

## Fraser Abbott, Director of Business Development, Tourism Calgary



Fraser Abbott is the Director of Business Development for the Champions Program at Tourism Calgary. The program seeks to identify thought leaders in the local ecosystem, collaborate with them on ambitious conference solicitation strategies, and provide them with the tools they need to not just successfully execute an event, but to also demonstrate why Calgary is the Ultimate Host City, and why Calgarians are the Ultimate Hosts.

Prior to joining Tourism Calgary, Fraser enjoyed a lengthy hospitality career spanning over thirty years working for brands like the Hotel Arts Group, Village Brewery, the Calgary Hotel Association, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, as well as former hotel brands like Delta Hotels and Resorts and Canadian Pacific Hotels.

Fraser has been active in the community serving on different boards and committees including the Mount Royal University Foundation; Alberta Culinary Tourism Alliance, the Calgary Stampede's Sam Centre Advisory Committee; Umoja Community Mosaic / Soccer Without Boundaries; among others.

Fraser is passionate about collaborating with partners to position Calgary as an attractive place to visit as well as to work, live and play in.

## Karen Anderson, Founder, Alberta Food Tours



Karen Anderson founded Alberta Food Tours in 2006 after a 21-year career as a RN and Nurse Practitioner.

By 2019, the company operated in four Alberta cities, employed 20 people and had earned two Canadian Signature Experience designations from Destination Canada.

In 2020, the pandemic shut down regular tour operations but Anderson innovated the Alberta Food Finder self-guided tours in Calgary and Canmore plus Alberta Cares Packages loaded with the best of

Alberta's food artisan products to continue the company's mission of supporting the health of Alberta's soil, food, and people.

In 2021, Alberta Food Tours was awarded the RBC Resilient Business award by the Calgary Chamber of Commerce for showing resilience, compassion, and determination during Covid-19. Rebounding quickly from the pandemic, 2023 was the company's best year ever.

Along with leading the team at Alberta Food Tours, Karen is also a Taste Canada, IPPY, and World Gourmand award-winning author for her cookbook, *A Spicy Touch* and travel writing with Food Artisans of Alberta. Her new cookbook, *Eat Alberta First - A year of local recipes from where the Prairies meet the Mountains*, launched in April of this year.

An intrepid traveler, Anderson has been to 24 countries (including India ten times). She practices meditation daily and loves to hike, cycle, golf, ski, and cook for family and friends.

## Mackenzie Boubin, Director of Global Ethanol Export Development, U.S. Grains Council



Mackenzie Boubin serves as the director of global ethanol export development for the U.S. Grains Council, a non-profit organization that operates globally to promote the use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including ethanol. In this capacity, Mackenzie oversees development and execution of the Council's global ethanol program including strategy development, program implementation, public affairs, and strategic partnerships.

Prior to joining the Council, Boubin was the biofuels and industry relations director at the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and has already established connections with Council members during her time in that role. Boubin also worked as a refined fuels sales account representative at CHS and the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association, as well as serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Boubin holds a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Minnesota.

## Brent Boydston, Vice Chairman, U.S. Grains Council



Brent Boydston serves as the vice chairman of the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), a non-profit organization that promotes the global use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including ethanol and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS). In this capacity, Boydston serves as member of the organization's 15-person board of directors.

Boydston has a farm located in Centerville, Kansas, and has been farming with his family his entire life, but increased operations when his father passed away in 2020. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Master of Business Administration from Colorado State University.

Boydston is the industry affairs lead at Bayer Crop Science. He previously worked for Senator Norm Coleman, Rep. Steve King and with the Colorado Farm Bureau.

## Tom Dowler, Director of Business Development, Gowans



Tom Dowler is the Director, Business Development for Gowans and is responsible for general management of the Western Canadian business and managing advisory services related to ingredient procurement and risk management. Tom joined Gowans Feed Consulting in 2017 and actively works with Gowans clients managing ingredients positions for their livestock operations. Prior to his role at Gowans, Tom worked in commercial development in the renewable fuels industry.

## Elizabeth Hucker, Assistant Vice President of Bulk Sales and Marketing, Canadian Pacific Kansas City



Elizabeth Hucker became Assistant Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Bulk in April 2023. In this role, she is responsible for commercial customer relationships and product marketing for CPKC's Bulk portfolio including grain, ethanol, potash, coal and sulfur.

Elizabeth joined CPKC in 2001 and has held several positions in Marketing and Sales and Customer Service, touching all the commodities CPKC ships. Most recently as the Assistant Vice-President, Sales and Marketing for Canadian Grain. In addition to her commercial responsibilities, Elizabeth sits on CPKC's

Women's Leadership Network steering committee.

Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Honors, Marketing from the University of Ottawa.

## Ryan LeGrand, President and CEO, U.S. Grains Council



Ryan LeGrand serves as the President and CEO for the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), a non-profit organization that promotes the global use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including ethanol and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS).

LeGrand joined the Council in 2015 as the assistant director and then director of the Council's Mexico office, where he identified and addressed all relevant trade, technical and policy-related factors relevant to building and maintaining the market for U.S. grains and co-products in Mexico. Before joining the Council, LeGrand worked for Gaviola as the director of ingredients, located in Guadalajara, Mexico. In this capacity, he managed the company's feed ingredients trading, import and distribution throughout Mexico. LeGrand also served as the director of exports for Hawkeye Gold, LLC where he exported DDGS to Latin America and Asia, and he began his career as an export merchandiser with Garvey International.

LeGrand earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in international business.

## Peter J. Meyer, Crops and Advanced Feedstocks Economist, S&P Global Commodity Insights



Mr. Meyer is responsible for global area, yield, and production estimates as well as advanced feedstocks analytics for S&P Global Commodity Insights, which includes North America, South America, Europe, and the Black Sea region in conjunction with other London and Gdansk-based analysts. Together, the team forecasts global production, and collaborates with other demand-focused analysts to determine price estimates for corn, soybeans, soybean meal, soy and other vegetable oils, waste feedstocks and various varieties of wheat grown around the world. The team also collaborates on the price impact to regional farm

economies, especially in the United States. Mr. Meyer is well-known in agricultural analysis circles and enjoys close relationships with a wide variety of crop producers as well as industry groups and government agencies. He is called on frequently to present at conferences and client events and is often sought out for his opinions by members of the media. Mr. Meyer's daily analysis of agricultural markets, titled *Opening Print*, is known for its pragmatic view.

Mr. Meyer joined S&P Global Commodity Insights in 2012 to launch the Agricultural Commodities Service. His career in commodities spans over 40 years, concentrating on agriculture for the past 30. Prior to joining SPGCI, he held the position of Agricultural Commodities Specialist at both Lehman Brothers and JP Morgan, where he managed North American OTC trading for agricultural products. He also spent 14 years on the floors of the Chicago Board of Trade and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, trading on behalf of clients as well as proprietarily. He is a long-time member of Pro Farmer who annually participates as a scout on crop tours, logging over ten thousand miles yearly in crop inspections.

## Josh Miller, Chairman, U.S. Grains Council



Joshua Miller serves as chairman of the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), a non-profit organization that promotes the global use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including ethanol and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS). In this capacity, Miller serves as member of the organization's 15-person board of directors.

Miller is a fifth-generation farmer in Anderson, Indiana, and produces corn and soybeans, primarily as a no-till row crop operation.

He is a member of Indiana Corn Marketing Council. He previously served as an at-large member of the Council's board of directors.

Miller was a finance officer at Lockheed Martin, a contract officer for the U.S. government and a staff sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Miller graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland/Wesleyan and a Master of Business Administration from Wesleyan University. He has been awarded the Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the 2018 River Friendly Farmer Award.

## Matt Niswander, Family Nurse Practitioner and First-Generation Cattleman



Matt Niswander is a Family Nurse Practitioner and first-generation cattleman from Lawrenceburg, TN. Along with his wife, Colbie, and three sons, Jake (12), Luke (8), and Caleb (7), they raise Black Angus cattle for direct to consumer beef. Matt and his wife are the owners of Niswander Family Medicine in Ethridge, TN. Matt also serves as the medical director for the Lawrence County Jail and 8 Oaks Recovery sober living facility in Lawrenceburg, TN.

Matt has been all over the world learning and advocating for rural America and the family values that make our communities strong. From helping to form agriculture policy in Washington, DC and in Europe, to sharing personal stories about the opioid epidemic, rural mental health, food misconceptions, and leadership growth with politicians and consumers through published articles, podcasts, and even in the streets of New York City. Matt is known for connecting with people and building authentic, personal relationships with everyone from any walk of life.

## Jay O'Neil, Proprietor, HJ O'Neil Consulting



Jay O'Neil is the proprietor of HJ O'Neil Commodity Consulting. Previously Jay spent 12 years as the Senior Agricultural Economist at the International Grains Program (IGP) at Kansas State University. Prior to that he worked as a Grain Trader and Trade Group Manager for Continental Grain, The Pillsbury Company, The Ferruzzi Group, Bartlett Grain Co. and as a private consultant to domestic and international grain companies. Jay also publishes a weekly Transportation and Export report for subscribers.

