



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26





The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

Augustana is located in (asiniskaw sipisis - Stoney Creek) Treaty 6 territory, a travelling route and home to the Maskwacîs Nêhiyawak, Niitsitapi, Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina Nations, the Métis and other Indigenous peoples. Their spiritual and practical relationships to the land create a rich heritage for our learning and our life as a community.

Above: Traditional Indigenous Medicine workshop held at the Wahkohtowin Lodge - Augustana Campus, Camrose, on September 8, 2022. Photo by John Ulan.

Contents

Message from the Director	4
About the ACSRC	5
New Projects	7
Ongoing Projects	11
Completed Projects	15
ACSRC Research Fellows	16
Post-Doctoral Fellow	23
Research Associate	24
Engaging Undergraduates	25
Rural Pathways Summer Interns 2025	27
Engaging in Community	28
Conferences	32
Publications	34
Media	36
Financial Summary	38

Message from the Director

Greetings! I am pleased to again report on the important work the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities continues to partake in. Through a wide variety of research projects, educational opportunities, and public outreach, we continue to support rural sustainability across Alberta and beyond.

One of the key highlights from the past year has been our success with a variety of granting agencies, allowing us to not only take on new and exciting projects but also to expand the ACSRC's footprint by bringing a collection of energetic people into the mix, passionate about rural communities. This has included a full-time Research Associate (Serena Isley, MSc.), a full-time Post-Doctoral Scholar (Dr. Laticia Chapman-Rainway), a growing list of undergraduate research assistants and ACSRC Research Fellows, a series of new external project partners, and a refreshed Advisory Committee. And, of course, none of our work would move forward in successful directions without the exceptional behind the scenes work of our coordinator, Carole Preston. The number of amazing people associated with the Centre continues to grow and for that I am both immensely proud and excited about what lies ahead.

This year also saw us wrap-up two meaningful research projects (one related to policy recommendations meant to ease the burden of farm succession planning on Alberta farmers, the other a program evaluation of an innovative local program named Young Medical Minds), and launch a series of new projects related to rural health care, the evolving nature of the rural newspaper landscape, school nutrition programs in rural areas, among others. These projects run alongside ongoing work on a variety of other topics pertinent to rural sustainability.

We also continued our public outreach work, hosting two very well-attended public events as part of our Local Food Sustainability Initiative supported by Augustana's Food Sustainability Endowment and in partnerships with Camrose County and the Food Artisans of Camrose County. This included a facilitated workshop aimed at mapping out a pathway toward the establishment of a community food hub in the Camrose region. Work on this initiative continues!

I invite you to read, in more detail, about these and other endeavours undertaken by the ACSRC in the pages that follow. I also invite you to our website uab.ca/ACSRC, for even more details! Finally, I would like to personally thank all those who have supported the ACSRC over the past year and encourage those new to our work to consider supporting us going forward. Many of our future plans rely on those who care about rural communities and are willing to financially support our work in these important areas. I wish you all a great year ahead and, as always, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Clark Banack
Director, ACSRC

About the ACSRC

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) at the University of Alberta has, since its founding in 2009, assisted rural communities in meeting diverse challenges across many areas of public policy through fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships.

The centre's mission is to link the research, outreach and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

To read more about us and the work we do, please visit uab.ca/ACSRC

ACSRC TEAM

The ACSRC is made possible due to the diverse expertise of the team of people bringing it all together. From daily operations to research, the work happens on campus, in the field and in our rural Albertan communities.

DIRECTOR

Clark Banack, PhD.

COORDINATOR

Carole Preston, BA.

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Greg King, PhD.

Associate Professor, Augustana -
Environmental Science

Glen Hvenegaard, PhD.

Professor, Augustana - Environmental Science

John Parkins, PhD.

Dean, Augustana - Environmental Sociology

John Pattison-Williams, PhD.

Adjunct Professor, Augustana

Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD.

Professor, Augustana - Psychology

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Serena Isley, MSc.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOW

Laticia Chapman-Rainway, PhD.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Sydney Shirreff, BA.

Tacey Robertson, BA.

Priya Dhillon

Nate Goetz, BA.



ACSRC EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY COUNCILS

The ACSRC has two Councils, the Executive Council and the Advisory Council. The Executive Council is made up of our two governing deans, one from ALES and one from Augustana along with two rurally focused professors/researchers from each faculty. The purpose of this board is to ensure that the ACSRC remains accountable to its mission and vision. The Advisory Council is made up of representatives from a broad section of rural Alberta's leadership in a variety of contexts. The Advisory Council ensures that the ACSRC stays connected with rural communities and relevant to the issues and concerns that rural communities have. Advisory Council members have a 3 year term.

Please visit uab.ca/ACSRC for more information.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Duane Gladden (Rural Municipalities Association)
Rachel de Vos (Alberta Municipalities)
Richard Bruneau (Otipemisiwak Métis Government)
Gordon Naylor (Maskwacis Cree High School)
Tim Carson (Alberta Ag Societies)
Cathy Goulet (Killick Leadership Group)
Patricia MacQuarrie (City of Camrose)
Anjah Howard (Camrose County)
Krista Gardner (Alberta Municipalities/Town of Calmar)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John Parkins, PhD.
(Dean & Executive Officer, Augustana Campus)
Dean Yada, PhD.
(Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)
Debra Davidson, PhD.
(Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)
Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD.
(Professor, Faculty of Psychology, Augustana Campus)
Kevin Jones, PhD.
(Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)
Joseph Wiebe, PhD.
(Director of the Chester Ronning Centre, Associate Professor, Fine Arts & Humanities, Augustana Campus)

New Projects

Exploring the Social and Political Implications of the Consolidation, Death, and even Rebirth, of Local Newspapers in Rural Canada and the USA

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Funding: SSHRC

Project Dates: May 2026 - August 2031

This ambitious 5 year study will comparatively explore the social and political implications of the consolidation and death, but also the persistence and even re-birth, of local newspapers in rural regions across Canada and the United States. Involving a large inter-disciplinary team, this project will combine a series of “community immersion” case studies with 2 national surveys that, together, will examine the relationship between the existence of different forms of rural community newspapers, or their absence, and the ways in which rural residents think about, make sense of, and act in response to local, national and international social and political issues.

Migrant Voices in the Mountains

Project Lead: Mariana Castillo Arce, Summer Research Assistant

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Funding: Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Research Award

Project Dates: May 2026 - September 2026

Funded by Augustana Campus, Migrant Voices in the Mountains explores the experiences of immigrant workers in Jasper, Alberta, with particular attention to how labour conditions, immigration status, housing dependency, and geographic isolation shape vulnerability in local labour markets. Drawing on immigrant workers’ recollections after their arrival in Alberta, the project examines how these experiences intersect with broader structural challenges in tourism-based communities, especially in the aftermath of the 2024 Jasper wildfire. Through qualitative analysis, the project aims to develop a deeper understanding of how immigrant workers navigate workplace expectations, limited employment options, and systems of dependency in rural and geographically isolated settings.

Conversation toward a Common Goal: Exploring a Regional Food Hub in the Wider Camrose Region

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Funding: Sustainable Food Endowment and ACSRC

Project Dates: 2026

As a result of the Food Sustainability Lecture & Film Series, the ACSRC and the Food Artisans of Camrose County brought together key stakeholders from across the food system within Camrose County and surrounding counties to explore the possibility of a Food Hub. Laura Howard, a food system consultant and sustainable food entrepreneur, was invited to facilitate a day-long workshop that gathered insights, experiences and potential opportunities for the creation of a regional food hub. The information gathered has been compiled and a summary report provided with recommendations for next steps in June 2026.



Attendees at the Conversation toward a Common Goal event held in February 2026.

