



FarmTech 2015
Thursday January 29 11:30am – 12:30pm
Hall E
Seed Info Session

More Than Hype – Industrial Hemp

With projected 20-30% increase in acreage and Alberta alone accounting for 1/3 of industrial hemp acreage across Canada, it's time Alberta farmers investigate hemp as a practical alternative to more widely grown crops in Alberta. Jan Slaski, Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures, Vegreville will review current and future efforts in the development of hemp industry value chain from agronomy through processing to market and product advancement. Will Van Roessel, Specialty Seeds out of Bow Island will highlight his experiences in the production of Industrial Hemp for both seed and grain.



Jan Slaski, Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures

Jan J. Slaski is a Senior Researcher and Program Leader with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF), Vegreville, Alberta. He obtained a M.Sc. in agronomy from the Warsaw Agricultural University and Ph.D. from the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute, Poland. During the last 13 years he has been leading research aimed at introduction and breeding of industrial hemp varieties that suit the needs of the biocomposite and textile industries on the Prairies. Jan also conducted extensive studies focused on the development of best management practices permitting sustainable hemp production under changing environmental conditions. Since 2012, Jan is a director representing Alberta on board of the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance – a national industry organization that promotes Canadian hemp and hemp products globally.



Will Van Roessel, Specialty Seeds

Will and his wife Jean operate Specialty Seeds Ltd in the Bow Island area of Alberta. Most of the farm is dedicated to seed production under pivot irrigation. The main crops grown are hybrid canola seed and industrial hemp, which are grown under contract. Spring wheat, yellow peas, durum and winter wheat are grown to be sold to wholesale and retail seed customers.