

***Beyond Four Walls:***  
***Exploring Teaching & Learning Through Agriculture***  
**August 5 – 8, 2025**  
**University of Alberta (UofA Farm and North Campus)**

An immersive, hands-on learning experience for K-12 teachers exploring how agriculture can enrich students' learning experiences and curricular outcomes.

**Three ways for teachers to participate:**

- ⇒ As a **conference** for professional development (conference fee; registration open in April)
- ⇒ As a **course** (EDU 595: *Integrating Agriculture into Curriculum: Field-Based Learning*) (application fee and tuition; registration open in April)
- ⇒ As part of **four-course graduate certificate: Teacher Leadership in School-Based Agriculture** (application fee and tuition; registration deadline April 30th).  
<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/education/professional-learning/graduate-certificate-in-educational-studies/agriculture/index.html>

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Dr. Kevin Jones, Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES), UofA: *Learning in the UofA Garden***

Learn about urban gardening and ways to make it prosper at the UofA farm (South Campus). This hands-on session will allow you to dig into gardening – literally! Come prepared to garden!

Bio: Dr. Kevin Jones is an interdisciplinary social scientist researching adaptations to the social and environmental challenges which increasingly define today's world. His research explores pathways to transformative change focusing on processes of institutional and governance innovation. A central element of this work involves the role of public expertise and citizenship engagement as prompts for reflexivity and for opening-up risk issues to more robust governance approaches. Dr. Jones is the ALES co-chair of the University's Environmental Studies program: <https://www.ualberta.ca/agriculture-life-environment-sciences/programs/undergraduate-programs/degree-programs/environmental-studies/index.html>

**Dr. Dwayne Donald, Education, UofA: *River Valley Walk***

Dr. Dwayne Donald will share insights, reflections, and stories regarding the many layers of history, memory, experience, and wisdom that animate the place now known as Edmonton.

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Stelmach, Studies in Educational Leadership, Faculty of Education  
[bonnies@ualberta.ca](mailto:bonnies@ualberta.ca)

Dwayne Donald is a descendent of the amiskwaciyiniwak (Beaver Hills people) and the pâhpâscês nehiyawak and works as a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. He is also a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair. His work focuses on ways in which Indigenous wisdom traditions can expand and enhance conventional understandings of curriculum and pedagogy.

**Dr. Marleny Saldaña (ALES), UofA: *Agri-Food Discovery Place Research Tour***

Dr. Saldaña will take you on a tour of her research lab. You'll have a chance to learn how research plays a central role in the agriculture industry.

Dr. Marleny Saldana is a Professor in the Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Science department. Her research focuses on emerging processing technologies and the use of near-critical and supercritical water and carbon dioxide to treat biomass and agricultural materials for use in nutraceutical, food and industrial applications. Her research team has worked on protein, and starch processing. Main areas include: Sub/supercritical fluid processing (supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, subcritical and supercritical water, pressurized fluids for extraction, fractionation, reaction and particle formation); Ultrasound processing (extraction, homogenization, emulsion, reaction, etc); High Pressure Processing and High Pressure Processing assisted by Temperature to treat crops and food products.

**Dr. Patricia Dolez (ALES), UofA: *Agri-Food Discovery Place Research Tour: Regenerated Cellulosic Fibre from Hemp and Post-Consumer Textiles***

The research aims to establish a made-in-Canada supply of regenerated cellulose fibres using Canadian sources of cellulose such as farming residues, hemp, and recycled textiles. The fibres are produced using the more environmentally-friendly Lyocell process; it has low water consumption and employs a non-toxic solvent that is more than 99% recoverable. The research involves a partnership with several Alberta companies. The lyocell fibres will find applications in a wide range of products, including personal protective equipment (PPE), workwear, dental floss and healthcare products, nonwoven products, filtration media, and consumer apparel textiles.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/folio/2024/04/canadian-made-environmentally-friendly-fibres-could-boost-textile-manufacturing.html>

Dr. Patricia Dolez is a professor in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses on the application of nanotechnologies, smart textiles, natural fibres, and recycled materials in personal protective equipment as well as in the aging behavior of protective materials. She chairs the Canadian mirror committee on ISO/TC 94 SC13 on protective clothing. Dr. Dolez has a track record of successful industry collaborations and more than 250 publications. She is the editor/co-editor of two books published by Elsevier.

**Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore, Concordia University of Edmonton: *Connecting Children—and Ourselves—to Nature: An Informative, Interactive, Practical Workshop***

Children's level of nature connectedness is highly predictive of their well-being as children, and their well-becoming as adults. For both children and adults, a strong connection to nature is related to greater emotional and social well-being. Moreover, nature-connected individuals engage in more pro-nature activities. Children's nature connectedness is heavily influenced by the nature connectedness of

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adults in their lives. In this informative and interactive, practical workshop, nature-related literature, poetry, music, art, and film clips will be utilized as mediums as we explore how we can connect ourselves—and children—to nature. Evidence-based nature-based interventions to boost well-being and nature connectedness will be discussed, with a focus on adapting these for children. (And of course we'll interact with the nature in our immediate surroundings!)

Bio: Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore is an Associate Professor and Department Chair of Psychology at Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) in Alberta, Canada. She is also Director of the multi-university Nature Meaning in Life (NMIL) Research Lab, an Editor of the International Journal of Wellbeing, and Science Chair of the Spirituality and Meaning Division of the International Positive Psychology Association. She collaborates with researchers around the globe primarily focusing on the development and validation of practical interventions to enhance well-being through noticing and engaging with everyday nature close to home. Holli-Anne's academic research articles and book chapters have been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and publications, and featured in various media including The Guardian and CBC's The Current. She regularly presents her research findings and speaks at national and international conferences, as well delivering keynote talks and workshops at local community-based organizations' events.

**Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, Augustana: *Understanding Farm Culture: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Agriculture***

Agriculture is more than food or textile production -- it's a way of life shaped by cultural values, environmental pressures, and strong community ties. This presentation shares emerging research on farm culture in Alberta and beyond. Participants will explore the values, rhythms, and stressors that shape agricultural communities and consider how these intersect with education. The session also highlights ways educators can build trust, support mental wellness, and enhance cultural relevance when working with students from farming backgrounds.

Bio: Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD, is an Applied Social Psychologist and professor at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus. She studies stressors and resilience in rural and farming communities, turning research into practical programs to support the mental health and well-being of those working in the agricultural industry. She is the provincial lead researcher of the Agricultural Wellbeing in Alberta (AgWellAB) program, and was a co-founder of AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network.

**Dr. Jenna Butler, MacEwan University Writer in Residence: *Land-Based Creative Writing***

In this hands-on session, you'll find inspiration for creative writing using the land as a departure point and a muse. Everyone has a story of connection to land, to place, to food, and to community, and finding ways to share these stories links us back to the land -- and to one another -- in powerful ways.

Dr. Jenna Butler is an acclaimed poet and essayist (*Seldom Seen Road, A Profession of Hope: Farming on the Edge of the Grizzly Trail; Revery: A Year of Bees*), and a scholar whose research into endangered environments has taken her from America's Deep South to Ireland's Ring of Kerry, and from Tenerife to the Arctic Circle, exploring ways in which we impact the landscape we call home. Dr. Butler is the 2025 Writer in Residence at MacEwan University.

**Panel Presentation: *Women in Agriculture Through the Generations***

Contact: Dr. Bonnie Stelmach, Studies in Educational Leadership, Faculty of Education  
[bonnies@ualberta.ca](mailto:bonnies@ualberta.ca)

Alberta women have been and continue to be leaders in the agriculture sector. This panel will engage women across the age span to hear from the wisdom of experience and the aspirations of those women beginning their agriculture journey, and the ages between.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

Pig Science Centre Tour, UofA Farm: Located on UofA's South Campus, the center will give you a chance to learn about the care and business of raising pigs. For biosecurity reasons, you will view piglets and pigs from behind glass.

Dairy Research and Technology Centre Tour, UofA Farm: Located on UofA's South Campus, you will have a guided tour of the dairy barn and learn about the dairy industry. You will be required to wear protective booties, but you'll be able to touch calves and cows! If you're lucky, the barnyard cat may pay us a visit, too.

Ukrainian Cultural Village: We'll board a bus and head east of Edmonton for lunch and a customized program and tour.

***\*Daily "Reflect and Connect" Sessions to focus on Alberta curriculum***

## Schedule

<b>Tuesday, August 5, 2025</b>	
<b>Coffee/ Light (?) Breakfast</b> <b>8:00 – 8:30 a.m.</b> UofA South Campus (UofA Farm): Poultry Science Centre	
<b>8:30 – 9:30 a.m.</b>	Welcome & Orientation (Poultry Centre)
<b>9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	Pig Science Centre and Dairy Research & Technology Centre
<b>Lunch</b> <b>12:00 – 12:45 p.m.</b> Poultry Science Centre	
<b>12:45 – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Connecting Children—and Ourselves—to Nature</b> Dr. Holli-Anne Passmore, Concordia University of Edmonton Poultry Centre
<b>3:00 – 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Reflect &amp; Connect</b> Poultry Science Centre
<b>Wednesday, August 6, 2025</b>	
<b>Coffee/Breakfast</b> <b>8:00 – 8:45 a.m.</b> UofA South Campus (UofA Farm) Poultry Science Centre	
<b>8:45 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Dig Into Gardening!</b> Dr. Kevin Jones, University of Alberta UofA South Campus Garden (Start at Poultry Science Centre) (break incorporated)
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b> <b>BREAK</b>	
<b>11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Women Leaders in Agriculture: Intergenerational Panel</b> (Poultry Science Centre)
<b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Reflect &amp; Connect</b> Poultry Centre
<b>Lunch</b> <b>12:30 – 1:00 p.m.</b> Poultry Centre	
<b>1:30 – 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>River Valley Walk</b> Dr. Dwayne Donald, University of Alberta Meet at Huskie House in Kinsmen Park
<b>Thursday, August 7, 2025</b>	
<b>Coffee/Breakfast</b> <b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b> UofA South Campus (UofA Farm) Agri-Food Discovery Place	
<b>9:00 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Agri-Food Discovery Place Research Tours (UofA South Campus):</b>  <b>Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub></b> -- Dr. Marleny Saldaña, University of Alberta

	<b>Regenerated Cellulosic Fibre from Hemp and Post-Consumer Textiles-</b> Dr. Patricia Dolez, University of Alberta
<b>10:45 – 10:55 a.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village</b> (bus transportation, lunch @ Ukrainian Village, Tour & Activities, Reflect & Connect)
<b>Friday, August 8, 2025</b> <b>UofA North Campus</b>	
<b>8:00 – 8:30 Coffee/Breakfast</b> <b>UofA North Campus (Room TBD)</b>	
<b>8:30 – 9:45</b>	<b>Understanding Farm Culture: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Agriculture</b> Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, Augustana
<b>9:45 – 10:00 BREAK</b> <b>(Room TBD)</b>	
<b>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Land-Based Creative Writing</b> Dr. Jenna Butler, MacEwan University Writer in Residence
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Farewell</b>
<b>12:30 LUNCH</b> <b>(Room TBD)</b>	

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