Women's Healthcare Experiences in Rural Alberta

Project Lead: Serena Isley, MSc.

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Funding: ACSRC

Project Dates: June 2025 - August 2026

This project centres and amplifies the voices of rural women by foregrounding their lived healthcare experiences and develops a nuanced understanding of how healthcare needs, gaps, and interactions with providers emerge and evolve within the structural realities of rural contexts. This project was conceptualized in June 2025 and initiated in July/August 2025. Results are currently being prepared in a manuscript for academic publication. The research team presented findings from this project at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) conference in June of 2026.

Mobilizing Pharmacy Access in Alberta: A Novel Mobile Pharmacy Unit Model

Project Lead: Kaitlyn Watson, PhD. (College of Health Science, University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Project Funding: University of Alberta's Strategic Research Initiatives Fund

Project Dates: June 2026 - June 2028

This exploratory mixed-methods study shifts pharmacy care delivery paradigms: rather than requiring rural Albertans to travel to access pharmacy services (a known barrier to healthcare in rural communities), we bring expert pharmacist care and medicines directly to communities. Our Mobile Pharmacy Unit (MPU) model pursues interconnected goals, ensuring rural Albertans experience equitable access to pharmacy service comparable to urban populations and strengthening Alberta's capacity for uninterrupted essential health services by identifying unmet health needs and pharmacy service barriers in rural Alberta, understanding facilitators and preferences for MPU service delivery from communities and providers, co-designing an MPU model grounded in community priorities, cultural safety, and disaster preparedness, and developing implementation-ready guiding principles for provincial scalability.

Alberta Innovation & Best Practices in School Nutrition

Project Lead: Dr. Amberely Ruiz (University of Saskatchewan)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Project Funding: Alberta Education

Project Dates: May 2026 - August 2026

Alberta Food Matters has partnered with Farm2Cafeteria Canada, the Coalition for Healthy School Food and Dr. Amber Ruetz in a study centered around Best Practices in School Nutrition. The project gathers baseline data on school food programs and best practices in Alberta. The ACSRC is a collaborative member of the grant team.





Ongoing Projects

Understanding Social and Political Attitudes in Rural Canada via Ethnography

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD. (ACSRC)

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Development Grant

Project Dates: November 2022 - December 2026

Building on Clark Banack's pilot study completed in rural Alberta ([read here](#)), and in partnership with Dionne Pohler, PhD., (Cornell University), and ACSRC Post Doctoral Fellow Laticia Chapman-Rainway, PhD., this SSHRC-funded project utilizes a political ethnographic method to better understand political opinion formation in rural communities across Canada. The research team has now completed 2-week "immersions" in seven rural communities across Canada. Aspects of this research have been shared at multiple academic conferences across Canada and internationally and the team is currently writing an academic paper as well as a book length manuscript based on their findings.

Image above includes John Pattison-Williams (left), Micah Pattison-Williams (center), and Ben Aguilar (right) of the Berry Centre, USA, walking through a field at the Pattison family farm outside of Camrose, Alberta. Image by Danielle Doel.

Addressing the Issue of Under-Utilized Commercial Real Estate in Rural Alberta

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Funding Source: Alberta Real Estate Foundation

Project Dates: March 2025 - November 2027

Rural communities across Alberta often struggle with empty storefronts and under-utilized commercial buildings. Once the hub of commerce and community activities, these spaces have fallen victim to structural changes in retail operations and consumer behaviour, from a growing comfort to travel farther to buy goods elsewhere, to the advent of the large “box stores” appearing on the outskirts of these communities, to the rapidly growing interest in online shopping. This ongoing project aims to address this issue by exploring the issue of under-utilized commercial space in rural communities and providing a set of recommendations for rural municipalities, organizations, and entrepreneurs interested in revitalizing these critical spaces. We anticipate holding a conference in Camrose, Alberta in the spring of 2027 to share our findings and highlight key success stories from across rural Canada and beyond.

Partnerships in Sustainable Communities in Rural Alberta

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD., and Greg King, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Research Partner

Funding Source: Mitacs, ACSRC Operating Funds, University of Alberta Sustainability Council

Project Dates: May 2024 – August 2026

Research partners Director Clark Banack, PhD., and ACSRC Research Fellow Greg King, PhD., (Environmental Science, Augustana), are working collaboratively on a project designed to enhance our understanding of how municipal administrations in rural areas engage with concepts related to sustainability in their planning goals, with a particular emphasis on the role partnerships play when seeking to meet these goals. In June 2026, the team hosted representatives from a variety of institutions in order to facilitate conversations around ways we, as a community, can leverage new and existing partnerships to enhance sustainability goals in the region.

Building a Community Wealth Plan: A Community-based Participatory Approach to Inclusive Economic Development in a Rural Resource-dependent Community.

Project Lead: Maria Mayan, PhD. (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Funding Source: SSHRC Partnership Grant

Project Dates: April 2024 - May, 2027

The ACSRC continues to be a partner on this project led by Maria Mayan, PhD (School of Public Health, University of Alberta), who is building off of her team's successful work evaluating Drayton Valley, Alberta's zero-fee tuition program, the centrepiece of an innovative approach to rural economic development. This project will utilize a community-based participatory research approach to explore the innovative initiatives that municipalities throughout Alberta are taking to create PSE opportunities for residents as part of their community development strategies.

Understanding Accented Speech in Rural and Urban

Project Lead: Juhani Jarvikivi, PhD. (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Development Grant

Project Dates: May 2024 - June 2026

The ACSRC is happy to bring a "rural" voice to an ongoing multi-disciplinary project led by Juhani Jarvikivi, PhD (Professor, Faculty of Arts - Linguistics Dept) that explores the question: How can better understanding factors driving these attitudes contribute to a fairer society? The aim of this project is to create equitable, real-world informed research into language attitudes in Canada by building a citizen science network, a network of experts, and a technological infrastructure, the Canadian Map of Language Attitudes and Use, that will support engagement and inclusion of speakers from diverse regions and backgrounds as both research creators and beneficiaries.

The Grassland Learning and Knowledge Hub: Conservation and Farm Succession Planning

Project Lead: John Pattison, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Funding Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada

Project Dates: 2024 - 2029

The Grassland Learning and Knowledge Hub (GLKH) is a partnership between the University of Alberta, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Restore Assent Defend Network. To enable grassland conservation, the GLKH addresses natural climate solutions implementation and research gaps by analyzing barriers to reducing grasslands conversion and increasing restoration, with an emphasis on policy and the social sciences. As part of this project, ACSRC Director Clark Banack and Research Associate Serena Isley, have been exploring the role grasslands conservation can and does play in the process of farm succession planning across Western Canada.



Completed Projects

Policy Responses to Assist with Farm Succession Planning in Alberta

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD.

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Funding Source: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Project Dates: January 2025 - December 2025

The ACSRC was asked to compile a report for the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on "Policy Responses to Assist with Farm Succession Planning in Alberta." Over the course of this project the ACSRC team completed an academic literature review, a jurisdictional policy scan, and interviews with 34 individuals knowledgeable about this area and delivered a final report to the Ministry in December 2025. Some of the research findings were presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's Annual Conference in Brandon, Manitoba in the Fall of 2025 as well as the International Farm Management Associations Bi-annual meetings held in Rosario, Argentina in February 2026.

