

Introducing our speakers...



Emcee: Dr. Deb Stark, Independent Director

Deb calls herself a leader and a learner with a lifelong interest in Canadian agriculture and the people who feed us. She is a former Deputy Minister of OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) and Chief Veterinary Officer for Ontario.

She spends her time volunteering and sitting on boards including the University of Guelph (Vice Chair), Ontario Genomics (past Chair), the Golden Triangle Angel Network and most recently, the Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network.



Deborah Whale, President, GRAS Board of Directors

As President of the GRAS Board, Deborah has spent considerable time working on behalf of Research and Development in the world of agriculture. She has been past Chair of the Agriculture Research Institute of Ontario, the Poultry Industry Council, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, Saskatchewan, and the Board of the University of Alberta Poultry Research Centre. Her interest in technology also turned to the world of energy and as VP of Clovermead Farms, supporting the installation of one of the first biogas facilities on a farm in Ontario.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Evan Fraser, Director, Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph

Dr. Evan Fraser is Director of the Arrell Food Institute and a Professor of Geography. An award-winning author with five books and 150+ academic publications, his work on food, sustainability, and climate change makes him one of Canada's most cited experts. He advises the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council and the UN's High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, shaping national and global food policies. As Vice Chair of the Maple Leaf Centre for Food Security and a leader in the Canadian Alliance for Net Zero Agrifood (CANZA), he works with government, industry, and communities to drive sustainable food systems. He mentors agri-food startups through Creative Destruction Labs and has held key roles, including Canada Research Chair (2010–2020), Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. He has also served as a scientific advisor to Genome Quebec and Protein Industries Canada, contributing to research and innovation in sustainable agriculture.



Returning SPARK V3 Pitch Winner - Dr. Shari van de Pol, CATTLEytics

Dr. van de Pol is returning to give an update on CATTLEytic's success over the past year! CATTLEytics offers dairy farmers and cattle owners tools to farm smarter. They design and maintain software and data systems that enable proactive animal health management. Their hardware solutions, such as cattle thermometers and automated dosing devices, further elevate efficiency. Their dairy management software will empower farmers to manage their operations seamlessly while promoting sustainability metrics. www.cattleytics.com

This is your opportunity to be introduced to some fascinating companies operating in agriculture and environment-related spaces. If you have never considered agriculture as an asset class, the time has come to join us and discover more.

Join us for lunch followed by speakers, networking with industry professionals, and more!