

B11 - Green Edge Planning Tools

Presentation title: Agroforestry: Integrated Solutions for Adapting to Change

Presenter:

George Powell – Consulting Agrologist

Abstract

British Columbia, as with all regions of the world, is facing tremendous challenges to meet growing demand for energy, food, fibre and health products. At the same time we need increased emphasis on conservation of our land, water and other natural resources and must collectively address climate change and reduce the energy-intensity of our production systems. This presentation will introduce basic concepts of agroforestry, the intentional, integrated production of trees or shrubs with other crops and/or livestock. These integrated practices blend agriculture, silviculture and conservation practices in the same land management system. The session will provide Canadian examples and discuss development work underway, and describe opportunities and challenges of using agroforestry as an economic development option and land use planning tool. Agroforestry has several potential advantages relative to conventional agriculture including the capacity for production gains through more efficient use of available resources, economic advantages that come from blending different outputs from the same production system and the environmental services that can be provided from these managed systems. Because agroforestry systems blend economic activity with conservation practices they can be suitable land use options to buffer or transition between conflicting land uses. The economic returns from wood, food, floral, natural health and other niche products can subsidize conservation activities including providing wildlife habitat, sequestering carbon to mitigate climate change, managing fire risk and protecting soil, water air quality. In this manner, the economic activity becomes a strong incentive for producers to adopt conservation practices. Because these systems are relatively novel in Canada, changes to policy, legislation, and community and regional plans are needed to facilitate agroforestry implementation at appropriate locations. Development of agroforestry options requires a multidisciplinary approach with policy, planning and research and development contributions from professional Agrologists, Planners and Foresters.

Speaker Biography

George Powell is a consulting Agrologist based in Quesnel specializing in integrated natural resource management. He has a PhD from the University of Alberta and his previous employment includes leading a research group in the BC Ministry of Forests and work as a university instructor. For the past four years he has been contracted as the Facilitator for the BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative and has also worked on a variety of other agroforestry and economic development projects.

Presentation # 2 title: Living & Farming on the Edge - Promoting Compatibility through Edge Planning

Presenter:

Bert van Dalssen - British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Abstract

Local governments are continually faced with land use compatibility issues, particularly along farm 'edges'. Rapid population growth and historic land use patterns in British Columbia have led to the development of lengthy edges between agriculture and urban land uses. BC's diverse agriculture results in many farm activities; some of which can generate noise, dust and odour and may lead to concerns from urban neighbours. Farmers may also experience impacts from their neighbours including trespass, litter, crop theft and flooding from urban development. To help promote urban-rural compatibility, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has developed planning guidelines that can be applied to both sides of the 'edge'. The 'Guide to Edge Planning', with its urban and farm-side planning tools, should provide the support that local governments need to help address urban-rural compatibility issues. Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is working on a pilot project with the Township of Langley to implement edge planning along their Urban-Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) boundary. Once the planning tools are

implemented it is anticipated that the Township's edges will be strengthened and land uses optimized on both sides of the edge.

Speaker Biography

For the past 5 years Bert van Daltsen has been the Manager of the Strengthening Farming Program with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch. The Program was created when to work with local governments and the agriculture industry to 'plan for agriculture'. The Program is responsible for the development of agricultural policy and farm bylaw standards to promote agriculture and land use compatibility throughout the province. Bert has a Bachelor of Applied Science from U.B.C and has a dairy farm background. For the last 12 years Karen Thomas has worked as a planner with the Strengthening Farming Program. Karen is involved in 'planning for agriculture'. Together with other ministry staff she works on the development of agricultural policy and farm bylaw standards to promote agriculture and land use compatibility throughout the province. Karen Thomas has a B.Sc. (Agriculture) and a M.A. (Planning) from the University of B.C.