



cultiv8

YOUTH AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

March 5-8, 2020 Olds, Alberta



SUMMARY REPORT

“I’m not a farm kid, but with being surrounded by irrigation systems and farms, I never really thought I had more to learn. I completely turned around. The summit helped me understand how reliant we are on the different **agricultural industries** and how so many different jobs contribute to agriculture today.”

Emma | Student
Brooks Composite High School, Brooks



INSIDE EDUCATION IS PROUD TO SHARE THE STORIES AND OUTCOMES FROM CULTIVATE 2020

Cultivate 2020 Youth Agriculture Leadership Summit was a milestone marking Inside Education’s 10th provincial youth summit. Cultivate brought together 20 high schools from across Alberta to explore and experience Agriculture in Alberta, focusing on the current and emerging issues, as well as the innovative approaches taken across the province to address our anticipated future needs. Through the summit experience, our goal was to inspire discussion, ideas, critical thinking, and action in Alberta’s youth leaders.

The success of Cultivate 2020, Inside Education’s tenth provincial youth summit, exemplifies why summits have become a cornerstone of our programming and how we continue to improve their design. This summit marked the first opportunity for students to actively visit topic-relevant locations, including, research labs and facilities as well as local farms that employ innovative strategies in their day-to-day operations.

Based on the outcomes of Cultivate 2020, it is evident that Alberta’s youth are eager and ready to tackle agricultural challenges and create opportunities. Participating youth were impressed by the range of career options available to them in agriculture and the many ways they can get involved.

We are proud to highlight this experiential learning summit and the impact Cultivate 2020 is having in Alberta.

Inside Education worked closely with the schools from the time of their initial acceptance in January, and will continue through to the completion of their school-based agriculture leadership projects. We believe that the Cultivate 2020 experience provides students with the tools required to become leaders in environmental stewardship while examining their role in shaping the future of agriculture.

“This event has inspired my students to incite change in our school, seeing that many young leaders have already made a huge impact on their own communities.”

Tamara Morales Chavez | Teacher
WP Wagner High School, Edmonton

PROGRAM GOALS

ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Providing opportunities to interact with topic experts, peers and teachers at a professional summit designed for multiple learning styles.

INSPIRING ACTION

Preparing students to share and apply knowledge and ideas gained at the summit through their own agriculture leadership action project.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Immersing students in Alberta’s agricultural activities through on-site farm and college facilities tours. Encouraging them to step outside of their comfort zone and ask the hard questions to industry experts, academics, environmental leaders, peers and themselves.

CRITICAL THINKING

Exploring program themes through multiple perspectives while providing delegates tools to develop understanding, evaluate information and form their own viewpoint.

SUMMIT THEMES

Sustainable Agriculture and Stewardship | The Food-Energy-Water Nexus
Current & Emerging Issues | The Future of Agriculture
Young Agriculture Leaders & School-based Action

THE PROGRAM

Over the course of four days, student and teacher teams were introduced to the story of Agriculture in Alberta in its current state and given an interesting vantage of its future through various expert perspectives. Each day continued thematically from the last, encouraging students to make connections between various aspects of local and global agriculture.

Our approach to cultivating critical thinking was through a series of expert guests, interactive workshops, hands-on activities, reflection exercises, and location tours to provide an understanding of current and developing agricultural best practices. Tour locations included on-site facilities at Olds College as well as four local producers that shared their innovative approaches to local agriculture.

Students and teachers were also treated to some after hours fun to make lasting friendships and networks. On Friday evening our Cultivate celebration dinner was capped off by the inaugural Cultivate Rodeo! Then on Saturday evening, Inside Education hosted teachers and students for an unforgettable dinner and celebration off-site at the beautiful Willow Lane Barn.

“The Cultivate experience informed us and gave us more confidence in tackling our project. Collaboration and connections are a big part of success, and this opportunity presented both. We had a fantastic time!”

*-Justin Grainger | Teacher
Bill Woodward School, Anzac*



IDEA GENERATORS

Over 35 diverse stakeholders participated in Cultivate 2020 to share their knowledge and perspectives to help inform and inspire ideas and discussions from participating school teams.

Each “Idea Cultivator” contributed a valuable perspective and understanding that both helped structure students’ understanding and shaped the ways that their projects will unfold. Youth summits provide a rare opportunity for program partners, experts, teachers, and students to forge lasting connections through sharing ideas, expertise, and experiences.