Evaluating 'Young Medical Minds' Effectiveness at Generating Interest in Rural Health Care Careers

Project Lead: Chad Nichol, BSc. (Augustana, University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Funding Source: Augustana's Rural Pathways Internship Program, ACSRC Operating Funds

Project Dates: May 2024 - June 2026

Augustana graduate Chad Nichol, BSc., and ACSRC Director Clark Banack, PhD., completed a program evaluation on Young Medical Minds, a six-week program designed for Grade 8 students from Camrose and surrounding Alberta communities to explore careers in health care. Surveys were completed by 64 former participants who responded to questions about their life choices and reflections on the program. The data showed that the program was very successful at generating interest in health care careers and interest in working in rural areas. An academic journal article based on the project was published in the Journal of Rural and Remote Health and featured in Folio.

ACSRC Research Fellows

Image taken by John Ulan.

The ACSRC is expanding its research network! The ACSRC now has five Research Fellows. These fellows are researchers from the University of Alberta whose areas of expertise converge with and support the mission and vision of the ACSRC. Their expertise enriches and strengthens the capacity of the centre as we work toward supporting resilient sustainable rural communities.



Top left: Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD., Professor, Augustana - Psychology.

Top middle: Glen Hvenegaard, PhD., Professor, Augustana - Environmental Science.

Top right: John Parkins, PhD., Dean, Augustana Campus - research focus Environmental Sociology.

Bottom left: Greg King, PhD., Associate Professor, Augustana - Environmental Science.

Bottom middle: John Pattison-Williams, PhD., Adjunct Professor, Augustana.

REBECCA PURC-STEPHENSON

AgWellAlberta!

Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD., is the founder, and lead researcher of Agwell Alberta! AgWell AB aims to support the mental health and well-being of Alberta farmers and build resilience in the rural communities they contribute to and rely on. AgWellAB works with farmers, industry experts, healthcare professionals and researchers to support the mental well-being of those working in the agricultural industry and rural communities. Agwell projects include animal and farmer wellbeing, farm culture in Canada, farm transitions and succession planning.



Community level mental health interventions:

In the Know: Mental Health Literacy Workshop

Agwell Alberta provides In the Know Mental Health Literacy Workshop. This is a practical workshop that helps farmers and those who work with them recognize signs of stress and mental health challenges. The workshop supports attendees in building confidence around having conversations about mental health and connecting people to community and mental health supports.

COMET Training

Agwell Alberta now provides Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) training to rural communities. COMET is a two-hour interactive training that teaches participants how to reach out in a meaningful, respectful and supportive way to friends, co-workers or acquaintances who seem to be struggling somewhere between wellness and a mental health crisis. The training helps community members to feel more prepared to start conversations about mental health and to point folks in a better direction towards support, before a crisis. The COMET training is available online and inperson and can be arranged through AgWell Alberta.

Professional Mental Health Interventions

AgWell Farmer Wellness Network

The AgWell Farmer Wellness Network connects farmers and farm families with mental health professionals who understand agriculture. Through this program, participants can access short-term, confidential counselling designed to reflect the realities of farm life. The pilot started on April 15, 2026 in Rocky View County, with plans to expand across Alberta.

Animal and Farmer Well-being project:

Alberta SPCA Peace Officers respond to calls of animal distress across the province. In some cases, the Peace Officer identifies that the owner of these animals may also be in distress and/or experiencing a mental health challenge. However, there is no existing training and few resources for Peace Officers to access in these cases to support the farmer's needs. This project between the Alberta SPCA and AgWellAB's lead researcher, Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD., aims to create assessment tools, provide resources, and deliver training that empowers Peace Officers to effectively engage with residents living on farms. This will help Peace Officers identify possible cases where mental well-being may be a concern and provide resources for mental health support when investigating animal welfare concerns. This project is funded by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership grant.

Events:

Farm Succession and Central Alberta Mixer

AgWellAB was proud to partner with Young Agrarians to host two powerful days focused on farm transitions, identity, and the future of agriculture in Central Alberta. The event was attended by farmers, new and aspiring producers, educators, community members, and researchers. More information about this event can be found [here](#).

Agricultural Speakers Series

In conjunction with the Farm Succession and Central Alberta Mixer, the Agricultural Speakers Series hosted Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD., for her presentation "The Human Side of Farm Succession Planning". This presentation highlighted the key motivators and barriers that influence succession planning, common communication challenges that can stall progress and shared practical strategies for starting — and sustaining — meaningful conversations about succession. Her full presentation can be found [here](#).

For more information about AgWell Alberta please visit their website <https://www.agwellab.ca/>



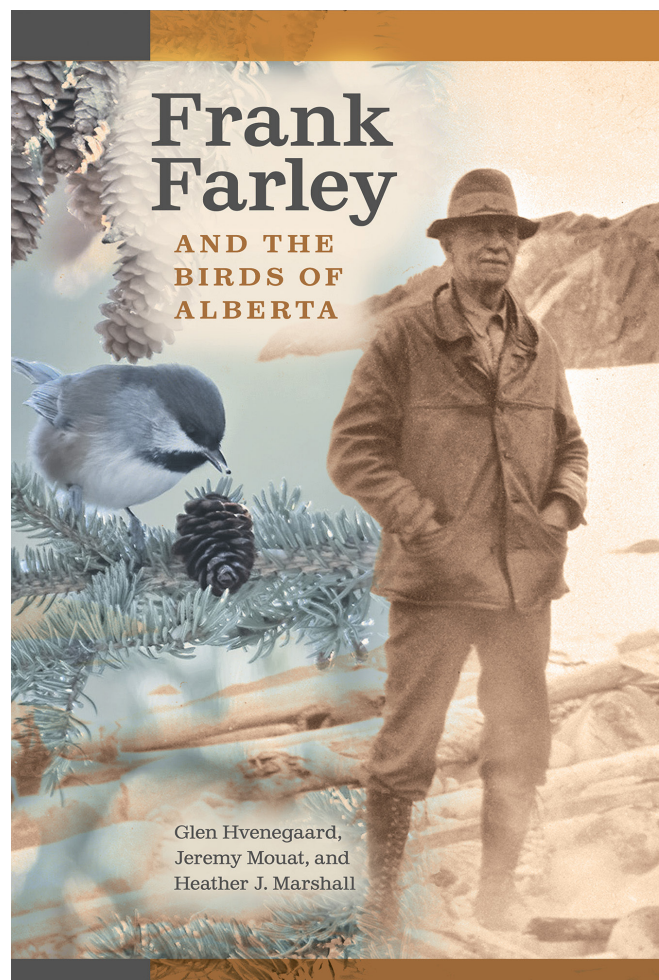
Above: On left Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD and on the right, ACSRC research assistant Sydney Shirreff, BA., at the Farm Succession and Central Alberta Mixer Event in January of 2026.

GLEN HVENEGAARD

Frank Farley, esteemed naturalist and rural booster from the early 1900s

Glen Hvenegaard, PhD., Jeremy Mouat, PhD., (Augustana Professor Emeritus), and Heather Marshall, BA., (Augustana alumnus) recently published a biography called *Frank Farley and the Birds of Alberta* (UofA Press). The book received the Alberta Wildlife Publication Award (popular category) from the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2026. Farley (1870-1949) was best known as a Camrose-based naturalist, but was also a birder, settler-colonist, homesteader, businessperson, rural booster, author, game warden, and citizen scientist. He networked with ornithologists across North America, supported local communities, and inspired many young people, including his grand-nephew Farley Mowat, one of Canada's best-selling authors. Farley's leadership and mentoring strengthened nature protection, supported environmental education, restored bird populations, and helped rural economic and social development in Camrose in the early 1900s. His legacy lives on today.

This project was funded by the University of Alberta (Killam Small Operating Grant, Roger Smith Summer Research Internship, URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend), Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Alberta Parks Research Grant.



Frank Farley Book Launch October 28, 2025

Glen Hvenegaard, PhD., Jeremy Mouat, PhD., and Heather Marshall, BA., shared *Frank Farley and the Birds of Alberta* in the Roger Epp room of Augustana Campus with a group of enthusiastic attendees who had gathered to celebrate the release and the achievement. The book is published through the University of Alberta Press.

