

# **LEARN** Linking Environment & Agriculture Research Network

## **LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013**

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**Network Annual Report**  
May 2013



# An Introduction from the Network Leader

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This document provides a report on the fourth and final year of operation of the Linking Environment and Agriculture Research Network (LEARN). Since the Government of Canada decided not to renew funding for the Research networks this will be the final report to be produced.

On the research front, four new projects were funded in 2012-2013 making a total of 12 ongoing research projects during this fiscal year. One commissioned paper was produced this year and now appears on the LEARN website. You will see below that there are a number of manuscripts resulting from all of the work sponsored or co-sponsored by the network. As reports continue to be submitted and publications appear in various outlets in the future we will continue to try and add them to our website.

LEARN also supported the Third Annual National Agricultural Policy Conference held in Ottawa in January. This event was organized by a consortium including the five ERCA networks and the Canadian Agricultural Economists Society. The event included a poster session which was intended to showcase network funded research. LEARN members and students had a number of posters presented at this event. Over 200 delegates attended this conference and there are plans in place to develop a fourth annual conference in January 2014. Since the networks will not be renewed, the Canadian Agricultural Economists Society will take on leadership for this important event.

While financial support for the networks has not been renewed, there are still discussions with AAFC to find ways to maintain websites and keep momentum going. Thus, we will strive to keep some semblance of the network up and running for the time being, although the lack of funding might mean that reports of output will be delayed somewhat.

In closing, we wish to thank Catalina Solano-Rivera for her fine service as network administrator. She has organized our workshops and managed the website in addition to providing fine research assistance to me at various times. Our LEARN website is top notch – over the past year we have had about 3500 visitors and 8400 page views!! Beata Montgomery has continued to assist us with the year-end financial claim to AAFC. Thanks to both Cata and Beata for their expert assistance!

# Introduction

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**Network Objectives** – LEARN activity is framed around development and analysis of economic policy in the area of agriculture and the provision of environmental goods and services (EGS). Network research will assist in the development of: (1) improved understanding of the adoption of farm level management practices for the supply of EGS, (2) development and analysis of market based instrument programs for the provision of EGS, and (3) the valuation of change in EGS both for policy implementation as well as outcome monitoring. The expectation is that these elements will be integrated in the research program, leading to improved integration of policy analysis, implementation and evaluation from a multidisciplinary perspective.

However, LEARN is more than a research organization and is dedicated to communication and networking through the hosting and co-hosting of workshops, conferences and other fora. Central to this philosophy is the expectation that network research funds will form seed funds to leverage additional funding from other organizations. We hope that many of these organizations and individuals therein will become partners in the network to increase the potential for networking and learning outcomes. Many already are as you will see in this report.

Last year we reported on two recent initiatives that highlight partnership potential. The first was one of the funded projects that linked LEARN with Environment Canada's Species at Risk concerns in what is the South of the Divide Project located in southwestern Saskatchewan. The multiple species at risk (Multi-SAR) recovery strategy within Saskatchewan's Milk River Watershed provided a unique opportunity to study the opportunity costs of protecting multiple species' critical habitat within the dry mixed grass and mixed grass prairie of south-western Saskatchewan. The project involved developing a model that provided insight into the opportunity or real costs incurred or potentially incurred by landowners and land managers as a result of species recovery stewardship initiatives. In the last fiscal year a cost-share funding arrangement with Environment Canada permitted development of a survey to collect non-market valuation estimates to focus on the benefits side of the species-at-risk recovery issue. This initiative is now completed and there will be a number of reports appearing on the website soon.

The second involved the possible linkage of LEARN with the recently formed Alberta Land Institute at the University of Alberta. This institute holds similar goals and objectives as LEARN and through philanthropic donations is planning to test the application of market based instruments to enhance EGS provision on agricultural landscapes. LEARN partnered with this institute in this last fiscal year to undertake an evaluation of a significant extension effort to increase the adoption of BMPs in Alberta. This report is now complete and can be found on the LEARN website.

## 2. Membership and Partners

This year LEARN welcomed to the fold the following new members and partners: Brandon Schaufele, Jessica Cao, Scott Jeffrey, Barry Bishop, Mohammad Shakeri, and Ron Eley. We now have 35 members and 20 partners.