A full list of “Idea Generators” can be found at <https://cultiv8summit.ca/speakers>



Organizations represented include:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Agriculture for Life | Egg Farmers of Alberta |
| Alberta Agriculture and Forestry | Feedlot Health Management Services |
| Alberta Beef Producers | Leftovers Foundation |
| Alberta Innovates | Little Loaves Farm |
| Alberta Irrigation Districts Association | Nutrien |
| Alberta Pulse Growers | Nutrients for Life |
| Alberta Water Portal Society | Old Man River Watershed Council |
| Alberta Wheat Commission | Olds College |
| Beanstalk Honey | RBC |
| Calgary Stampede | Rogers |
| Cargill | Rural Routes to Climate Solutions |
| Ceres Solutions | University of Alberta |
| Cows and Fish | University of Lethbridge |
| Craig Ozipko Farms Ltd. | WaterSmart |
| Crop Pro Consulting | Young Agrarians |

THE PARTICIPANTS

Inside Education welcomed **20 teams** from across Alberta and Northeastern British Columbia. Each team consisted of four high school student leaders and two dedicated teachers for a total of 119 agriculture leaders.

There was a high demand to participate in Cultivate 2020 as evidenced by over 40 applications. Given that this was the first time Inside Education ran with an agriculture theme, we are very pleased with both the quantity and the quality of applications.

Teams were selected based on their ideas and innovative approaches to applying their learning back in their schools and communities through their agriculture leadership action projects.



THE IMPACT

Agriculture Education Leadership Projects: At the core of the Summit are each team's action plan. This is how teams plan to apply their newly acquired knowledge, perspective, and tools to disseminate what they learned and leave a lasting impact in their respective communities.

“This opportunity has really pushed this once dormant project into action. I feel like we can actually do this and have a positive impact.”

- Chloe | Student
Robert Thirsk High School, Calgary

While we are actively working with teams to adjust project timelines given our current world situation, in the meantime, we are proud to share a small sample of the innovative action plans developed at Cultivated 2020.

MORINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Morinville, AB

The team plans to revitalize an existing school perennial garden to demonstrate local crops grown in the area and information on each one. An additional project comes inspired off the heels of Cultivate Youth Leader Alex Villeneuve, who provided oyster mushroom spores for the team to use to try to grow off spent brewers grain from the Sturgeon Brewery a block from the school.

SIKSIKA NATION HIGH SCHOOL

Siksika, AB

The team will host a grade six overnight that will include about thirty elementary students from the Nation. The program will run similar to Inside Education's workshop and allow students a chance to learn about agriculture, robotics, and traditions.

NEW MYRNAM SCHOOL

Myrnam, AB

Our team is interested in building small mobile chicken tractors with a garden plot on the roof. A coop that will be completely set up with eavestroughs for watering the garden and the chickens. The idea is to build them for our community members and the Myrnam Seniors Lodge. We hope to build sustainability through cross curricular involvement.



- Altario School** | Altario
- Bill Woodward School** | Anzac
- Brooks Composite High School** | Brooks
- École Voyageur School** | Cold Lake
- J.T. Foster School** | Nanton
- Jack James High School** | Calgary
- Lacombe Composite High School** | Lacombe
- Matthew Halton High School** | Pincher Creek
- Mistassiniy School** | Wabasca
- Morinville Community High School** | Morinville
- New Myrnam School** | Myrnam
- Queen Elizabeth High School** | Calgary
- Queen Elizabeth School** | Edmonton
- Robert Thirsk High School** | Calgary
- Rosemary School** | Rosemary
- Siksika Nation High School** | Siksika
- The Farm** | Airdrie
- Vegreville Composite High School** | Vegreville
- W.P. Wagner High School** | Edmonton
- Wainwright High School** | Wainwright

All delegates were asked to fill out a post-Cultivate survey, and the following are some of the impacts.

74%

of respondents shared that Cultivate provided them with new tools and skills to apply to their Agriculture Education Project

77%

of respondents say that they are excited to learn more about Agriculture

93%

of respondents agreed that Cultivate was an inspirational experience

98%

of respondents agree they have a better understanding of agriculture issues and opportunities in Alberta

THE FUTURE

We are very fortunate that **Cultivate 2020** was able to occur, as only a week following the event, schools were - and remain - closed while classes and teacher programs are in the process of shifting to online learning. Inside Education has extended out support and amended expectations related to the completion of each school team's project and we hope to be back on track when schools reopen.

Inside Education, and the teachers and students we serve, understand that meaningful educational opportunities are paramount to experiencing and creating a long lasting connection to our natural world. Through our unique approach to education

and our full suite of programs and resources, we make these connections possible for thousands of students and teachers across Western Canada each year.

While the future is uncertain, we are still actively laying the framework for our next provincial scale youth summits, **Generate: Energy Education and Leadership Summit**, penciled in for Spring 2021 and **Regenerate: Forest Education and Leadership Summit**, slated for Fall 2021. We are also seeking support for regional agriculture summits involving local schools in communities across Alberta.

OUR PARTNERS

Inside Education extends its sincere appreciation to the program partners whose support made **Cultivate 2020** possible. By pairing each participating school with one of the partnering organizations, Inside Education aims to make a meaningful connection and encourage collaboration between schools and organizations who are committed to advancing environmental education.



THE MCCAIN FOUNDATION



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