From left to right: Jeremy Mouat, Heather Marshall and Glen Hvenegaard at the book launch on October 28, 2025.

JOHN PARKINS

Pathways to Energy Democracy in Canada

This 5-year SSHRC-funded project includes interdisciplinary scholars from across Canada who are committed to conducting research that can help realize more equitable and accessible forms of energy production and distribution that can support local communities and local livelihoods. Focused specifically on community-based renewable energy projects, the ACSRC's role in this work is to explore how energy transitions can happen while still meeting the needs of diverse and evolving rural communities, while also considering ways to overcome instances of political polarization that threatens to impede the development of community-based renewable energy projects.

Events:

The Agricultural Speakers Series

Launched in fall 2025, the Agricultural Speaker Series hosted by John Parkins, PhD., fosters meaningful discussions on today's most pressing agricultural challenges and opportunities. Connecting the local agriculture community to world-class research and researchers, this series highlights real-world insights and innovations that are shaping the future of agriculture, rural communities and sustainability.

These free events are open to community members, anyone involved with the agricultural industry and those with an interest in these topics. Attendees have the opportunity to connect, learn and engage with others who are driving change in the field.

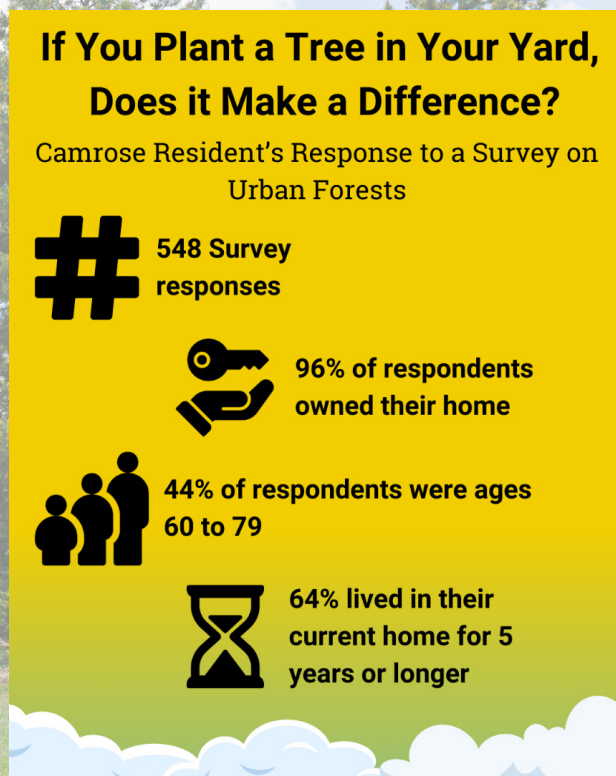
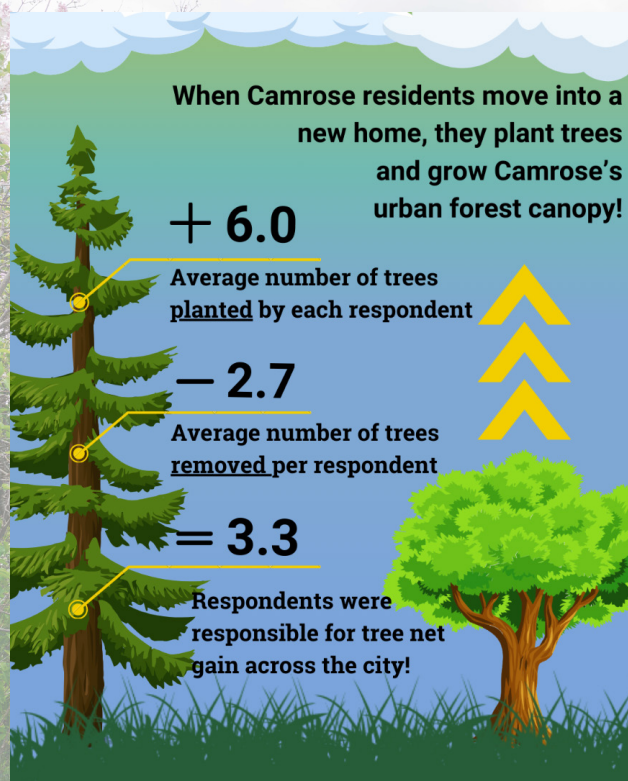
Find out [more](#).

**Agricultural
Speaker
Series**

GREG KING

Camrose Urban Forest Survey

Greg King, PhD., and a small team of undergraduate research assistants surveyed 548 Camrose residents about their tree attitudes and perceptions, environmental attitudes, tree knowledge, and tree planting and removal behaviours. This project took place between January of 2024 and April of 2025. What they found was that residents planted 6.0 trees on average, removed 2.7, for a calculated tree net gain of 3.4 on their property. Most tree attitudes and perceptions were positively related to tree planting and tree net gain. Environmental attitudes were not related to any behaviour. Knowledge was positively related to tree planting and removal but not tree net gain. Results also revealed that being male, being older, time living at a property, and owning a home have positive relationships with tree net gain.



JOHN PATTISON

The Grassland Learning and Knowledge Hub

The Grassland Learning and Knowledge Hub (GLKH) is a partnership between the University of Alberta, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Restore Assure Defend Network. To enable grassland conservation, the GLKH addresses natural climate solutions implementation and research gaps by analyzing barriers to reducing grasslands conversion and increasing restoration, with an emphasis on policy and the social sciences. The mission of the GLKH is to increase foundational knowledge and capacity to support widespread understanding and implementation of natural climate solutions in Canadian grasslands while maximizing the co-benefits for biodiversity and human well-being.

This five-year project began in 2024 and is part of a national initiative that has received funding through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. Their area of focus is on the Canadian grasslands in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

For more information on this project visit the [GLKH website](#).



Events

The Agricultural Speakers Series

The Agricultural Speakers Series hosted John Pattison, PhD. for his presentation "The Economics of Agricultural Production and Environmental Stewardship." This engaging session focused on how nature-based solutions can contribute to more sustainable agriculture. Using real examples from Alberta and Saskatchewan, Pattison-Williams emphasized the importance of grassland and wetland ecosystems in carbon sequestration. He also explored the environmental and economic benefits of conservation and restoration efforts. The presentation provided practical insights for producers and industry members interested in sustainable land management. Find out [more](#).

