Canadian Society of Agronomy

La Société Canadienne d'Agronomie

Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **April 2026**

We are rapidly approaching our Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting. This year we will be meeting in Guelph Ontario, at the University of Guelph, June 20-25. The joint Canadian Society of Soil Science – Canadian Society of Agronomy Conference, themed "Soils and Crops in Focus – Critical Resources from Coast to Coast to Coast.

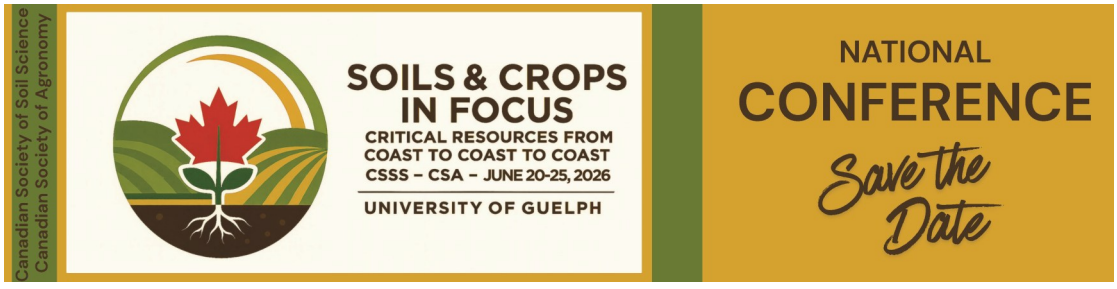
We have had a very good response, and we are anticipating a very good turnout as evidenced by the number of abstracts submitted. Thank you all for your support. Thank you to Laura Van Eerd and Joshua Nasielski for serving as local conference committee members and to Kathleen Glover for her work on our financial aspects of the conference and especially for the Student Awards. Their hard work provides these opportunities for our Society to come together to share our work and make new or reinforce previous connections. If you are attending the meeting, please make an effort to attend the Graduate Student sessions, both oral and poster, to support and encourage the future of our Society (you should learn something as well).

I hope that all have a good spring establishing or maintaining (us perennial people are nervously awaiting to see what regrows!) your trials as we look forward to another interesting year. Climate (it was snowing this morning here in Winnipeg as I began to write this and snow is predicted for later in the week) and geo-political issues are making this a year to watch. Producers across the country are looking at the cost of their inputs and wondering what is economically prudent to use. Understanding the interactions between plants, agronomic interventions (e.g. nutrients) and risk is one of the primary outcomes of our work that we can provide to producers to help them make critical decisions regarding their production choices. If the economic value of inputs change, then are our breeding methods impacted? How does this influence our agronomic practices such as target stand density? Just for fun, throw climate reliability into the mix.

Please get your registration in and I look forward to seeing you in Guelph and meeting with you at the Conference and AGM. Have a great 2026.

Doug Cattani

President
Canadian Society of Agronomy



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

2025-26 Membership Registration is Open!

JOIN TODAY!

To renew your membership
Click Here

Call for Nominations - 2026-2027 Executive

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is currently calling for nominations for four positions.

President Elect – 1 year term followed by 1 year term as President

1. serve as the vice chair of the Executive

2. accept mentoring and become familiar with the CSA decision process and the CSA activities

3. play a prominent role in special projects on behalf of the CSA 4. may be a signing authority

Eastern Director – 2 year term

1. play a prominent role in special projects on behalf of the CSA

Western Director – 2 year term

1. play a prominent role in special projects on behalf of the CSA

Student Representative – 2 year term

1. facilitate communication between graduate and undergraduate student members and the Executive and among graduate and undergraduate student members

2. advise on graduate and undergraduate student activities such as social or technical activities at the annual conference

Please send nominations to Jennifer Mitchell, CSA Executive Director, at csagronomy@gmail.com by May 31, 2026.

CSA and STUDENT AWARDS

We are now seeking submissions and nominations for the following awards:

- Ali Navabi Grad Student Travel Award
- Graduate Student Pest Management Award
- Early Career Agronomists
- CSA Fellow Award
- Distinguished Agronomist Award
- Distinguished CSA Service Award - **NEW THIS YEAR!**

Deadline is April 30th!

