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Summer 2023



Alliance Innovations

A collaboration between OMAFRA and the University of Guelph

Stories of the Alliance people, places and programs generating impact in the agri-food sector in Ontario and around the world.

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It's pasture season at the Ontario Beef Research Centre



Renovated pasture enables grazing and

environmental research

Cattle are not the only ones enjoying the benefits of the [Ontario Beef Research Centre's](#) greener pastures. That's because the renewed and expanded 121-hectare perennial pastures just outside Elora provide more than a bovine buffet—their unique design makes them living laboratories, enabling research that aims to help beef producers lower the cost of production, safeguard the environment and increase profitability.

Two U of G studies based around these unique grounds are now poised to support sustainable beef production. The structure of the pastures—portions of which are divided into one-acre (0.4-hectare) paddocks—allows researchers to compare and evaluate current and innovative practices to help provide evidence-based recommendations to producers. The goal is to identify sustainable pasture management strategies that benefit animals, plants and the environment while helping the producer's bottom line.



[Continue reading](#)

PHOTO CONTEST research in focus



The U of G Research in Focus photo contest is an opportunity for U of G faculty, staff and students to showcase their research through photography.

The contest is aimed at providing a way to share compelling research stories.

New for 2023, a special "Focus on Agri-Food" category!

[Click for full details](#)

Photography workshops: register now!

A picture is worth a thousand words: Using photography to tell your research story



**Monday, June 26, U of G Arboretum
Tuesday, July 4, Ontario Dairy Research Centre**

Full details below!



NSERC president tours the Ontario Beef Research Centre



In May, members from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) leadership team toured the Ontario Beef Research Centre in Elora with U of G's vice president of research. The state-of-the-art facility was showcased as they discussed the impact the centre has on research.

U of G researchers leverage OMAFRA support through NSERC grants

NSERC Alliance grants support collaborative research projects between researchers and partner organizations from the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

As internationally recognized experts, U of G researchers attract funding from a variety of provincial, national and private-sector partners to advance their agri-food and rural research projects.

Are you a researcher new to NSERC Alliance grants?

U of G's Research Innovation Office has compiled tips and tricks from three-time NSERC Alliance awardee Dr. Lee-Anne Huber as she reflects on her experience and continued success with the program.



Read tips and tricks

Dr. Lee-Anne Huber

Lower-burp cows to be bred with world-leading methods based on U of G research



The first national genetic evaluation in the world to help select low-methane dairy cows is based on University of Guelph research, with funding from the Alliance and partners across Canada, and data collection at the [Ontario Dairy Research Centre](#).

Around the world, almost 14 per cent of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs) come from one source: burping livestock.

Now the first national genetic evaluation in the world to help select low-methane dairy cows – an advance based on University of Guelph research led by Dr. Christine Baes – is expected to help reduce those farm GGEs without affecting milk production.



Dr. Christine Baes

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In the news

 **CBC LISTEN**

Fresh Air with Ismaila Alfa

Burping cows and climate change: a Guelph research team say they have the answer for minimizing methane emissions from cows


NEWS

Burping bovine:
University of Guelph
researchers develop
tool to predict how
much methane a cow
will belch out



U of Guelph
researching how cow
burps contribute to
global warming

**Watch and
Read**

Listen

Watch and
Read

READ | Long-term Alliance investments support dairy calf welfare



Dr. Todd Duffield, chair of the Department of Population Medicine at U of G, has spent 20 years researching how to manage pain in young dairy calves, thanks in part to long-term funding from the Alliance.

Much of his work has focused on the practice of disbudding, or the removal of horn buds on young calves. It's a practice recommended by the Canadian Dairy Code of Practice to protect the safety of the cow, pen mates and farm staff.

Along with colleague Dr. Charlotte Winder, Duffield developed an online training module for producers and veterinary students on administering a nerve block during disbudding. The knowledge transfer materials were developed with Alliance funding and support from Saputo and Dairy Farmers of Ontario.

Alliance-funded research has made significant contributions to global knowledge of pain responses and management in calves. The Alliance funding successfully leveraged additional industry sector investments thanks to researcher networks and the reputation and expertise of the University of Guelph. These long-term collaborations speak to the importance of research and innovation to advance shared goals for a sustainable and well-managed sector.