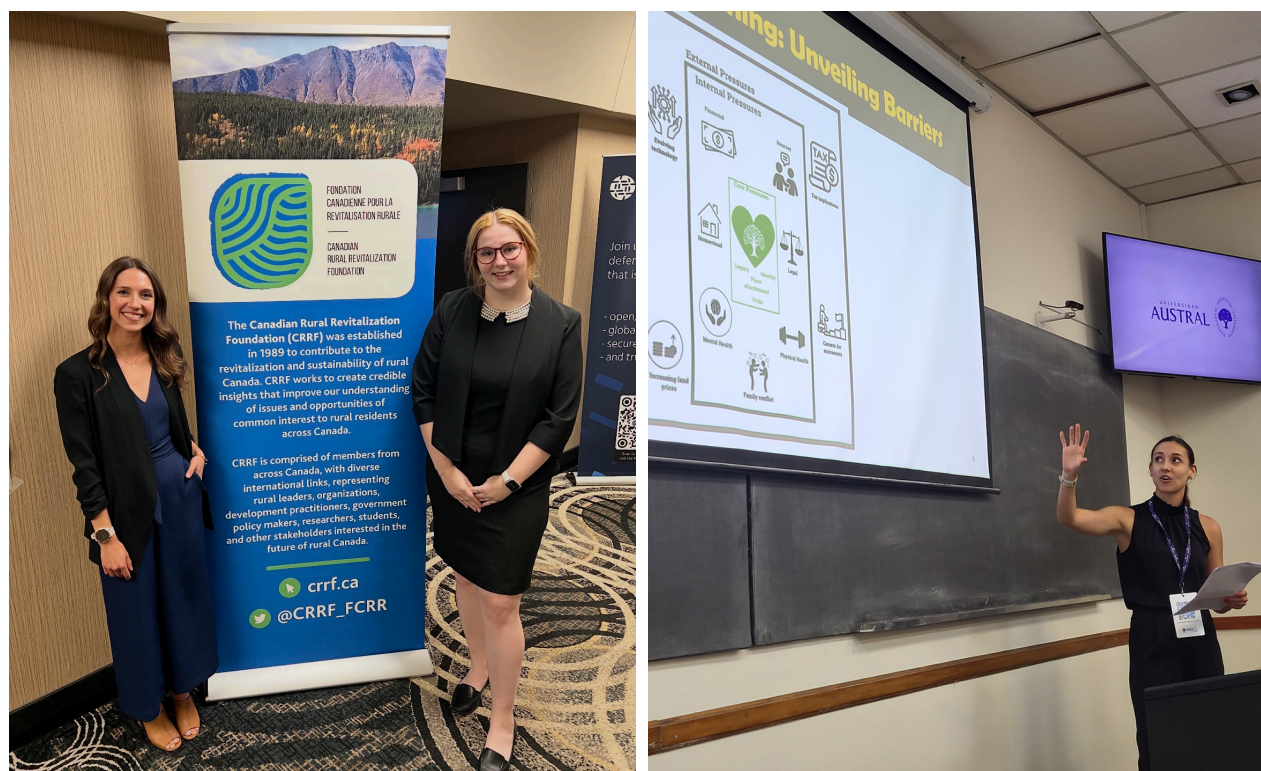
Post-Doctoral Fellow



Laticia Chapman-Rainway, PhD.

Laticia Chapman-Rainway, PhD., is the ACSRC's second post-doctoral scholar. She defended her thesis December of 2025, though has been working as a researcher with ACSRC director Clark Banack, PhD., and Cornell University's Dionne Pohler, PhD., for the past year. Her primary research field is political theory, her dissertation was on rural libraries and she has switched gears into formal social science work over the past year to assist Banack and Pohler in their rural ethnography project. The project explores political opinions in rural spaces; Laticia has been and is involved in all phases of the project from data collection, coding, analysis and writing. The ACSRC has been enriched with Laticia's expertise. To learn more about Laticia and this project, visit our [website](#).

Research Associate



Serena Isley, MSc.

Serena Isley, MSc., is a Research Associate at the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC). Her interdisciplinary background in psychology and biological sciences is complemented by a strong passion for supporting the health and sustainability of rural communities.

Serena brings extensive qualitative research experience to the ACSRC, developed through her MSc., during which she collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to conduct more than 100 interviews exploring the psychological impacts of mind-body movement interventions on disease-related symptoms such as fatigue. Since joining the ACSRC, she has contributed to several qualitative research initiatives, including projects focused on farm succession planning and adaptive reuse in rural communities.

Serena's primary research project has examined rural women's healthcare accessibility and the ways in which rural contexts influence health-seeking attitudes and behaviours across the lifespan. Through this work, she seeks to highlight inequities in healthcare access while identifying opportunities to better support women living in rural communities through different reproductive and hormonal life stages."

Top left: Serena Isley (left) and Sydney Shirreff (right) at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Brandon, Manitoba, September 2025. Top right: Serena Isley presenting at the International Farm Management Association Bi-Annual Conference in Rosario, Argentina, February 2026.

Engaging Undergraduates

A significant goal of the ACSRC is to secure external funding to allow for the hiring of student research assistants to work on a wide range of our projects throughout the year. We are pleased to report that the ACSRC was quite successful on this front over the past year and we were very happy to employ the following students on several of our key projects:



Sydney Shirreff, BA.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Bachelor of Arts (Law, Crime and Justice Studies).

Sydney Shirreff, BA., assisted with the following projects: the under-utilized spaces in rural Alberta project, the women's health project, and the farm succession project. She also assisted with the Film & Food events along with AgWell Alberta Farm Succession and Central Alberta Mixer event. She presented her work "Who speaks for 'yes'? The factional collision of Western Separatists" at the Canadian Undergraduate Research Excellence conference. She co-presented "Understanding the Farm Succession Crisis in Western Canada," at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference in 2025 and she returned to Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, in Corner Brook, Newfoundland to co-present "Adaptive Reuse in Rural Canada," in 2026.



Mariana Castillo Arce

3rd year undergraduate

Mariana Castillo Arce was awarded the Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Research Award and will be spending the summer exploring the experiences of immigrant workers in Jasper, Alberta. Her project "Migrant Voices in the Mountains" aims to develop a deeper understanding of how immigrant workers navigate workplace expectations, limited employment options, and systems of dependency in rural and geographically isolated settings.



Tacey Robertson, BA.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Bachelor of Arts (Sustainability Studies)

Tacey Robertson, BA., recently graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies from Augustana. Her work at the ACSRC included supporting the Film & Food events and the Sustainable Partnerships project. Part of her role as research assistant involved conducting interviews with various organizations in the Camrose region on their sustainability initiatives and collaborations. Tacey played a key role in a community workshop presenting Sustainability Success Stories stemming from the research. Tacey also co-presented "Leveraging Partnerships in Rural Communities to Address Sustainability Concerns," at the Canadian Rural Revitalization conference in Corner Brook, Newfoundland in 2026. Tacey is interested in how policy can better support the work necessary to build more sustainable rural communities. She has found that her experience at the ACSRC has been invaluable and she hopes to carry these lessons with her as she pursues a Master's in Policy Studies in the fall.



Additional research assistants from 2025/26 were Priya Dhillon and Nate Goetz.

Top left: Tacey Robertson. Middle left: Tacey Robertson presenting at the Partnerships for Sustainable Communities Workshop on June 2nd, 2026. Below: Chad Nichol.



Chad Nichol, BSc.

Project: Young Medical Minds impact assessment.

Chad Nichol, BSc., was a Rural Pathways Intern in the summer of 2025. His placement was with the Young Medical Minds (YMM) program in Camrose, Alberta. His work within the placement centred around generating measurable outcomes that could quantify the impact of the YMM project. As results from the work emerged, it became clear that there is a significant value and impact of the program. With this realization the project moved beyond the confines of the four month placement and became a passion project for Chad, he wanted to make sure that the results of the work were not lost. Under the supervision of Clark Banack, PhD., and the support of YMM, he decided to pursue a publication to share the findings. After nearly two years and multiple revisions, YMM, Clark, and Chad are proud to publish this work and share it with the broader community. Chad's hope is that the publication will contribute meaningfully to future initiatives.

Rural Pathways

Summer Interns 2025

The ACSRC oversees the Rural Pathways Summer Internship Program at Augustana Campus. Established with a generous gift from an alumnus, this competitive program provides compensation to rural and Indigenous students to complete career-related internships with organizations in their home (or similar) communities over the summer. Program placements are as diverse as our students and their communities, with students posting about their placements on our Pathways blog throughout each summer.

The ACSRC is currently working with Augustana's Development Office and the Student Advising and Experiential Learning Office to re-envision the Pathways program in order to increase the number of Pathways internships, increase community engagement, and diversify investment opportunities to ensure sustainable growth. If you are interested in supporting this important initiative, please contact the Development Office.



