

SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP - 2023

Understanding and mitigating the gaps between the federal and provincial policies related to soil health and farm management practices in Alberta

Friday, 17 March 2023 - 10 am to 4 pm (A FREE event & lunch provided)

Aurora Room, Lister Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Don Lobb, Soil Advocate



DON LOBB, P. Ag. (Hon), owned a successful farming operation in Ontario that became a model for sustainable management of soil, water, and the natural environment. It was the site of more than 50 major research projects, many of which focused on soil and water management. Don has developed, applied, and promoted soil care practices and the soil care ethic. His dedication and leadership have been recognized provincially, nationally, and internationally, including the University of Guelph (Distinguished Service Award), the Ontario agricultural Hall of Fame and the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame, and in 2021, was named Canada's first farmer Soil Science Super Hero.

M Derek MacKenzie, Associate Professor
University of Alberta



Professor MacKenzie is a soil scientist with 20 years of experience examining biogeochemical transformations in forest, reclamation, and agricultural soils. He spent a great deal of that time studying the effect of black carbon on soil processes and its use in managed ecosystems. Recently, he started involving in soil health research and regenerative agriculture BMP's and curating a database for Alberta soil health (DASH).

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

9.30 - 10.00	Check-in
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome
10.10 - 10.30	Soil Management-Frontline Experience by Don Lobb
10.30 - 10.50	Discussion
10.50 - 11.00	Tea/coffee break*
11.00 - 11.40	1 st round of discussion on "What are the current policies on soil health in Alberta and how much they have been able to contribute to maintain and improve soil health in Alberta?" Led by a Researcher/Policy Analyst
11.40 - 12.00	Conclusion of 1 st round
12.00 - 12.40	Lunch Break*
12.40 - 1.00	Making Soil Health a Working Concept in Alberta by Professor MacKenzie
1.00 - 1.20	Discussion
1.20 - 1.30	Break for forming groups
1.30 - 2.00	2 nd round of discussions on "What are the current farming practices that help improve or maintain soil health in Alberta?" Led by a Farmer/Rancher
2.00 - 2.20	Conclusion of 2 nd round
2.20 - 2.30	Tea/Coffee Break*
2.30 - 3.10	3 rd round of discussions on "What are the potential gaps in policy formation and/or its implementation that hinder maintaining or improving soil health in Alberta and how to mitigate these gaps?"
3.10 - 3.30	Conclusion of 3 rd round
3.30 - 3.55	Next steps: "How to create a common platform of farmers/ranchers, researchers, and policy analysts to inform the policymakers to mitigate the identified gaps that hinder soil health improvement in Alberta?"
3.55 - 4.00	Vote of thanks

*Refreshments and Lunch will be provided to all attendees



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
Alberta Land Institute

www.albertalandinstitute.ca
albertalandinstitute@ualberta.ca
780-492-3469