



KEYNOTE SESSIONS

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

9:00-10:00 a.m.

5 Key Trends in Agriculture to Monitor for 2025, Shaun Haney Real Ag Radio

RealAg Radio features the latest headlines from around the world of North American agriculture and discussions on current events, markets, agronomy, machinery, farm management, and real-time issues impacting broad acre farmers, beef and dairy producers, and North American agriculture.

RealAgriculture is focused on the issues that are impacting agriculture. Launched in 2008, RealAgriculture started as a grassroots effort to provide farmers with a new way to access agricultural information. Today, they are the leading and only national agriculture publication in Canada, online and their daily show RealAg Radio at 4:30 PM EST on Rural Radio, channel 147 on SiriusXM. His team works across Canada, ensuring they are on top of regional and national news. They provide insight on the latest agronomic research, farm business planning, ag politics, farm show coverage around the globe and more. We are so excited to have Shaun as a keynote speaker to share his presentation, " 5 Trends to Watch For in Agriculture" and know he will have great insights for your operation.

1:45– 2:05 p.m.

NRCS Program Updates, Roylene Comes at Night, State Conservations NRCS

Roylene Comes At Night is the NRCS Washington state conservationist, headquartered in Spokane Valley, Washington, and has worked with the agency for 35 years. She has won a multitude of awards for her exceptional leadership, including the 2023 Washington Association of Conservation Districts Presidents Award, and being named a 2022 Inland Northwest Woman of the Year by the Spokesman-Review.

Roylene will give an overview of NRCS, and its mission and desire to work with farmers' and ranchers' needs to help protect and improve water quality and soil health. Following Roylene's introduction, we will move to the breakout rooms where each state will have NRCS representatives available to discuss NRCS programs.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Low Input Strategies for Integrated Nutrient Management, Joel Williams

Join Joel Williams, an independent plant and soil health educator and consultant, as he shares his strategies for integrated nutrient management. With extensive experience working across Australia, Europe, and Canada, Joel specializes in plant nutrition, soil microbiomes, and crop diversification, aiming to support the development of sustainable agricultural systems. Originally from Australia, he holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science focused on plant and soil dynamics and an MSc in Food Policy from the UK, where he studied the motivations and challenges of adopting intercropping. Joel combines scientific knowledge with practical insights and is passionate about educating farmers worldwide on biological approaches to soil management and sustainable practices.



KEYNOTE SESSIONS

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

9:00-9:20 a.m.

**Is Soil Health Worth it: Analysis of Return on Different Production Methods
Roy Pfaltzgraff**

Is Soil Health Worth It: Using data from the past 30 years we will be looking at how the evolving farming methods have changed the bottom line on one farm in Colorado. Taking the crop and input data from tillage 1991-1996, no-till with fallow 2011-2016 and no-till with soil health focus 2017-2022 we will be looking at 3 sets of books that takes the historical information and updates it to the current costs so we can create a side by side comparison of those three periods and discuss other factors that are beyond the numbers to determine if adding new methods are really worth it.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Building Resiliency for Environmental Conditions in Farming Practices, Cat Salois, The McGregor Company

Join Cat Salois of The McGregor Company as she discusses strategies for building a more resilient farming operation. She will cover key topics such as optimizing root development, increasing root-to-shoot ratios, and vertically utilizing more of the acre-foot. Additionally, she will explore the benefits of early-season vigor, including the ability to plant later into the fall, the advantages of shaded ground for cooler temperatures and reduced weeds, and the role of upregulated photosynthesis. Cat will also address both top-down and bottom-up approaches for enhancing farm resilience.

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Warm Season Grasses and Herbicide Resistance Management: Insights from a Community-Scale Research Experiment in North Central Washington, Garrett Heineck, UDSA-ARS

Improving crop rotation options in the inland Pacific Northwest presents a significant challenge, particularly with the declining efficacy of herbicides. A producer-led group of stakeholders in North-Central Washington is spearheading a coordinated on-farm research effort to explore the potential of warm-season grasses for enhancing weed management. This panel discussion will provide an overview of the research design, present results from two years of a community-scale grain sorghum trial and offer insights from other warm-season crop trials in eastern Washington, including proso millet and teff. Rotating to warm-season crops in this cool-season-dominated system serves as a best management practice for weed control, offering additional opportunities for mechanical and chemical pre-plant weed management, as well as the use of alternative in-crop herbicides.