The Camrose and District Centennial Museum was a community partner in the summer of 2025. Rural Pathways Intern Faith Adam, spent the summer curating and crafting narratives around the museum displays. She assisted in planning events and hosting school groups.



The Canadian Northern Society hosted Rural Pathways Intern El Levin. El researched and compiled information on climate change resistant plants that would thrive in central Alberta. With this information El planted and created micro climate change ecosystems in approved locations at the Canadian Northern Society museum locations. El also produced promotional and interpretive brochures to educate the public about how they too can help combat climate change and curate their own climate change resistant gardens.

Engaging in Community

Food Sustainability Event Series

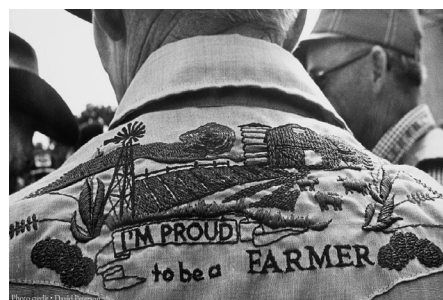
Over the past two years the ACSRC, with financial support from the Food Sustainability Endowment, presented a Public Lecture and Film Screening series. The series focussed on issues directly relating to food sustainability, especially as they relate to broader issues relevant to rural sustainability. In 2025 and 2026, the events were presented in collaboration with the Food Artisans of Camrose County. Two guests speakers were welcomed, one from the Berry Centre in Kentucky, USA and one from Delicata Consulting based out of Quebec, CND. These events were well attended and from Sept 2024-Feb 2026, the Food Sustainability Lecture & Film Series welcomed 489 registrants.



On left, the menu for Look & See film and conversation event. Top right: Ben Aguilar from the Berry Center in Kentucky, USA. Bottom right: Laura Howard, Delicata, speaker and facilitator for the Food for Thought events.

Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry

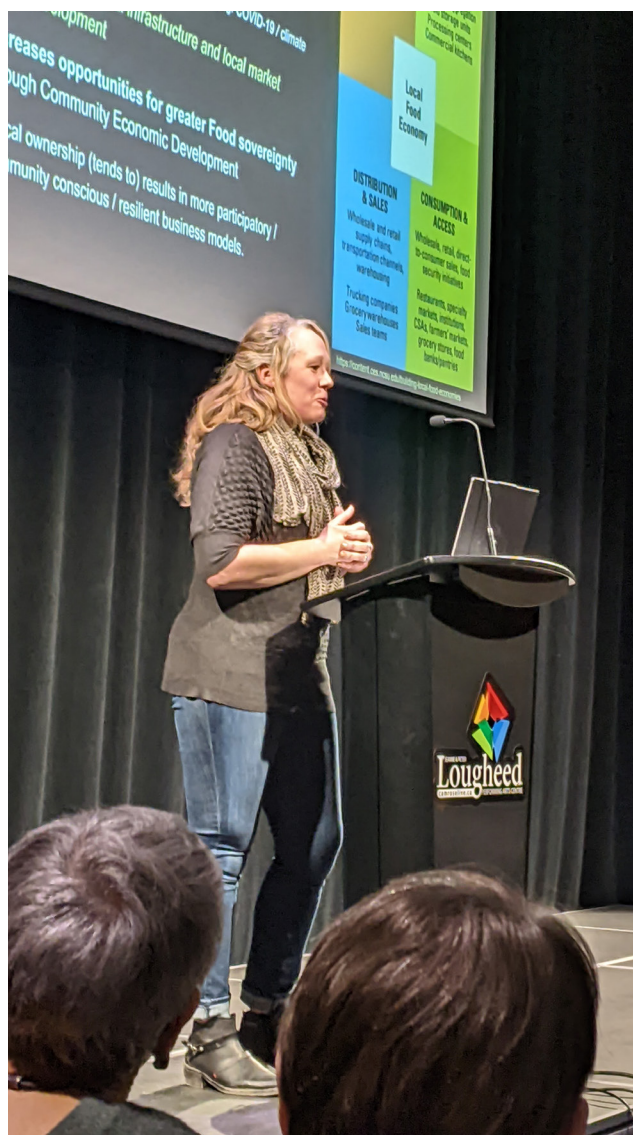
On October 22, 2025, the community was invited to attend an evening to consider “the land and those who sustain it” through film and conversation at the Bailey Theatre in Camrose, Alberta. A screening of the 2016 documentary film “Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry” was presented alongside sample fare from the Food Artisans of Camrose County prepared by the Spotlight Bistro. After the film, attendees enjoyed a conversation between Ben Aguilar of the Berry Center (Kentucky, USA) and Joseph Wiebe, PhD., of the Ronning Centre (Camrose, Alberta). This event was hosted in partnership with the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life and the Food Artisans of Camrose County.



Images from the 3rd installment of the Food Sustainability Event Series, "Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry". Top left to right: Berta Briggs, Wendell Berry at writing desk, Wendell Berry (scenes from film Look & See). Middle left to right: Community members, Clark Banack (Director of the ACSRC), Joe Wiebe (Director of the Ronning Centre, left) and Ben Aguilar (Operations Manager at the Berry Centre, right). Bottom left to right: Ben Aguilar, Spotlight Bistro staff, and community members.

Food for Thought: A Local Take on How We Eat

On February 9, 2026, the community was invited to attend Food for Thought: A Local Take on How We Eat. Guest speaker Laura Howard of Delicata Co., explored the make up of a food system, food sustainability and food sovereignty while providing examples of community driven solutions from across Canada. As part of the event, guests were treated to a spread of offerings from the Food Artisans of Camrose County prepared by the Spotlight Bistro. The event opened conversation around how and why communities can and should work together to build sustainable food systems that withstand shock events ensuring food security while being economically viable.



On left: Laura Howard of Delicata presenting at Food for Thought. Top right: Anjah Howard from Camrose County and the Food Artisans of Camrose County. Bottom right: Attendees of "Food for Thought: A Local Take on How We Eat".

Conversation toward a Common Goal - Exploring a Regional Food Hub in the Wider Camrose Region

On February 11th, the Food Artisans of Camrose County and the ACSRC invited folks from municipalities, producers and local food system organizers to attend a workshop with guest facilitator Laura Howard from Delicata. The workshop focus was to open a conversation around what a food hub for Camrose County and the surrounding counties might possibly involve. Exploratory in nature the workshop led to reflections, questions, and ideas to help inform next steps. The ACSRC has synthesized the information gathered from the day and provided a summary and initial roadmap of next steps back to the group of attendees. Given the diversity of roles and resources represented, there are many opportunities to continue the conversation and move toward collaborative planning. We look forward to expanded possibilities in food security, and we encourage folks to continue engaging with the many people, organizations and communities doing inspiring, related work.



Attendees from local farms, farm adjacent organizations, municipalities and surrounding counties pose for a picture at the food hub workshop in February 2026.

Supporting the literary landscape of Alberta



Occasionally the ACSRC has the opportunity to support the cultural landscape of Alberta in small but important ways. In May of 2025, the ACSRC joined the Battle River Writer's Center in hosting award-winning Albertan author Fran Kimmel and her new novel "Cattail Lane" for a book launch. Fran has published numerous short stories in journals and anthologies and has written award-winning plays for both theatre and radio. Her work explores the resilience and complexity of family bonds, capturing both the light and dark sides of caregiving, community, and small-town life. Frans previous publication "The Shore Girl" won the Alberta's Readers' Choice Award and was selected as a Canada Reads Top 40 book. Fran is based out of Lacombe, Alberta, where she leads Brave New Writing, a program for emerging writers eager to learn, grow, and share their unique voices.

