

BCFACC Conference

“Working together for responsible animal care”

Speakers Biographies

Susan M. Church



Susan managed the [Alberta Farm Animal Care Association](#) (AFAC), from its inception in 1993 and until 2009. Working with dedicated producer board members, she helped position Alberta livestock producers as leaders in animal care issues throughout Canada and the US. She was instrumental in encouraging the formation of a national farm animal council.

Several innovative programs were started under Susan’s management; including:

- the Animal Care Alert Line,
- the on-call veterinary service,
- [INSIGHTS](#), a national newsletter on animal care issues,
- AFAC funding for animal welfare research,
- the Canadian Certified Livestock Transporter course,
- the horse welfare report,
- humane handling guidelines for unfit livestock.

In 2001, she was awarded the first Friend of the Industry Award from Alberta Pork. In July 2005, she received the Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association’s annual Humane Care Award. In November 2009, she received the Alberta Dairy Industry Achievement Award and the leadership Award of Distinction from AFAC in March 2010.

She has worked extensively with Alberta’s agriculture and food industry for 39 years. She has a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba.

Now retired, she is involved with several Calgary and Alberta-based organizations including:

- the board of Heritage Park
- the board of the Alberta Region of the Nature Conservancy of Canada
- the Agriculture Service Board of Rocky View County
- the University of Calgary’s Animal Care Committee
- the board of the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada
- the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Advisory Council
- the Cooperators Insurance Community Advisory Panel
- the board of the Herron Family Foundation
- the Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, as a park steward.

Susan lives just outside of Calgary with her husband Stan, who runs a 400 head cattle operation. Together they have 7 grandchildren.

Dr. David Fraser, Professor, NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Animal Welfare in Animal Welfare Program - University of British Columbia

From his childhood on a farm in southern Ontario, Dr. David Fraser has maintained a fascination with animals throughout his 35-year research career. He did research on the welfare of farm animals (Edinburgh School of Agriculture, 1971-1975) and on the behaviour and management of moose (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,



1975-1981) before developing a research team on farm animal welfare and behaviour at the Central Experimental Farm in

Ottawa (1981-1997). He joined UBC in 1997 and is currently cross-appointed between the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics.

Dr. Fraser is an enthusiastic teacher who mentors many graduate students and takes the leading role in the award-winning course, "Animal Welfare and the Ethics of Animal Use". He is in high demand as a lecturer off-campus, logging 100,000 km per year in lecture trips.

Dr. Fraser also works with many organizations to find practical ways to improve the lives of animals. He serves on animal welfare advisory boards for many organizations including the Burger King Corporation (Miami), the Food Marketing Institute and National Council of Chain Restaurants (Washington), the World Organization for Animal Health (Paris), and within Canada on the Board of Trustees of the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada and the Animal Welfare Committee of the Vancouver Foundation. In 2004-2005 he served as Visiting Expert on animal welfare at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

David has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Glasgow.

Kevan Garecki

Kevan has been involved with commercial transport for over 35 years, from an independent owner / operator to managing multi-national fleets. He has served on advisory boards, participated in commercial traffic studies and assisted in the development of provincial and federal-level instructional programs.

A published author and accomplished equine and wildlife photographer, Kevan also owns and manages his own commercial horse transport business based in Langley, BC.

Bonnie Windsor, Assistant Plant Manager, Johnston's

Currently, Bonnie Windsor serves as the Assistant Plant Manager, Human Resources Manager, and Director of Marketing at Johnston's, a local meat processing company offering processing services and quality pork products in British Columbia since 1937. Through a successful 21+ year tenure, she has developed and implemented strategic plans that were in line with Johnston's core values leading to quality products, exceptional service, and ensuring strong customer and employee relations. Bonnie has excelled in creating both the structure and the teams necessary to guide the company throughout the years in the very volatile meat industry.

In addition to her dedication and achievements at Johnston's, Bonnie is also committed to committee and advisory work in the meat industry. Over the years Bonnie has served on many advisory groups with the provincial government, she currently holds a seat at the table of the BC Farm Animal Care Council and is a director of the BC Association of Abattoirs. She is actively involved in raising the standards of the meat industry, the pork industry in particular, to provide Johnston's products to consumers with quality and safety in mind. She is frequently called upon to speak about the issues and current affairs of the meat industry, and at career forums to share her extensive knowledge of her 20+ years experience in human resources.

John van Dongen, MLA, Abbotsford South

John has been a MLA for 16 years. During this time he has served as the Minister of Agriculture, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety, and Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations.

John has been involved in farm organizations and businesses for almost two decades. He was on the board of directors of the B.C. Dairy Foundation, Agrifoods International Co-operative (Dairyland), the B.C. Federation of Dairymen's Association, and the Federal Farm Debt Review Board.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, John operated a dairy farm in Abbotsford. He has a degree in agricultural economics from the University of British Columbia.

Jackie Wepruk, General Manager, National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)



Jackie Wepruk has been the General Manager of NFACC since its inception in 2005. Prior to this, she did project-based work with the Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Association and industry groups, advancing farm animal welfare. Projects included two Alberta horse welfare reports, a “downer” benchmarking project, and initiatives to enhance the handling of cull dairy cows. She was also the writer of the Livestock Welfare INSIGHTS publication for many years.