### List of Members and Partners as of April 2013

Members		Members	
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Vic Adamowicz	University of Alberta	Tracy Stobbe	Trinity Western University
Peter Boxall	University of Alberta	Wanhong Yang	University of Guelph
Kees van Kooten	University of Victoria	Van Lantz	University of New Brunswick
Paul Thomassin	McGill University		
Al Weersink	University of Guelph	Partners	
Alison Eagle	University of Alberta	Name	Organization
Ben Bradshaw	University of Guelph	Al Mussell	George Morris Centre
Brady Deaton	University of Guelph	Aurelie Mogan	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Brandon Schaufele	University of Ottawa	Barry Bishop	Ducks Unlimited
Brent Swallow	University of Alberta	Bob MacGregor	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Carol McAusland	University of British Columbia	Brenda Brindle	Government of Alberta
Chad Lawley	University of Manitoba	Darryl Finnigan	Government of Ontario
Chokri Dridi		Ela Kinowska	Environment Canada
Christine Rawluk	University of Manitoba	Esther Salvano	Government of Manitoba
Don Flaten	University of Manitoba	Hugues Morand	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Elena Bennett	McGill University	Ian Campbell	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Emmanuel Yiridoe	Nova Scotia Agricultural College	Mohammad Shakeri	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Gary Kachanoski	University of Alberta	Monika Drozd	Environment Canada
Gary Johnson	University of Manitoba	Sarah Kalf	Agriculture of AgriFood Canada
Henning Bjornlund	UNISA & University of Lethbridge	Shane Gabor	Ducks Unlimited
James Vercammen	University of British Columbia	Tom Goddard	Government of Alberta
Jessica Cao	University of Guelph	Tom Harrison	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Jim Unterschultz	University of Alberta	Ron Eley	Government of Saskatchewan
John Parkins	University of Alberta	Ryan Prescott	Agriculture and AgriFood Canada
Ken Belcher	University of Saskatchewan	Susan Preston	Environment Canada
Kurt Klein	University of Lethbridge	Yves Bourassa	Environment Canada
Lota Dabio Tamini	University of Laval		
Marian Weber	University of Alberta & Alberta Innovates Technology		
Richard Vyn	University of Guelph		
Scott Jeffrey	University of Alberta		
Sumeet Gulati	University of British Columbia		
Steve Clark	Nova Scotia Agricultural College		

# 3. LEARN Funded Research

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## Reports from Past Funded Projects Completed in 2012

1. An Assessment of Prince Edward Island's Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program, 2008-2011. Report Prepared for the PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Charlottetown, PE.  
Libby Johnston and Van Lantz, *University of New Brunswick*.
2. A survey of farmer perspectives on the PEI ALUS program.  
Van Lantz, Toni Anderson, and Libby Johnston, *University of New Brunswick*.
3. Implicit Prices of Habitat Conservation Easements .  
Chad Lawley and Charles Towe, *University of Manitoba and University of Maryland*

## Commissioned Papers and Thought Pieces Now Available

1. Jeffrey, S., B. Cortus, B. Dollevoet, S. Koeckhoven, D. Trautman, and J. Unterschultz. 2012. Farm level economics of ecosystem service production. LEARN Research Project Report RP-01-2012. October 2012.

## New Projects Funded in 2012-2013

1. **Benefit-Cost Analysis of NIRS Feeding Initiative for the Alberta Livestock and Crop Industry**  
Scott Jeffrey, Henry An, Jim Unterschultz, and Mary-Lou Swift, *University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development*
2. **Consequential Life Cycle Assessment of Using Wood Pellets in Greenhouse Production to Replace Conventional Fuel Types**  
Paul J. Thomassin, Kakali Mukhopadhyay, and Réne Roy, *McGill University*
3. **Assessing the Effectiveness of the Natural Advantage Program**  
Peter Boxall, Stephanie Simpson, Curtis Rollins, *University of Alberta and Alberta Land Institute*
4. **Red-Assiniboine Project (RAP): Determining Economic Costs for Land Management Scenarios for Boyne, Little Saskatchewan, and La Salle Watersheds**  
Scott Jeffrey, Vic Adamowicz, Manikarnika Kanjilal, Catalina Solano Rivera, Qing Chen, Jim Unterschultz, Aung Moe, *University of Alberta and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada*

## Training of New Graduate Students

1. **Kees van Kooten:** Supported five graduate and two undergraduate students in 2012, jointly with project funds and funds that were leveraged by the project. Used LEARN/ERCA support to produce posters for Ottawa conference in January, 2013 – Peter Bell poster on farmland pricing and Peter Bell et al.
  
