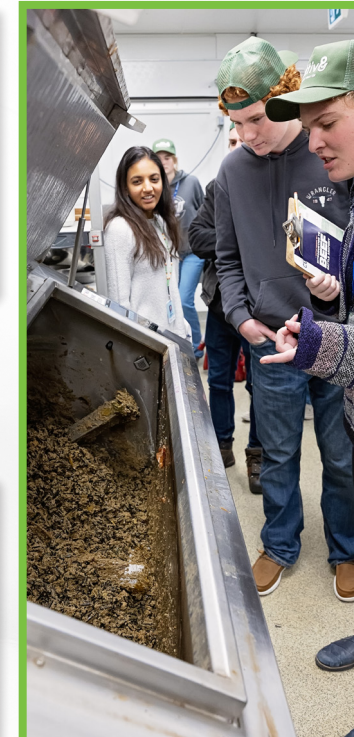
Food Production in Alberta | Technology and Innovation | Indigenous Food Sovereignty
Sustainability | Youth Leadership and School Projects | Careers and Paths Forward

INSIDE EDUCATION IS PROUD TO SHARE THE STORIES AND OUTCOMES FROM CULTIVATE 2025.

The **Cultivate 2025: Youth Agriculture and Sustainability Summit** was an inspiring, energizing, and dynamic opportunity to bring together 20 high schools from across Alberta to learn about the science, issues, technologies and careers related to sustainable agriculture.



The success of Cultivate 2025, Inside Education's 15th youth summit, exemplifies why youth summits have become a cornerstone of our programming. These experiential learning opportunities demonstrate Inside Education's vision of supporting the next generation of environmental and natural resource stewards.



“Before I came here, I knew nothing about agriculture but as the days passed I started learning more and more. This experience is going to stay with me forever!”

- Sophie, Student,
Crowsnest Consolidated High School

THE PROGRAM

Over four days, participants heard from industry experts, academics, producers, Indigenous leaders, and environmental advocates on the future of sustainable agriculture in Alberta and across Canada.

Each student strengthened their skills, knowledge, and networks needed to advance their agriculture impact project—a project created to ensure Cultivate has a lasting impact on their schools and communities.



- 18 COMMUNITIES
- 16 HIGH SCHOOLS
- 84 STUDENTS
- 46 TEACHERS
- 41 EXPERT GUESTS

Inside Education is deeply grateful to the 41 experts who brought diverse perspectives, shared their knowledge, and challenged participants to think critically about the future of sustainable agriculture.



- Katie Songer, Tanya McLellan and young producers: Alberta Beef Producers
- Tara Devries: Alberta Chicken Producers
- Dana Gibson: Alberta Innovates
- Margo Jarvis Redelback: Alberta Irrigation Districts Association
- Kelsie Cosens: Alberta Milk
- Jenn Walker: Alberta Pulse Growers
- Victoria Ross: aGRO Systems
- Reem Ghaleb: Calgary Stampede / Journey 2050
- Emma Cross: Canadian Cattle Association
- Stephanie Draper: Careers: The Next Generation
- Tatyana Pavolvets: Central Alberta Forage and Livestock Association
- Tim and Deb Hofstra: Detimdale Holsteins
- Avash Raut and Krina Patel: Explore Edmonton / Edmonton Expo
- Jamie Gervais-Rietveld: Food Impact Foundation
- Jennifer Neufeld: Flowing Springs Permaculture and Soil Health
- Stacy Murray: Gateway Research Organization
- Jason Hale: Government of Alberta
- Balwinder Kumar: Lakeland College
- Katrina Holoboff: Lethbridge Northern Irrigation Districts
- Mike Nemeth: Nutrien
- Cheryl Boguski: Nutrients for Life
- Semeton Amosu: Olds College of Agriculture and Technology
- Tracey Smith: Organic Alberta
- Charlie Russell: Plains Panty Pemmican
- Tyson Blackwater: Rural Routes to Climate Solutions
- Kimberley Grey and Kalyn Edworthy: The Root of It All Documentary
- Kevin and Leanne Sept: Sunnyhill Alpacas / Twisted Sisters Fibre Mill
- Dr. Boyd Mori, Zach Burgess-Akitt, and Leo Santos: University of Alberta
- Dr. Ed Pajor: University of Calgary
- Becky Newhook: Vertical Roots Edmonton
- Michelle Dubois: Young Agrarians

“ I think it is vitally important for us to engage with and LEARN from youth. It is so easy to focus on our now and forget that my most powerful engagement is actually with teenagers! ”
- Jenn Walker, Alberta Pulse Growers

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 6

Check in with the Inside Education team, let us know you've arrived safely and pick up your welcome package.