Conferences

The ACSRC team brings their research to conferences and symposia with the goal to share their research, connect with other academics and to present their findings in a public forum.

“Accessing Local Capital for Rural Community Development: The Case of Opportunity Development Co-operatives in Alberta, Canada”, presented by Clark Banack at the Co-operatives in the Modern Economy; Challenges and Potential Solutions Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, May 2025.

“Adaptive Reuse in Rural Canada”, presented by Clark Banack, Serena Isley, and Sydney Shirreff at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Corner Brook, NFLD, June 2026.

“Are Rural Conservatives Actually Anarchists?”, presented by Clark Banack and Laticia Chapman-Rainway at the Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference, Banff, Alberta, September 2025.

“Different Definitions, Different Outcomes: To What Extent is Rural / Urban Polarization a Statistical Artefact?”, presented by Dionne Pohler, Marc-Andre Pigeon, and Clark Banack at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, June 2025.

“Farmer Stress and Animal Welfare: An Early Warning Sign Checklist”, presented by Rebecca Purc-Stephenson at the SPCA Animal Welfare Symposium, Nisku, AB, September 9, 2025.

“Leveraging Partnerships in Rural Communities to Address Sustainability Concerns”, presented by Clark Banack, Greg King, and Tacey Robertson at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Corner Brook, NFLD, June 2026.



Left: Members of the "Next Gen" cohort including ACSRC Research Associate front row fourth from the left at the International Farm Management Association Bi-Annual Conference in Rosario, Argentina. Right: Clark Banack (left), Serena Isley and Sydney Shirreff at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference in Brandon, Manitoba.

"Policy Responses to Support Farm Succession Planning", presented by Clark Banack, and Serena Isley at the International Farm Management Association Bi-Annual Conference, Rosario, Argentina, February 2026.

"Realities of Rural Women's Health: 'We get the Leftover Produce and Leftover Healthcare'", presented by Serena Isley at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Corner Brook, NFLD, June 2026.

"Re-thinking Political Attitudes in Rural Canada", presented by Clark Banack at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, June 2025.

"'The Government is not the Community': Distrust in Government across Rural Canada", presented by Laticia Chapman-Rainway, Clark Banack, and Dionne Pohler at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, June 2026.

"Understanding Farm Culture: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Agriculture", presented by Rebecca Purc-Stephenson PhD at the Beyond Four Walls Conference: Exploring Teaching & Learning Through Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta, August 8, 2025.

"Understanding the Farm Succession Crisis in Western Canada", presented by Clark Banack, Serena Isley, and Sydney Shireff at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, Brandon, Manitoba, September 2025.

"Understanding Political Attitudes and Populism in Rural Canada and Beyond via Ethnography", presented by Clark Banack at the Regional Studies Association Annual Conference, Porto, Portugal, May 2025.

"Who speaks for 'yes?': The factional collision of Western Separatists", presented by Sydney Shirreff at the Canadian Undergraduate Research Excellence Conference, Calgary, Alberta, May 2026.



Left: Sydney Shirreff at the Canadian Undergraduate Research Excellence Conference, Calgary in Calgary Alberta. Right: Clark Banack at the International Farm Management Association Bi-Annual Conference, Rosario, Argentina.

Publications

The ACSRC is pleased to share the publications and media from our director, fellows and research associates as they relate to the common goal of sustainable rural communities.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Clark Banack

Banack, Clark. "[Accessing Local Capital for Rural Community Development: The Case of Opportunity Development Co-operatives](#)", The Journal of Community Development, August 15, 2025.

Banack, Clark. "[Resource Revenue, Political Volatility, and Alberta's Evolving Party System](#)", Canadian Political Science Review, Spring 2026.

Nichol, Chad and Clark Banack. "[Encouraging youth towards rural healthcare through Young Medical Minds](#)", Rural and Remote Health, April 2, 2026.

Glen Hvenegaard

Ostrem, Julie and Glen Hvenegaard. [Creating, Sustaining, and Improving Collaboration Across Canadian Biospheres Through the Lens of Collective Impact Theory](#). Society & Natural Resources. 1-26, 2025.

Greg King

Beattie, Luke., King, Greg, and Glen Hvenegaard. "[From private yards to public benefits: How human dimensions shape the urban forest in a small city](#)", Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, October 2025.

John Parkins

Goodine, Janelle., Lokuge, Nimanthika, Sponarski, Carly., Andison, David., Nock, Charles., and John R. Parkins. "[Fire, bugs, and logging: what the public thinks about forest disturbance and management in Canada](#)". Canadian Journal of Forest Research. 56: 1-12. 2026

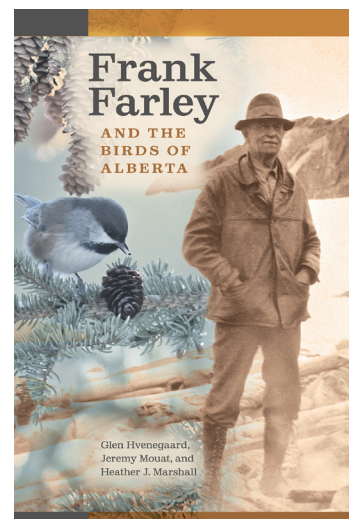
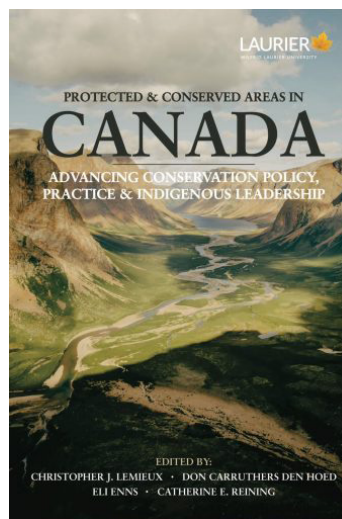
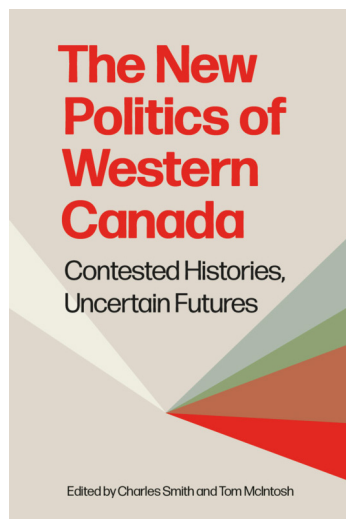
John Pattison-Williams

Boldt, Liam., Lloyd-Smith, Patrick., Belcher, Ken., Pattison-Williams, John., Bergen, Gary., Blechinger, Katelyn., and Ian Paulson. "[Agronomic and economic effects of wetlands on crop yields using precision agriculture data. Agricultural Systems](#)", Elsevier, January 2025.

Laticia Chapman-Rainway

Chapman-Rainway, Laticia, "[Rural Community Libraries in Western Canada and the Phenomenology of Publicness: Keepers of Books, Gatherers of Plurality](#)" Dissertation, University of Alberta, March 2026.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS



Elections in Canada: People, Players, and Processes was released in June of 2025. Clark Banack PhD contributed a chapter, "The Rural-Urban Divide in Canadian Politics". Find this book at [UTP](#).

Frank Farley and the Birds of Alberta was released in 2025 and written by Glen Hvenegaard, Jeremy Mouat and Heather Marshall. Find your copy at [UAlberta Press](#).