2. **James Vercammen:**
  - Hassan Zakeri, (MA in Economics Student, UBC), funded by LEARN to help program a numerical solution to the real option problem contained within the following paper: Vercammen, J. “The Welfare Impacts of a Conservation Easement”, Selected Paper, Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Study Group Annual Conference: Vancouver, September 28 - 30 (2012).
  - Yijeong, Park (Masters of Food and Resource Economics Student, UBC), funded jointly by LEARN and CAIRN to facilitate a four month summer internship at UBC (May to August, 2012) working with Professor Jim Vercammen on the topic of adoption of conservation tillage on the Canadian Prairies.
  - Zhou Chen (Masters of Food and Resource Economics Student, UBC), jointly funded by LEARN and CAIRN to assist Jim Vercammen with the creation of a GIS system for assessing the environmental impacts of food distribution systems in British Columbia’s Lower Mainland (March, 2013).
  
3. **Carol McAusland:** Funded 15 months of a graduate student Nouri Najjar’s education and time to work on the research and writing of a report outlining the logistical, legal and economic viability of a Carbon Footprint Tax (CFT).

## Agencies Providing Matching or other Support for LEARN projects (cash and in-kind)

- Alberta Land Institute
- Environment Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- Other funding sources from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## 4. LEARN Networking: Conferences, Workshops and other Activities

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1. LEARN held its annual workshop in conjunction with the Consumer and Demand Agricultural Policy Research Network (CMD) in Edmonton in May 2012. The agenda appears in the Appendix to this document.
2. LEARN, along with the other ERCA networks, collaborated with the organization of the third major policy conference in Ottawa with the title: Third Annual Canadian Agricultural Policy Conference: Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, January 23-25, 2013. Eight LEARN sponsored posters were presented. The poster titles and presenters are shown in the next section.
3. A workshop with AAFC in Ottawa prior to Policy conference, January 23 2013. This meeting involved network university members and AAFC staff working on issues of relevance to the LEARN mandate. This constituted a full day of AAFC presentations to LEARN members and discussions on research topics. Presentation titles appear in the Appendix.

## 5. Research Outputs during the Reporting Period

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### Poster Presentations (network members and partners in bold):

Bell, P. **2013**. How do Restrictions on Foreign Ownership Affect Price: Empirical and Theoretical Analyses of the Saskatchewan Farmland Security Act. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Bell, P., R. McGregor, G. C. **van Kooten**, and E. Wilson. **2013**. Developing Financial Weather Derivatives for Prairie Farmers. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.



Entem, A., W.L. **Adamowicz**, and P.C. **Boxall**. **2013**. An Opportunity Cost Model for Species at Risk Habitat Protection in Saskatchewan's Milk River Watershed. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

**Lantz**, V., T. Anderson, and L. Johnston. **2013**. A Survey of Farmer Perspectives on the PEI ALUS Program. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Packman, K., M. **Weber**, and P. **Boxall**. **2013**. Public Preferences for Transfer of Development Credits in the BHI. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Park, Y. and J. **Vercammen**. **2013**. The Economic Determinants of Adoption Rates of Conservation Tillage in the Prairie Region in Canada. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Simpson, S., C. **Rollins**, and P. **Boxall**. **2013**. Assessing the Effectiveness of an Alberta-based Agri-environmental Extension Program. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Sun, B., P. Bell and G. C. **van Kooten**. **2012**. Potential for Weather-Indexed Insurance in Northern China. Presented at 2012 AAEE Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, 12-14 August, 2012.