Canadian Society of Soil Science
Canadian Society of Agronomy

2026 Annual Conference

June 20–25

SOILS & CROPS IN FOCUS

CRITICAL RESOURCES FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST
CSSS - CSA - JUNE 20-25, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

SOLS & CULTURES EN FOCUS

RESSOURCES CRITIQUES DE CÔTE À CÔTE À CÔTE
SCSS-SCA-20-25 JUIN, 2026

UNIVERSITÉ DE GUELPH

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Connect.
Get involved.
cssscsa2026@uoguelph.ca

– CRITICAL RESOURCES FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST –

2026 CONFERENCE

What do World Cup Fans and Ag. Researchers have in common?

They will both be in the area at the same time! Our joint CSA/CSS conference and a FIFA World Cup game in Toronto co-occur. Great minds think alike! Please keep this in mind when booking your travel. Consider flying into either Hamilton or Waterloo airport. The Delta Hotel is our partner and expecting high demand (hence priced accordingly). There are many affordable and comfortable options on campus too. Here are some of the many options for Accommodations for CSSS/CSA Conference. Safe travels and see you in Guelph.

Conference registration will increase by $100 on May 1, 2026

Conference highlights include:

June 20–21: Soil Judging Competition

June 22–24: Keynote and Plenary Sessions

June 25: Tours and Conference Banquet

Keynote Speakers

- Dr Whendee L Silver, University of California, Berkeley
- Dr Donald L Smith, McGill University
- Dr Sieg Snapp, Washington State University

For more information or to register, visit the conference website.

Calling all Judgy-Judges!

You know you are sitting there listening or walking by posters and judging them anyway. Why not make it official and help CSA at the same time? Join fellow CSA members by being a **student competition judge**. We can make a difference and encourage Agronomy graduate students. Email Linda Gorim at gorim@ualberta.ca if you would like to be a oral presentation or poster judge.

Canadian Society of Soil Science
Canadian Society of Agronomy

Stay Connected.

CSSSCSA2026@uoguelph.ca

How to get involved:

- ✓ Attend
- ✓ Sponsor (a keynote or break)
- ✓ Be a vendor

June 20-25, 2026
University of Guelph
Ontario, Canada

EDI Perspectives Session to continue in 2026 at CSA-CSSS joint meeting.

In 2025, at Canadian Society of Soil Science conference, a session called Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity: Perspectives from Women in Soil Science was convened by Drs. Yvonne Lawley, Joanne Thiessen Martens, Afua Mante, Inoka Amarakoon (Univ. Manitoba); Kim Schneider, Laura Van Eerd (Univ. Guelph); Melissa Arcand Sirajum Munira (Univ. Sask). The session was a 90-min panel and round-table discussion with at least 40 participants, where everyone was welcomed. Increasingly the role of equity, diversity, and inclusivity is being recognized as essential for advancing science, education, and innovation to solve complex local and global challenges. While this recognition is critical, implementation of these ideals is still ongoing and persons from under-represented groups face barriers and trade-offs as they navigate their careers. Building on the efforts of many members working to make our scientific society a more welcoming community, the goal of this session was to create an intentional space to discuss equity, diversity, and inclusivity. A panel of women from a range of backgrounds and career paths in soil science were invited to share their experiences, identify challenges, and emphasize enabling strategies. Panelists were: Afua Mante, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba; Annemieke Farenhorst, Associate Vice-President Research and Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba; Lana Shaw, Executive Director, South East Research Farm, Saskatchewan; Maja Krzic, 3M National Teaching Fellow and Professor, Applied Biology/Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia; Melissa Arcand, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan. After panelists described their career path, a systems-thinking Impact-Gap Analysis was employed to empower women in soil science. Prepared discussion questions included career challenges and supports and how to support others. Audience questions centered around dealing with power imbalance of grad studies, managing culture shock, and how to enable international women. Ultimately, space was created for meaningful conversations that provided ideas for navigating challenges when they arise. Not only did the session provide an opportunity for networking, but the connections made within this workshop can also help provide support and people to turn to for advice. All are welcome to join our interactive session entitled *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity: Perspectives from Women in Agronomy and Soil Science* at the CSSS-CSA joint meeting in June 2026.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the 2025-26 Green Bagger Series!