Jackie facilitates the NFACC member partnership that includes governments, farmed animal industries, the veterinary community, the humane movement and other allied groups. She assists NFACC’s partners in achieving practical solutions to farm animal welfare concerns, addressing the interests of farmers, domestic and export markets, governments and the Canadian public.

In 1985 Jackie obtained her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Winnipeg, and in 1999, a M.Sc. of Environmental Design from the University of Calgary.

Ron Maynard, Vice-President, Dairy Farmers of Canada



Ron Maynard is a partner in a dairy farm in Tyne Valley P.E.I. He joined the family farm in 1982 and expanded from 25 milking cows to the present 150.

A McGill University graduate, Ron has been actively involved in the dairy industry at the provincial and national levels. He has been President of the P.E.I. Dairy Producers and Chair of the P.E.I. Milk Marketing Board. At the national level, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Dairy Bureau of Canada.

He served as member of the Board of Directors of Dairy Farmers of Canada in 1995 and was re-appointed in 2000. He was elected to the Executive Committee in July 2008.

Mr. Maynard has also been actively involved at the community level with the 4-H Council and with various health services organizations. As part of his work on the DFC board, Ron is involved in issues related to animal care and sustainable development.

Ron and his wife Liz have three daughters.

Ken Clark, General Manager of Fresh, Overwaitea Food Group



Ken began his career in the retail grocery business back in 1971 and found the love for the Fresh side of the business in 1974. Since that time he has had the good fortune of having the opportunity of working for and learning from a number of very good organizations like Steinberg/Miracle Food Mart, Loeb/IGA, National Grocers, Ontario Pork Marketing Board, the Oshawa Group and IBP/Lakeside Packers. For the past thirteen years he has had the great pleasure to call the Overwaitea Food Group home. As General Manager of Fresh he is responsible for the merchandising direction of all areas of the fresh business.

The Overwaitea Food Group operates 125 stores throughout BC and Alberta under the following banners: Save On Foods, Overwaitea Foods, Cooper’s Foods, Price Smart and Urban Fare.

Dr. Temple Grandin, *Professor of Animal Science, Colorado State University*



Dr. Temple Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed are located in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. In North America, almost half of the cattle are handled in a center track restrainer system that she designed for meat plants. Curved chute and race systems she has designed for cattle are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior

have helped many people to reduce stress on their animals during handling. Other professional activities include developing animal welfare guidelines for the meat industry and consulting with McDonalds, Wendy's International, Burger King, and other companies on animal welfare.

Temple's achievements are remarkable because she was an autistic child. At age two she had no speech and all the signs of severe autism. Fortunately, her mother defied the advice of the doctors and kept her out of an institution. Many hours of speech therapy, and intensive teaching enabled Temple to learn speech. Mentoring by her high school science teacher and her aunt on her ranch in Arizona motivated Temple to study and pursue a career as a scientist and livestock equipment designer.

Dr. Temple Grandin obtained her B.A. at Franklin Pierce College in 1970. In 1974 she was employed as Livestock Editor for the Arizona Farmer Ranchman and also worked for Corral Industries on equipment design. In 1975 she earned her M.S. in Animal Science at Arizona State University for her work on the behavior of cattle in different squeeze chutes. Dr. Grandin was awarded her Ph.D. in Animal Science from the University of Illinois in 1989 and is currently a Professor at Colorado State University.

Following her Ph.D. research on the effect of environmental enrichment on the behavior of pigs, she has published several hundred industry publications, book chapters and technical papers on animal handling plus 45 refereed journal articles in addition to seven books. She currently is a professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University where she continues her research while teaching courses on livestock handling and facility design. Her book, *Animals in Translation* was a *New York Times* best seller and her book *Livestock Handling and Transport*, now has a third edition which was published in 2007. Other popular books authored by Dr. Grandin are *Thinking in Pictures*, *Emergence Labeled Autistic*, *Animals Make us Human*, *Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach*, and *The Way I See It*.

Dr. Grandin has received numerous awards including the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Livestock Conservation Institute, named a Distinguished Alumni at Franklin Pierce College and received an honorary doctorate from McGill University, University of Illinois, and Duke University. She has also won prestigious industry awards including the Richard L. Knowlton Award from Meat Marketing and Technology Magazine and the Industry Advancement Award from the American Meat Institute and the Beef Top 40 industry leaders and the Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Her work has also been recognized by humane groups and she received several awards. HBO has recently premiered a movie about Temple's early life and career with the livestock industry. The movie received seven Emmy awards, a Golden Globe, and a Peabody Award. In 2011, Temple was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame.

Dr. Grandin is a past member of the board of directors of the Autism Society of America. She lectures to parents and teachers throughout the U.S. on her experiences with autism. Articles and interviews have appeared in the *New York Times*, *People*, *Time*, National Public Radio, 20/20, The View, and the BBC. She was also honored in Time Magazines 2010 "The 100 Most Influential People in the World." Dr. Grandin now resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.