

Your opportunity to participate in the in-depth sessions on communication skills, succession planning, business planning, DFO tools, understanding genetics, breeding strategies, and so much more!

Our Speakers

Clem Nash

Ph.D. Executive C.O.W.S.
Manager, Novus Int.

Lameness Assessment Session

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With her deep knowledge of animal welfare and dairy production, Dr. Nash has helped dairy farmers across North America and Europe optimize their performance through optimized cow comfort. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Guelph and her doctorate in epidemiology from the Ontario Veterinary College. She is a member of the American Dairy Science Association, the Canadian Dairy Research Network, and Campbell's Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare. She now leads the Novus C.O.W.S. Cow Comfort program in North America.

Emily McDonald Manager, Field Services and Raw Quality Programs - DFO

DFO Tools Session

phone: (519) 202 0056
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Emily joined DFO in 2013, as a Field Service Representative in South Western Ontario. In 2022, Emily was promoted to the Manager of Field Services and Raw Milk Quality Programs and plays a key role in overseeing the quality and safety of raw milk production. Emily is actively involved in the 4-H Ontario program as a Dairy Club Leader. Emily grew up on a dairy farm in Southwestern Ontario and continues to lend a helping hand at home on the farm whenever possible.

Kelly Ann McKnight Founder Stone Ridge Consulting

Personal Traits Session

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Kelly Ann McKnight is a certified Master Facilitator, author, speaker, and personal development professional. She founded Stone Ridge Consulting in 2000 and has worked with private and public firms, government organizations, and not-for-profits providing training and development services in the areas of leadership, management development, behavior profiling, and team development. Prior to founding Stone Ridge Consulting, Kelly Ann held various roles in sales and marketing at Dow AgroSciences, BASF, and Cyanamid where she led database marketing teams.

Megan Douglas MSc. Technical Sales and Nutrition - Halchemix

Lameness Assessment Session

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Meghan Douglas' agricultural roots and dairy farm background sparked an early passion for animal agriculture. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Animal and Dairy Cow Nutrition from the University of Guelph, with over 15 years of industry experience. At Halchemix for just over a year, Meghan focuses on dairy nutrition, leveraging her background in monogastrics, especially swine. She has spent much of her career on farms, working closely with producers on both management and nutrition. Her goal is to support nutritionists and their customers by sharing knowledge, and learning.

Vicky Morrison Region 9 Delegate - Board of Dairy Farmers of Ontario

DFO Tools Session

phone: (519) 320-9249
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Vicky is a dairy farmer from Essex County, Ontario. In 2020 she was elected to the board of Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), where she represents milk producers. She previously served as the Chair of Essex-Kent Dairy Producer Committee and is active on the Essex-Kent Holstein club committee as well as being an Essex County 4H dairy club leader. Vicky completed a Ph.D in dairy cattle nutrition, which led to a post as a lecturer in dairy herd management at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise in Northern Ireland. From July 2022 she will represent DFO on the board of Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Julie Smith ST Genetics Ontario Sales Team Manager

Making Breeding Decisions Session

phone: (289) 385-2916
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Julie grew up on a dairy farm in Eastern Ontario, Mount Elm Holsteins in Vankleek Hill, where her family milked 90 cows. Her family has since retrofitted 2 DeLaval robots. Julie was actively involved in the 4-H program in Prescott County. She attended the University of Guelph where she received a Diploma in Agriculture. Upon graduation, she was hired by Holstein Ontario. After almost 4 years, Julie returned home to work on her family farm. She started working with Cogent Canada in 2017, moving to full-time sales when Cogent was acquired by STGenetics in 2018. Recently, Julie has merged into the role of Ontario Sales Team Manager.

Xavier Schickedanz
Relationship Manager
Agriculture RBC

Finance / Business Planning Session

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Xavier works with farmers and agribusinesses to find practical financial solutions that help their operations run smoothly and grow over time. Building strong relationships is at the core of what Xavier does — he takes the time to understand each client's goals and challenges so they can plan for the future to ensure success of the valued operations. Xavier is motivated by the chance to support the agricultural community and contribute to its long-term success.

