



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP DETAILS

MARCH 10, 2026 | 9:00AM-3:45PM
OLDS COLLEGE



Thanks for attending the Alberta Invasive Species Council's Pesticide Applicator Credit Workshop!

Presenter & Title	Concept Covered	Classes
Challenges and Opportunities: Use of Spray Drones for Herbicide Applications Kris Guenette, Corteva	Application Technology	RPAs
Evolution of Pesticide Safety and PPE Andrea Sawatzky, Health Canada	Human Health & Safety	All Classes
A Closer Look at Pesticides in Surface Waters Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta	Environment	All Classes
Notifications: Communication Before You Spray Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills & Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta	Regulations	All Classes
New Invaders George Bloom, AISC	Pest Management	Aerial, Agriculture, Aquatic, Forestry, Industrial, Landscape, Mosquito and Biting Fly, Seed Protectant, RPAs

ATTENTION APPLICATORS - Please review the following to receive Certified Pesticide Applicator Credits.

- See the table above for approved for applicator credits. When 'All Classes' is listed, this includes aerial, agriculture, aquatic, biting fly, industrial, forestry, fumigation, greenhouse, landscape, structural, special: interior plantscape and special: seed protectant.
- In order to receive a pesticide applicator credit, you must:
 - Be present for the **entirety** of the session.
 - Answer **all** polling questions.
 - Record your **name and birthdate** (month and year) on the Attendance List. Applicators not included on the Attendance List will NOT be recognized for credit.
- Please **DO NOT** take photos of the Attendance Lists after signing them as there is personal information on these sheets.



CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

Presenter & Title	Approved CEU Credits
Challenges and Opportunities: Use of Spray Drones for Herbicide Applications Kris Guenette, Corteva	Integrated Pest Management
Evolution of Pesticide Safety and PPE Andrea Sawatzky, Health Canada	Integrated Pest Management
A Closer Look at Pesticides in Surface Waters Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta	Integrated Pest Management
Notifications: Communication Before You Spray Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills & Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta	Integrated Pest Management
New Invaders George Bloom, AISC	Integrated Pest Management

ATTENTION - Please review the following to receive Certified Crop Adviser Credits.

- See the table above for approved for CEU credits.
- In order to receive a CEU credit, you must:
 - Be present for the **entirety** of the session.
- Record your **name, CCA, CPAg, CPSS or CPSC # and signature (in and out)** on the Attendance List OR you can download the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) app on your mobile device to receive CEU credits immediately by scanning the QR code. Once scanned, the CCA app will automatically sign you in. Anyone not included on the Attendance List will NOT be recognized for credit.



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REGISTRATION - 9:00AM to 9:25AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS - 9:25AM to 9:30AM

Challenges and Opportunities: Use of Spray Drones for Herbicide Applications - 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Kris Guenette, Corteva

Growing interest in the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) for herbicide spraying validates the need to research this application technology. Currently, there is only one herbicide approved for RPAS by the pest management regulatory agency (PMRA), Garlon XRT from Corteva Agriscience. Thus, it is imperative that industry understands any implications that may arise around RPAS herbicide application for new or existing product label expansions. Research was conducted at multiple sites across Western Canada in 2025 targeting pasture and rangeland weed species to compare traditional ground applications vs. RPAS applications. Inherent differences between ground and RPAS application technology make field-based comparisons nuanced and reinforce the need for an industry wide consensus. Ultimately, best management practices should be employed to achieve proper spray coverage via RPAS technologies; however, these practices also need to be tempered by practical logistics.

Kris works for Corteva Agriscience as a Field Scientist in Alberta leading discovery, cereal, pasture and land management herbicides for Western Canada. His research interests are directed towards improving the sustainability of cropping systems, specifically in the areas of applied biotechnology products and agronomic practices within Canadian agriculture. Kris grew up on a family grain farm in Alberta and previously attended the University of Alberta where he holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, M.Sc. in Soil Science and Ph.D. in Soil Biogeochemistry.



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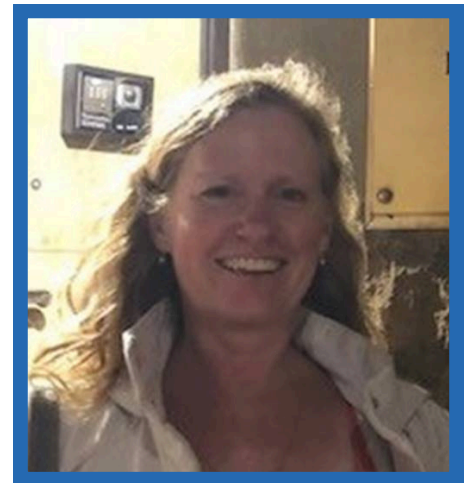
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Pesticides, PPE & You - 10:30AM to 11:30PM

Andrea Sawatzky, Health Canada

This presentation will explain how Health Canada's health risk assessment leads to specific requirements on pesticide labels including personal protective equipment (PPE), restricted entry intervals (REI), precautions etc.