Trautman, D., S. **Jeffrey** and J. **Unterschultz**. **2013**. Implications of BRM Program Participation on the Feasibility of Beneficial Management Practices Adoption. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

Wilson, S. and P. **Boxall**. **2013**. Incorporating Variable Costs of Adoption into Conservation Auctions. Presented at the Third Annual Canadian Agriculture Policy Conference: The Growing Canada's Agricultural Economy: The Role of Trade, Ottawa, Ontario, January 24-25, 2013.

### Oral Presentations (**LEARN members and partners in bold**):

Entem, A., W.L. **Adamowicz**, P.C. **Boxall**, and S. Simpson. **2013**. Species at Risk: Economic Analysis. Presented at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Red Deer, Alberta, February 19-22, 2013.



Entem, A. **2013**. Moving forward with Grassland conservation: Employing economic instruments to achieve conservation goals. Presented at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Red Deer, Alberta, February 19-22, 2013.

**Jeffrey, S., D. Trautman and J. Unterschultz. 2012.** Impact of Canadian BRM Programs on Producer (Dis)incentives to Adopt BMPs. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Lawley, C. and C. Towe. 2012.** Capitalized Costs of Habitat Conservation Easements. Presented at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, August 11-14, 2012, Seattle, Washington; and at the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Conference, Asheville, North Carolina, June 3-5, 2012.

**Lantz, V. 2013.** ALUS Program Survey from the Farmers Perspective. Presented at the 32nd Annual PEI Soil & Crop Improvement Association Conference, Charlottetown, PEI, February 28, 2013.

**Lantz, V. 2012.** An Assessment of PEI Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program, 2008-11. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Najjar, N. 2012.** Consumption based carbon taxes: feasibility and WTO consistency. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Packman, K., M. Weber and M. Cutlac. 2012.** Evaluating Impacts of Transferable Development Credits in the Beaver Hills Initiative Area (BHI). Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Simpson, S., C. Rollins, and P. Boxall. 2013.** Assessing the Effectiveness of an Alberta-based Agri-environmental Extension Program. Presented at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Red Deer, Alberta, February 19-22, 2013.

**Withey, P. and G. C. van Kooten. 2012.** Wetlands Retention and Optimal Management of Waterfowl Habitat under Climate Change. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Zhang, F., B. Sun, P. Bell and G. C. van Kooten. 2012.** Weather Indexes as a Guide to Facilitate Planting of Winter Wheat and Conservation of Migratory Waterfowl Habitat. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Vercammen, J. 2012.** The Welfare Impacts of a Conservation Easement. Presented at the Canadian Resource and Environmental Economics Study Group Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, September 28-30, 2012.

**Vercammen, J.** and H. Ayouqi. **2012.** A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Best Management Practices by Canadian Farmers. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

**Weber, M., K. Packman, and M Cutlac. 2012.** Can Transfer of Development Credits Improve Wetlands in the Beaver Hills Initiative Area (AB)? Presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Edmonton Alberta, June 21, 2012.

**Weber, M. 2012.** Presentation and discussion of study results to County Administrators and Councilors, as part of the evaluation of TDC program options for Strathcona County. Presented at Strathcona County Administration Meeting, Strathcona, Alberta, September 28, 2012.

Zakeri, H. and J. **Vercammen. 2012.** Numerical Techniques for Solving Resource Management Real Option Problems. Presented at the LEARN workshop, Edmonton, Alberta, May 24-25, 2012.

*\*All other oral presentations delivered in LEARN events are listed in the appendix of this document.*

## Media Pieces

None to report this year

## Publications (submitted, accepted and published)

**Boxall, P.C., O. Perger, and K. Packman. 2012.** An Experimental Examination of Target Based Conservation Auctions. Department of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology, Staff paper 12-01. 22 p.

**Adamowicz, W.L., P.C. Boxall, A. Entem and S. Simpson. 2012.** South of the Divide Action Plan: Economic Cost and Benefit Assessment. Report to Environment Canada in fulfillment of funding commitments. (11pp).

**Boxall, P.C. O. Perger, and M. Weber. 2013.** Reverse Auctions for Agri-environmental Improvements: Bid Selection Rules and Pricing for Beneficial Management Practice Adoption. *Canadian Public Policy* (Accepted).