With tasty appetizers and a laid-back atmosphere, this is your chance to meet other student teams and start building connections that will carry through the summit. Light team-building activities and easy conversation will help break the ice, spark new friendships, and get your team grounded for the days ahead.

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 7

WELCOME TO THE SUMMIT: KICKOFF AND KEYNOTE

Let's get this summit started! Join us for an energizing welcome as we launch into an unforgettable journey into sustainable agriculture. Then, prepare to have your perspective flipped by a captivating keynote speaker who will challenge what you think you know about food, farming, and the future.

Opening Address: *Honourable Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation*

Speaker: *Dana Gibson, Alberta Innovates*

Throughout the summit, teams will get to dream big and design an exciting project using the provided GROW Guide to help along the way.

From 'free-range' to 'hormone-free,' marketing influences how we shop and eat. In this session, we'll hear from three speakers on livestock, land use, and plant science in an effort to tackle some of the myths and misconceptions in agriculture. Experts from across the sector will then sit down with students to talk about messaging, big questions, and connecting to the community, and how their experiences can help your project GROW.

Over 15 expert guests, including: Dr. Semeton Amosu, Olds College & Dr. Ed Pajor, University of Calgary, and more!

Get the VIP treatment at Farmfair International—one of Canada's premier agriculture and livestock events. The afternoon will include an up-close look at cutting-edge innovations in AGTECH and Innovation Alley, a walk through the high-stakes world of competitive cattle showing, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Climate Smart-certified Edmonton EXPO Centre, featuring its state-of-the-art biodigester that transforms food waste into energy.

An evening of food, film, and inspiration! This session features a screening of short documentaries offering fresh perspectives on agriculture and food systems. Hear directly from the filmmakers about their creative process and why they use storytelling to spark conversations about agriculture.

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 8

Climate change is reshaping the way we grow food, and agriculture is both impacted by and responding to these changes. In this session, you'll learn about some of the toughest climate-related challenges in the ag industry.

Speakers: Boyd Mori, University of Alberta; Cheryl Boguski, Nutrients for Life; Reem Ghaleb, Calgary Stampede/Journey 2050; Margo Redelbeck, Alberta Irrigation Districts Association

Many regenerative practices—like cover cropping and soil restoration—align with Indigenous principles of stewardship and respect for the land. We'll sit with community members and explore the intersection of Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge with conventional agriculture practices.

Speakers: *Tawnya Plain Eagle, Charlie Russell, Tyson Blackwater*

Play the role of a large grazer on the landscape and see where nutrients get left on the landscape.

Speaker: Tatyana Irodenko, Central Alberta Forage and Livestock Association

Embark on a tour of local agriculture projects to see how sustainable agriculture is taking shape in the Capital Region.

Let loose with fellow participants with an evening of dinner, dancing, and games.

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 9

Whether through hands-on farming projects, new technologies, or advocacy for sustainable practices, these youth are proving that age is no barrier to making a difference. Get ready to be inspired by these agricultural change-makers!

We'll help you take what you've learned over the weekend and bring it back to your school and community through the GROW project. Whether it's starting a garden, launching a sustainability initiative, or educating others, your team will be empowered to create lasting change in your local area.

THAT'S A WRAP!



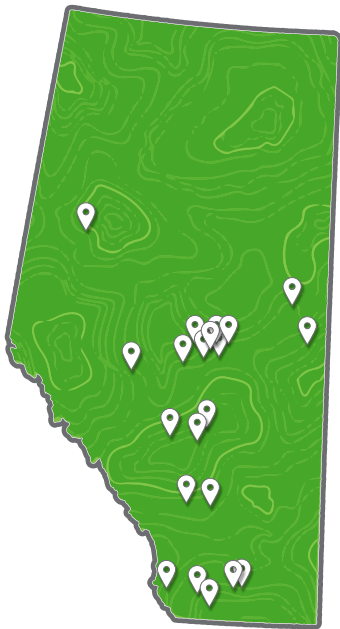
THE PARTICIPANTS

Cultivate 2025 brought together **129 high school students and teachers** from every corner of Alberta, including representation from three First Nation communities.



With **more than 60 applications**, the demand for agricultural education and youth summit opportunities for first-hand learning was apparent. Teams were selected based on their ideas and eagerness to bring their learning back to their school and communities through their agriculture action project.

A concurrent teacher PD session welcomed primarily Bachelor of Education students, offering insights into Alberta's agriculture sector and practical guidance for integrating agriculture education across all grade levels.