Protected and Conserved Areas in Canada: Advancing Conservation Policy, Practice & Indigenous Leadership was released in 2026. Two chapters were cowrote with Glen Hvenegaard. Chapter 7: "Education, Interpretation and Outreach" with R. Harvey Lemelin, Glen Hvenegaard, Jason W. Johnston, and Courtney W. Mason and Chapter 12 "Urban Protected and Conserved Areas" with Clara-Jane Blye, Rachel Buxton, Claire DeLong, Nadha Hassen, Glen Hvenegaard, and Jacqueline Scott. Find your copy at [ecampus Ontario](#).

Routledge Handbook of Arctic Energy Transition was released in 2026. John Parkins cowrote the chapter "Indigenous-Led Energy Transition" with Sara Chitsaz and Taylor Behn-Tsakoza. [Find your copy at Taylor and Francis](#).

The New Politics of Western Canada: Contested Histories and Uncertain Futures was released in September of 2025. Clark Banack contributed a chapter, "Western Conservatism and the Challenges of Wexit and Resentment-based populism". Find this book at [UBC Press](#).

Media

The Camrose Booster: [“Food for Thought: A Local Take on How We Eat”](#), February 17, 2026.

The Camrose County Booster: [“ACSRC puts rural food sustainability and security on centre stage”](#), November 4, 2025.

CBCListen: [“Farm succession with Rebecca Purc Stephenson”](#) Radio Active with Jessica Ng, Min Dhariwal, May 7 2025.

CBCRadio: [“Candidates take to the debate stage in the Battle River-Crowfoot byelection”](#), Edmonton AM, July 30, 2025.

CKUA Radio: [“Frank Farley & the Birds of Alberta”](#), with Glen Hvenegaard, PhD., and Jeremy Mouat PhD., Alberta Morning with Grant Stovel, January 2026.

CTV NEWS: [“Frank Farley and the Birds of Alberta’: A story behind the central Alberta naturalist”](#), November 5, 2025.

Northeast Now: [“Conserving Endangered Grasslands, Northeast Now”](#), Pattison Media, May 14, 2026.

ACSRC puts rural food sustainability and security on centre stage



Dr. Joseph Wiebe, left, asked the guest speaker, Ben Aguilar about The Berry Center and the connection rural communities have to the land.

By Adnan Shaikh
On October 22, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (ACSRC) hosted an informative evening focused on the industrialization of agriculture and the connection between communities and their land. The event was held at the Bailey Theatre.

The event encouraged attendees to take a closer look at the individuals who sustain the land, the people behind the food on the tables, and the effects of new technologies and mass production on rural life.

Guests were welcomed

with a spread of locally grown and prepared food, provided by the Food Artisans of Camrose County. The free event was made possible through a partnership with the Sustainable Food Endowment Fund and was part of the Food Sustainability Lecture and Film Series, which is an ongoing ACSRC initiative.

“Tonight, we will together watch the film *Look and See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry*—a cinematic exploration of the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America in the era of industrial agriculture, as seen

through the mind’s eye of writer, farmer and activist Wendell Berry,” said Dr. Clark Banack, director of ACSRC, as he welcomed attendees.
Banack shared a personal story of how he first encountered the film while living in Toronto. A longtime fan of Berry’s work, he decided to take his wife to see it. “At the end of the movie, my wife turned to me and said, ‘We have to move home,’ and six months later, we were back in rural Alberta,” he recalled.
Throughout his career, Berry has written numerous books, essays and col-



Adnan Shaikh, Camrose Booster

Dr. Clark Banack welcomed the guests by sharing the significance of Wendell Berry’s work and how it has influenced his own life.

lections of poetry. One of his most influential works, *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*, examines how the industrialization of farming has disrupted rural communities, environmental stewardship and traditional values tied to the land.

The documentary followed Berry and his family’s relationship with their Kentucky farmland and of other farmers in the area, reflecting on how modern agriculture has transformed farming, and how many communities struggle to keep up with the challenges that come with that. The film highlighted the disconnection from land that occurs when industrialization becomes the focus of growing rather than sustainability and food security.

After the film, guest speaker Ben Aguilar, director of The Berry Center in Kentucky joined Dr. Joseph Wiebe, director of the University of Alberta Augustana Campus Chester Ronning Centre, to discuss the film and its significance. The Berry Center is a non-profit organization working to advocate for small farmers, land conservation, and healthy rural economies.

The next film will be the fourth installment of the series and takes place on February 9, and will showcase what makes the food systems.

To stay updated on projects and events by the ACSRC visit: ualberta.ca/en/alberta-centre-sustainable-rural-communities/projects/current-projects.html

The COUNTRY BOOSTER, November 4, 2025 – Page 4

Food for Thought: A local take on how we eat

By Anna Stuklis

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (ACSRC) is presenting “Food for Thought: A local take on how we eat,” a series of events focused on the industrialization of agriculture and the connection between communities and their land.

The free event was made possible through a partnership with the Sustainable Food Endowment Fund and was part of the Food Sustainability Lecture and Film Series, which is an ongoing ACSRC initiative.

“Tonight, we will together watch the film *Look and See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry*—a cinematic exploration of the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America in the era of industrial agriculture, as seen through the mind’s eye of writer, farmer and activist Wendell Berry,” said Dr. Clark Banack, director of ACSRC, as he welcomed attendees.
Banack shared a personal story of how he first encountered the film while living in Toronto. A longtime fan of Berry’s work, he decided to take his wife to see it. “At the end of the movie, my wife turned to me and said, ‘We have to move home,’ and six months later, we were back in rural Alberta,” he recalled.
Throughout his career, Berry has written numerous books, essays and col-



Attendees were greeted with a spread of local fare outside the Bailey Hall at the Bailey Theatre.



Dr. Clark Banack, Director of ACSRC, invites new work to always bring new to the table.



Guest speaker Laura Bennett was an in-depth discussion with the guests about the many challenges facing rural communities and the role of the ACSRC.

The COUNTRY BOOSTER, February 17, 2026 – Page 18

On the left: A screen shot of the Camrose County Booster article from 2025. On the right: A screen shot of the Camrose Booster article from 2026.

Rocky Mountain Outlook: "[Study examines how Jasper Dark Sky Festival can be a trendsetter](#)", April 18, 2025.

SaskToday.ca: "[Take care of mental health during harvest](#)" with Rebecca Purc Stephenson, PhD., August 27, 2025.

St. Albert Gazette: "[Mental health pilot project launched for Rocky View farmers](#)", May 19, 2026.

The Conversation: "[Dark sky tourism offers time with darkness and celestial wonders](#)", August 25, 2025.

The Country Guide: "[Are you ready for farm succession?](#)" Country Guide, December 11, 2025.

The Walrus: "[Poilievre Is Parachuting into Rural Alberta to Win Back His Seat](#)", July 7, 2025.

UAlberta Folio: "[Cultivating young medical minds](#)", May 12, 2026.

UAlberta Folio: "[Earlier migration signals deeper trouble for tiny birds](#)", April 16, 2025.

UAlberta Folio: "[Farm-informed' therapy offers vital mental health support for agricultural workers and their families](#)", May 06, 2026.

UAlberta Folio: "[New toolkit aims to support people's well-being along with animal welfare](#)", May 25, 2026.

UAlberta FOLIO: "[University of Alberta Study tackles challenge of Canada's family farming legacy](#)", May 1, 2025.



On the left: A screen shot of the UAlberta Folio article from 2025. On the right: A screen shot of the SaskToday article from 2025.



Financial Summary

Funding received vs expenditures made 2025-26.

OPENING BALANCE	\$163,784.57
External Funding	\$521,120.00
Operational Funding	\$103,484.00
Research Expenses	\$41,758.71
Operational Expenses	\$116,981.00
Closing Balance	\$629,648.86

Leading with Purpose.



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

**Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities
Augustana Campus**

4901 - 46 Ave
Camrose, AB
T4V 2R3

uab.ca/acsrc