September 2025 - Sonika Pariyar
Presented title: Zeolite-based seed coating as a management tools against Aphanomyces root rot in field pea

October 2025 - Dayani Patuwatha Withanage
Presented title: Commercial AMF in Canola–Wheat Rotations

December 2025 - Oshadhi Pavithra
Presented title: Impact of Humilite application on biomass production, nodulation, nitrogen fixation and forage quality of red clover (Trifolium pratense L.)

January 2026 - Aayushi Rambia
Presented title: Effect of compost-based biostimulants and reduced fertilizer placement on soil parameters and yield responses in cropping systems

February 2026 - Chathuranga De Silva
Aboveground Recovery vs. Belowground Legacy: The Divergent Responses of Plants and Microbes to Defoliation

March 2026 - Savio John Augustine

Agronomic factors that influence fibre flax cultivation for linen and co-product production and supporting a circular economy in the fibre flax value chain in Nova Scotia

April 2026 - Sophia Partyka

The role of legume-intensified cropping systems and livestock grazing to optimize nitrogen supply in organic grain production

Students interested in participating in the 2026-27 Series should contact Jennifer at csagronomy@gmail.com.

New Agronomist Joins University of Guelph

On June 1 2026, Ridgetown Campus welcomes Dr. Irish Lorraine Pabuayon as tenure-track Assistant Professor in Dry Bean Agronomy and Pest Management in the Plant Agriculture department. From Texas Tech University's Department of Plant and Soil Science she brings extensive international and North American experience in field-based crop research, with expertise in plant physiology and sustainable crop production systems. She has the research expertise in various cropping systems and advanced scientific approaches to address various agronomic issues in Ontario and beyond. Dr. Irish is an effective communicator who excels at explaining complex scientific outcomes into what it means for farmers with calls for action.

"My research approach focuses on the growers and understanding their realities in the field. Their experiences and insights shape my research priorities, and by working collaboratively with growers, industry partners, and scientists across disciplines at the U of G, I focus on delivering results that make it back to the farm, creating a continuous and productive exchange between science and practice," Dr. Irish Pabuayon.

Read more at Ontario's bean sector gets a boost with new U of G faculty in crop science | Ontario Agricultural College

HIGHLIGHTING CSA MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are soliciting short highlights of professional accomplishments from CSA members to highlight here! If you or someone you know has any news to share, please email csagronomy@gmail.com.

Congratulations to CSA Executive members Drs. Linda Gorim and Josh Nasielski

Achieving tenure is an important milestone and one that should be celebrated. Two outstanding early career agronomists were recently granted tenure at their respective institution. Having observed first-hand their dedication to Canadian Agriculture and the Canadian Society of Agronomy it is an accomplishment that is well deserved. Here is their brief bio.

Dr. Linda Gorim, Assistant Professor & WGRF Chair in Cropping Systems is a Faculty member of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sci - Ag, Food & Nutri Sci Dept. at the University of Alberta. She leads systems approaches to enhance our understanding of the role of crop rotations and agronomic practices on crop and soil health.

Dr. Joshua Nasielski is an Assistant Professor in the Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph and holds the MacSon Professorship. Focusing on solutions to agronomic problems faced by farmers in eastern and northern Ontario, his research interests focus on the agronomy and crop physiology of field crops (spring cereals, corn, soybeans and legumes).

When you see Linda and Josh at the CSA Conference in Guelph this June, please extend your congratulations.

Call for Manuscript Submissions

Call for manuscript submissions for AI and Digital Imaging Collection for CJPS

Collection Editors:

Keshav D. Singh, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Digital Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, AB

Raman Dhariwal, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, AB

Charles Geddes, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, AB

Amritpal S. Singh, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

AI and Digital Imaging for Crop Improvement and Precision Agriculture

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and digital imaging technologies are rapidly transforming crop improvement and precision agriculture by enabling high-throughput, non-destructive, and data-driven approaches to complex agronomic challenges. This special collection in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science will highlight cutting-edge research that integrates AI-driven analytics with digital imaging, multi-omics, environmental data, and phenotyping to improve crop performance, resilience, and sustainability. By uniting advances in plant science, data science, and agricultural engineering, this collection will provide an interdisciplinary platform that advances AI- and imaging-enabled innovation for modern, sustainable crop production. See link for the full description.

Submission deadline: 30 November 2026

SOILS & CROPS IN FOCUS
CRITICAL RESOURCES FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST
CSSS – CSA – JUNE 20-25, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

See you at Conference!