Alberta Heritage Language School
Edmonton, AB

Aurora Academic Secondary Charter School
Edmonton, AB

Bonnyville Centralized High School
Bonnyville, AB

Crowsnest Consolidated High School
Coleman, AB

David Thompson High School
Leslieville, AB

Eastglen High School
Edmonton, AB

École Secondaire Lacombe Composite High School
Lacombe, AB

Fairview High School
Fairview, AB

Kainai Alternate Academy
Stand Off, AB

Lethbridge Collegiate Institute
Lethbridge, AB

Manning Aurora Composite School
Morinville, AB

Picture Butte High School
Picture Butte, AB

Piikani Nation Secondary School
Piikani First Nation, AB

Rural Route Agriculture Academy
Strathmore, AB

Tustukeeskwas High School
Frog Lake, AB

W.P. Wagner School
Edmonton, AB

Individual Delegates

Busby

Calgary

Oneway

Red Deer

Wildwood



THE IMPACT

“The expertise is invaluable. There’s just no way that as a classroom teacher we could possibly connect with that many different organizations—not even over the course of our career—so in one weekend, the connections we make and the networking we get to do is really, really worthwhile.”

- Cilena Mathieu, Teacher, Lethbridge Collegiate Institute

WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE A SMALL SAMPLE OF SOME OF THE INSPIRING ACTION PLANS CREATED AT CULTIVATE 2025.

DAVID THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL

Leslieville, AB

Inspired by the two short films shown at the summit, The Root of it All and Reduce, Reuse, Ruminare, the students are interested in making a short documentary about combating food waste and thinking about the value of food.

LETHBRIDGE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Lethbridge, AB

This team will host a one-day career and knowledge exploration day for their fellow students to increase their awareness of agricultural practices, technology, and opportunities in the sector.

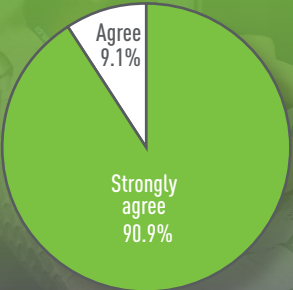
TUSTUKEESKwas HIGH SCHOOL

Frog Lake, AB

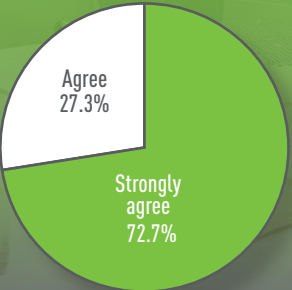
The Frog Lake First Nation school is building a greenhouse better to meet the nutritional needs of students and community members.

Student Impact Survey

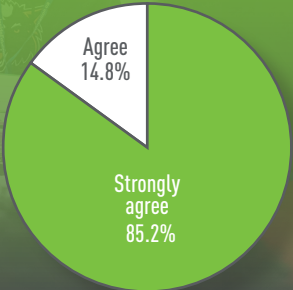
I have increased my understanding of how Alberta's food production systems work



I have increased my knowledge of how food is produced and how it affects the price we pay



I have increased my understanding of Alberta's agriculture industry and their commitment to sustainability



THE FUTURE

The Cultivate 2025 approach exemplifies Inside Education's commitment to developing high-quality, multifaceted learning opportunities that inspire, support and connect teachers and students to agriculture education in Alberta.

With this in mind, planning is already underway for our next youth summit



Agriculture Youth
Leadership Summit
Cultivate 2027 | Canmore, AB

We also have a series of upcoming programming that examines local agriculture initiatives:

- **Regional Agriculture Days**
- **Agriculture Classroom Programs**
- **The Little Green Thumbs and Nutrients for Life grant programs**
- **Agriculture and Water Teacher Professional Development Summer program**



OUR FUNDERS

Inside Education extends its sincere appreciation to the program partners whose support made **Cultivate 2025** possible. Inside Education aims to make meaningful connections and encourage collaboration between schools and organizations that are committed to advancing environmental education in Alberta.

Inside Education would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Cultivate Program Advisory Committee, whose advice and support helped to guide the development of the Cultivate 2025 program:



- Kim Barkwell - County of Leduc and ALUS Alberta
- Karen Carle - Government of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- Dana Gibson - Alberta Innovates
- Melody Pashko - Alberta Food Processors Association
- Amie Peck - Canadian Cattle Association
- Bryanne Peltzer - Alberta Irrigation Districts Association
- Margo Redelback - Alberta Irrigation Districts Association



The Cultivate 2025 Summit took place in Treaty 6 and the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux First Nations and on the traditional territory of the Otipemisiwak Métis Nations including Fort Edmonton and Edmonton Whitemud districts. We are humbled to live and learn on this land and are committed to building relationships in our communities and schools.

For more information contact:

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