Kathleen Shore
Manager of Ruminant
Nutrition – Grand Valley

Feed Rations Session

phone: (519) 221 4014
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Kathleen has been a nutritionist in the Canadian Feed Industry for 20 years. She graduated from the University of Guelph with a master's degree in Ruminant Nutrition and has been playing with calves, heifers and cows ever since. The start of her career was at Grober Nutrition formulating milk replacers and running trials evaluating different feeding and management strategies to improve growth of our young ruminants. For the past 6 years, she has been with Grand Valley Fortifiers, formulating rations and supporting dairy producers across Canada — from the Maritimes to the western provinces.

Shelly Kuepfer
Waterloo Regional DairyD
Educator – DFO

Succession Panelist

phone: (519) 635 4337
email address:



Shelley Kuepfer, along with her husband Greg and their three daughters owns and operates Trinity Holsteins: Den-Lee Farms Ltd., on their Waterloo County farm, they milk 80 Holsteins and work hard to balance tradition with the realities of today's high-cost agricultural world. In addition to managing the farm with Greg, Shelley works part-time as the Dairy Educator for Waterloo Region and supports the Education department in a consulting role.

Ryan Grove
Dairy Farmer in Grey County and
Hoof Care Specialist

Hoof Health Session

phone: (519) 748-8237
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Ryan Grove farms in Chatsworth, along with his wife and three kids. They are located in beautiful Grey County. Ryan was born and raised on a beef feed lot operation and has always a passion in the bovine industry. He chose to make his career in hoof care. December 2006, Ryan graduated from Dairyland Hoof Care Institute Inc. after completing the technical Hoof Trimming Course. In 2007, he started R-J Hoof Care and has been serving farms in multiple counties. Ryan's nineteen years of experience has produced a wealth of practical knowledge that is able to identify and treat lameness, leading to the full restoration of foot-and-leg health.

Alex McKay
Classifier Holstein Canada

Breaking Down the Traits Session

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Alex McKay was born and raised in the Embro area. He activity participated in 4-h until 2020. In 2019 he was selected to represent Ontario at the intercollegiate judging competition in Madison Wisconsin. Alex started his career with Holstein Canada in January of 2021 after completing his diploma at the university of Guelph Ridgetown Campus.

Nikki Campbell
Rumination Nutrition
Consultant – Grand Valley

Feed Rations Session

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Nikki Campbell is a ruminant nutrition consultant who works closely with dairy producers to balance rations, improve herd management, and achieve on-farm nutrition goals. A graduate of the University of Guelph with a Master's in Animal Nutrition (2017), Nikki combines her technical expertise with a genuine passion for connecting with producers and helping them reach their full potential. Beyond her consulting work, she enjoys engaging with high school students from non-rural backgrounds to share insights about careers in agriculture and inspire the next generation of ag professionals.

Cole Verburg
Dairy Farmer in Athens,D
Leeds County

Succession Panelist

phone: (613) 802-3604
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Cole Verburg is a 4th generation dairy farmer in Athens, Leeds County. He has been married to Anjela for 21 years, and they have 4 children aged 12-20. They farm with Cole's parents and brother & sister-in-law. They milk 100 cows on 2 GEA monobox robots. The farm became incorporated in 2013 when they went through succession from generations 2&3 to 3&4. Talks have begun for the next succession of the farm.

Mick Rutherford
Calmac Holsteins Embro

Succession Panelist

phone: (226) 791-1365
email address: Mike@calmacholsteins.ca



Mike Rutherford farms with his wife Emma, their three children, and her parents Alex and Janet McIntosh under the Calmac prefix in Embro, ON. Here they milk 100 cows on two Lely A5 robots and raise 100 heifers. Since taking over management duties in 2021, Mike has taken pride in improving forage quality, production, and simplifying transition cow management. Mike works at Grand Valley Fortifiers as an On-Farm Support Specialist, and has maintained a strong community presence through involvement with the Oxford County Holstein Club, where he is currently the past president.