Andrea was born in Thompson, MB, and spent six of my childhood years in Indonesia and Singapore. I attended the University of Manitoba and obtained a Bachelor of Science with a major in Zoology and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. After graduation, I moved to Alberta where I started working for the Federal Government. My first job was as a Primary Products Inspector/ Grader for the Meat Hygiene department of what is now called the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). I then switched agencies and have been working with Health Canada's, Pesticide Compliance Program as a Pesticide Compliance Officer in Calgary for the past 20+ years.



LUNCH - 11:30AM to 12:30PM

A Closer Look at Pesticides in Surface Waters - 12:30PM to 1:30PM

Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta

This presentation highlights pesticide monitoring in Alberta surface waters, integrating Alberta's Long-Term River Network (LTRN) data and federal efforts with the Canadian Water Monitoring Program for Pesticides (CWMPP), coordinated by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), highlighting key data trend, regulatory implications, and collaborative efforts.



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Tanya Rushcall is a born-and-raised Albertan with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta and a deep-rooted passion for aquatic ecosystems. For over 15 years, she's worked with the Government of Alberta, diving into everything from fisheries management to aquatic invasive species management, where she became a certified pesticide applicator in fish and aquatic invertebrates, and aquatic vegetation. Her expertise and enthusiasm for pest management have guided her into her current role as the Provincial Pesticide Approvals and Registration Specialist—which is a fancy way of saying, she oversees regulatory processes to ensure safe, effective pesticide use across Alberta's aquatic environments.

Notifications: Communication Before You Spray - 1:30PM to 2:30PM

Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills & Tanya Rushcall, Government of Alberta

This presentation details the regulatory framework surrounding pesticide notification in Alberta. We explore the Environmental Code of Practice, breaking down specific notice timelines for various application types while reinforcing the overarching EPEA duty to prevent "adverse effects." The session also highlights where applicators may have to satisfy both provincial minimums and stricter municipal bylaws regarding signage and public right-to-know protocols.

Sebastien is from rural Ontario and his interest in Agriculture began as soon as he could walk. This passion directed him to expand his knowledge at the Alfred College of Agriculture and Agri-Food Technology. In 1994, Sebastien left for northern Alberta, to start his career in the agriculture and forestry industry. From 2010 to 2021 he was an Agricultural Fieldman in Northern Sunrise County to now being a Councillor in the County of Two Hills and NE ASB representative. This opportunity leveraged his knowledge of weeds, entomology, agriculture production, agroforestry, and business management, he quickly found a deeper appreciation and keen interest in legislation, policy and board governance. While away from work, Sebastien appreciates spending time with his spouse Michelle on their farm in Willingdon, where he can be found working on machinery, upkeeping and renovating buildings, cropping and haying as well as reading more about legislation and parliamentary procedures. He also enjoys helping the local Agricultural Society as a board member. Proud (grand)father of two daughters and one grandson.



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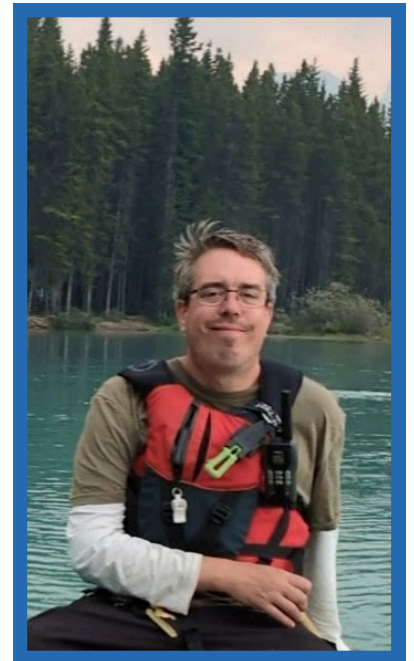
BREAK - 2:30PM to 2:45PM

New Invaders - 2:45PM to 3:45PM

George Bloom, AISC

Alberta faces constant threats from new invasive species establishing which can have far reaching and unintended consequences, be part of the solution! This presentation will highlight some emerging concerns, the identifying characteristics of the new species to watch out for, common lookalikes, and the potential impacts these species may have on public health, facilities, and production systems. This information will help the audience become empowered to assist with the principals of early detection and rapid response, within their respective sectors, utilizing AISC resources and EDDMapS to report and respond effectively.

George brings more than 20 years of public service experience, working across provincial and municipal programs in invasive species management, environmental initiatives, and regulatory compliance. His background includes everything from field operations to resource planning across Alberta.



-- END OF WORKSHOP --

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