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Upcoming Events





Photography Workshop

REIMAGINE
YOUR RESEARCH

Reimagine your research: Photography Workshop
Monday, June 26, U of G Arboretum (workshop #1)
Tuesday, July 4, Ontario Dairy Research Centre (workshop #2)

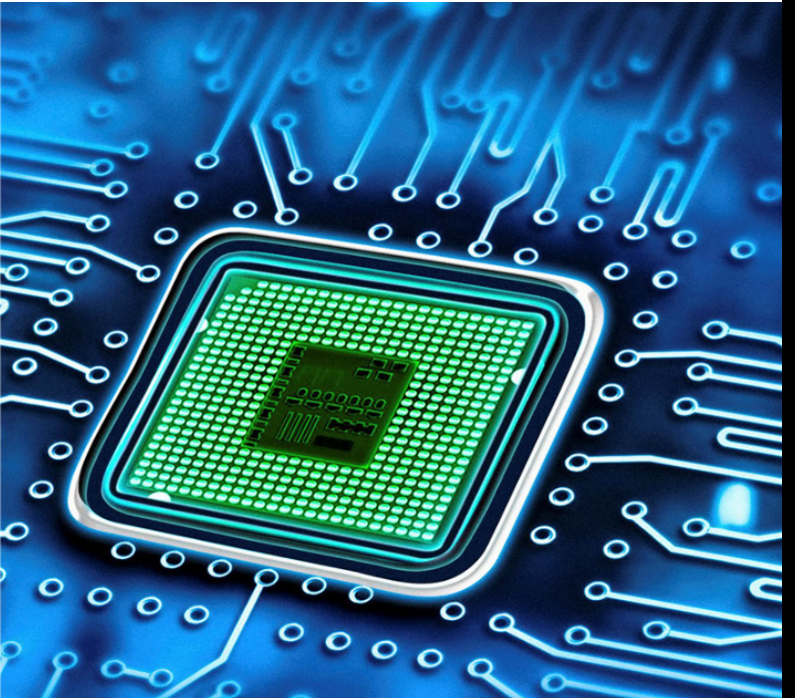
Join us to develop new skills to tell your research story using engaging photos.

Participants will explore the following:

- how to see and frame compositions to create interest in their images;
- how to use light, focus, and exposure to their advantage; and
- how to get the most out of your "camera".

**Register for June 26 at the
Arboretum**

**Register for July 4 at the
Ontario Dairy Research
Centre**



AGRI-FOOD RESEARCH **DATA WORKSHOP SERIES**

**Wednesday Workshops
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.**

**JOIN IN-PERSON
OR ONLINE**



**AGRI-FOOD DATA
CANADA**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Agri-Food Research Data Workshop Wednesday, June 28, In-Person and Online

During the last workshop of this series, participants will learn more about the AllInOne Pre-processing R-Shiny user interface package. AllInOne Pre-processing streamlines the preprocessing of phenotypic data, enabling R users to swiftly and accurately ready their data for further analyses.

Register for the final data workshop

Media

A selection of Alliance people, places and programs cited in popular and trade media.

[Tired of being disappointed by store-bought strawberries? Here's how to find the sweetest ones](#) (June 13, Toronto Star)

Alliance-funded researcher Adam Dale, a professor emeritus of plant agriculture and berry breeding at U of G, and John Zandstra, a professor in fruit and vegetable cropping systems at U of G, share expert strawberry knowledge with the Toronto Star.

[Senators dig into soil at the grassroots level](#) (May 15, Farmtario)

Agriculture and Forestry Senate Committee completed a three-day fact-finding tour of farms, agriculture businesses, and Ontario's agri-food research centres.

[New Arrell Family Chair at U of G to focus on 'people side' of agri-economics](#) (May 15, U of G News)

A new \$1-million research chair in an emerging field at the University of Guelph is intended to make agri-food production more efficient and ensure sustainable food production in Canada and around the world.

[Award-winning idea aims to produce healthy sugar substitute for diabetics](#) (May 4, CBC)

Biofect Innovations won the Agri-Tech Pitch Competition in Guelph this year. The company has found a way to turn things like lactose, starch and glycerol into a protein-based sweetener called brazzein, which is a couple of thousand times sweeter than sugar, and they say it's healthier too.

Make an Alliance connection



Visit the Alliance website



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This newsletter is produced by the University's Office of Research. The views expressed are the views of the University and do not necessarily reflect those of OMAFRA. Questions regarding the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Agreement can be addressed to omafra@uoguelph.ca.



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