Brewin, D.G., Gyles, C., Wiens, M., and **Flaten, D.N. 2012.** A Review of Farm Level Responses to Nutrient Regulations in Manitoba, Canada. *Acta Agr. Scand. C - Food Economics* 9:108-116.

Bryan, J., B.J. **Deaton, and A. Weersink. 2013.** Does Variation in Landlord-tenant Relationships Influence Contract Choice or Cash Rental Rates? Examining the Rental Market for Farmland in Ontario, Canada. Submitted to the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

Fulton, M.E., and J. **Vercammen**. **2013**. Optimal NGO Financing of a Resource Management Certification Scheme. Submitted to *Environmental and Resource Economics*.

**Lawley, C.** **2013**. Changes in Implicit Prices of Prairie Pothole Habitat. *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. (Accepted).

**Lawley, C.** and C. Towe. **2013**. Capitalized Costs of Habitat Conservation Easements. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. (Forthcoming).

**McAusland, C.** and Nouri N. **2012**. Carbon Footprint Taxes. Submitted to *Environment and Resource Economics*.

Sun, B. and G.C. **van Kooten**. **2012**. Weather Effects on Corn Yields in Northern China. *The Journal of Agricultural Science, Cambridge*. (Accepted).

**Vercammen, J.** **2013**. A Life Cycle Model of Farm Investment in Environmental Capital. (originally written as a LEARN Commissioned Paper). Submitted to the selected paper competition, AAEA/CAES Meetings, Washington DC, Aug 4-6, 2013.

**Weber, M., M. Cutlac, K. Goode, B. Ilnicki, and K. Packman.** **2013**. Transferable Development Credit Pilot Project in the Beaver Hills Initiative Area (BHI). Final report submitted to Strathcona County and the BHI.

Withey, P. and G.C. **van Kooten**. **2012**. Wasting Away: Wetlands Retention and Optimal Management of Waterfowl Habitat under Climate Change. Submitted to *Resource and Energy Economics*, November 2012.

Withey, P. and G.C. **van Kooten**. **2013**. The Effect of Climate Change on Wetlands and Waterfowl in Western Canada: Incorporating Cropping Decisions into a Bioeconomic Model. *Natural Resource Modeling*. (Accepted)

Wong, L., G. C. **van Kooten** and J. A. Clarke. **2012**. The Impact of Agriculture on Waterfowl Abundance: Evidence from Panel Data. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 37(2): 321-334.

## **Publications in preparation**

Bell, P. and G. C. **van Kooten**. **2013**. Weather Insurance in Saskatchewan. In preparation for submission to the 2nd International Agricultural Risk, Finance and Insurance Conference (IARFIC) to be held in Vancouver, BC, (Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver, June 16-18, 2013).

Entem, A., P. C. **Boxall**, and W.L. **Adamowicz**. **2013**. A cost-effective conservation planning case study with Saskatchewan's Milk River Watershed: The efficiency gains of using a multiple conservation opportunity costs within a multi-species approach. 21pp.

Guo, C., B. Sun and G. C. **van Kooten**. **2013**. Risking-sharing Efficiency of Mixed Hedging Strategies: Market Exchange and OTC Contracts to Reduce Exposure to Climate Change Risk in Saskatchewan. 10pp.

Sun, B., C. Guo and G. C. **van Kooten**. **2013**. Efficiency of Hedging Weather Risk by Weather Derivatives for Corn Production in Northeastern China. 16pp.

**van Kooten**, G. C. and F. Zhang. **2013**. Climate Change and Planting of Winter Wheat for Waterfowl Protection in Saskatchewan. 24pp.

# APPENDIX

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## Presentations at LEARN workshop in Edmonton, May 24-25, 2012

### SESSION 1: LAND VALUES AND USE

**Wetlands retention and optimal management of waterfowl habitat under climate change**

*Patrick Withey and G. Cornelis van Kooten, University of Victoria*

**Valuing agricultural land assets in the system of national accounts: A hedonic pricing approach**

*Paul Thomassin and René Roy, McGill University*

**Examining the effect of tenant-landowner characteristics on farmland rental arrangements and rental rates**

*Brady Deaton, James Bryan and Alfons Weersink, University of Guelph*

**Weather indexes as a guide to facilitate planting of winter wheat and conservation of migratory waterfowl habitat**

*Fan Zhang, Peter Bell and G. Cornelis van Kooten, University of Victoria*

Project with: Scott Jeffrey and Jim Unterschultz, University of Alberta

### SESSION 2: AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

**Implicit prices of habitat conservation easements**

*Chad Lawley, University of Manitoba*

**An assessment of PEI's Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program, 2008-11**

*Van Lanz, University of New Brunswick*

**Target based conservation auctions**

*Peter Boxall, Orsolya Perger and Katherine Packman, University of Alberta*

**Transfer of development credit program options for the beaver hills cooking lake moraine**

*Marian Weber, Marius Cutlac and Katherine Packman, Alberta Innovates*

### SESSION 3: ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: CARBON, WATER AND BIODIVERSITY

**A study of the attitudes and awareness to carbon offset protocols in Alberta's agricultural community**

*Brent Swallow and Onnolee Nordstrom, University of Alberta*

**Consumption based carbon taxes: feasibility and WTO consistency**

*Carol McAusland and Nouri Najjar, University of British Columbia*

**The economics of grassland species-at-risk recovery programs**

*Alicia Entem, Vic Adamowicz and Peter Boxall, University of Alberta*

**The demonstration and capture of an ecosystem service value: The case of irrigation infrastructure**

*Hyun No Kim, Peter Boxall and Vic Adamowicz, University of Alberta*

**KEYNOTE SESSION: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: DRIVERS OF FOOD CHOICE?  
(JOINT SESSION WITH THE CONSUMER AND MARKET DEMAND NETWORK)**

**Consumer demand for carbon neutral lamb**

*Michael Burton, University of Western Australia*

**The power of human values in predicting choices: Carbon footprint labelling examples**

*Carola Grebitus, Bodo Steiner and Michele Veeman, Bonn University, University College Cork, and University of Alberta*

**SESSION 5: BMPS AND ADOPTION**

**A comparative analysis of environmental best management practices by Canadian farmers**

*James Vercaemmen and Hossein Ayouqi, University of British Columbia*

**Impact of Canadian BRM programs on producer (dis)incentives to adopt BMPs**

*Scott Jeffrey, University of Alberta*

**Evaluation of a “Cadillac” extension effort: The Natural Advantage Program**

*Curtis Rollins, Stephanie Simpson and Peter Boxall, University of Alberta*

**Numerical techniques for solving resource management real option problems**

*Hassan Zakeri and James Vercaemmen, University of British Columbia*



Photo 1. LEARN researchers who attended the workshop.

Front row, from left to right: Peter Boxall, Paul Thomassin, Brady Deaton, Marian Weber.

Back row, from left to right: Alison Eagle, Vic Adamowicz, Jim Unterschultz, Chad Lawley, Kees van Kooten, Ken Belcher, Van Lantz, James Vercaemmen.

## **Presentations at the Joint AAFC-LEARN Pre-Conference Workshop, January 11th, 2012**

### **Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices (WEBs) session**

WEBs II On-Farm Economic Assessments: Update & Results

*Laurie Baker*

Economic Analysis of Nutrient Management Practices for Water Quality Protection

*Emmanuel Yiridoe*

Estimating Pollution Abatement Costs Curves in the Bras d'Henri Watershed

*Paul J. Thomassin, Laurie Baker, and Rene Roy*

Incenting BMP Adoption: Conservation Auctions for Water Quality Improvements

*Peter Boxall*

### **LEARN Sessions**

Estimating a Wealth Account for Agricultural Land in Quebec: Incorporating Natural Capital into a System of Environmental-Economic Accounts

*René Roy and Paul J. Thomassin*

Farmland ownership, rental rates, and BMP adoption

*Brady Deaton, Chad Lawley, Alfons Weersink, James Bryan*

Species at Risk: Economic Analysis

*Alicia Entem, Vic Adamowicz, Peter Boxall, Stephanie Simpson, Catalina Solano*

Socioeconomic Dimensions of Canadian Endangered Species Recovery Policy (SARA)

*Carolyn Seburn*