Jay is an emeritus member of the NAEGA (North American Export Grain Assoc.) Contracts and Arbitration Committee and continues to serve as an arbitrator with the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA).

## Dan Pfeffer, Managing Director, PAA Advisory



Dan Pfeffer, Managing Director at PAA Advisory, works with clients at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government. He leads the firm's formidable environment and clean energy practice.

Dan holds a Ph.D. in political science from Queen's University, where he specialized in Canadian politics and political theory. He also obtained degrees from the University of Ottawa and Montreal's McGill University, and taught politics at Queen's and l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Dan has researched and published on various aspects of public policy and government decision-making, including such topics as group diversity and how groups engage with government. Dan

brings extensive knowledge of industry association management to his clients, as well as an expertise in carbon markets and environmental policy. He has helped negotiate policies such as cap and trade, carbon pricing, and low carbon fuel standards in jurisdictions across Canada and has helped clients in their international engagement.

## Hagan Rose, Director of Sales and International Marketing, Eco-Energy



Hagan Rose began his career in biofuels in 2007 with Eco-Energy in Franklin, Tennessee. Over the past 16 years, Hagan has worked in commercial roles in the ethanol industry, concentrating on International supply and trade. Today, Hagan is Director of Sales and Marketing-International for Eco-Energy, a global leader in Ethanol and Natural Gas marketing, midstream distribution, and Carbon solutions.

In this position, he coordinates with Eco-Energy's partner plants and U.S. ethanol producers to supply fuel-grade and industrial-grade ethanol to buyers worldwide. Hagan serves on the U.S. Grains Council's Ethanol Advisory Team. When he isn't looking for new homes for US Ethanol, Hagan enjoys traveling with his family and chasing trout.

## Cary Sifferath, Vice President, U.S. Grains Council



Cary Sifferath serves as the vice president for the U.S. Grains Council, a non-profit organization that promotes the global use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including ethanol and distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS). In this capacity, Sifferath is responsible for oversight of the Council's 10 international offices and all worldwide programs.

Sifferath has held various positions within the Council since joining in 1993. From 1993 to 1995, Sifferath was the manager of international operations/Asia at the Council's Washington, D.C., office. He was responsible for managing all programs within the Asia region.

He was promoted in 1995 to assistant director for the Southeast Asia office, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and in 1997 was promoted again to regional director for Southeast Asia. In that capacity, he was responsible for market development activities throughout the Southeast Asia region.

From 2001 to 2008, Sifferath served as the senior director in the Council's Tokyo, Japan office and carried out market development and trade activities in Japan.

From 2008 to 2010 he was the senior director in the Council's Beijing, China office. During this time, he managed the Council's market development programs and office operations in China.

From 2010 to 2015 he served as the regional director of Middle East, Africa and Europe in the Council's regional office in Tunis, Tunisia.

From 2015 to 2022, Sifferath was the senior director of global programs at the Council's headquarters in Washington.

Before joining the Council in 1993, Sifferath was a district sales manager for Kent Feeds, Inc., of Muscatine, Iowa.

During the last 28 years, Sifferath has lived and traveled extensively in and outside of the U.S. collecting information and firsthand knowledge of world grain supply and demand from regular contacts with local feed grain importers, processors, end-users and various agricultural agencies.

Sifferath earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, in agricultural economics and animal science.

## Ian Thomson, President, Advanced Biofuels Canada



Ian Thomson is the President of Advanced Biofuels Canada (ABFC), the national voice for advanced biofuels in Canada. ABFC members represent the Canadian market interests of 45 US ethanol plants and, across all members, represents companies with over 36 billion litres (6,600 MG) of global biofuel production capacity.

Since 2005, Ian has played a key role in the development of Canada's biofuels sector. He has worked directly on all key federal/provincial energy and climate action policies in Canada, including renewable and low carbon fuel regulations, carbon pricing, fuel quality standards, and fiscal policies to build biofuel production capacity

and expand clean fuel use. The firm he co-founded in 2005 worked with Archer Daniel Midlands to commission one of Canada's largest biofuel refineries in Lloydminster, Alberta in 2013.

Ian co-founded Waterfall Advisors Group, a biofuels consulting firm, which provides expert strategy, market development, and compliance services to Canada's clean fuels markets; this work includes supporting USGC's market development efforts. Ian's professional career has exemplified the value of collaboration; Waterfall's work with USGC is helping demonstrate to Canadian governments how higher ethanol blends are key to achieving ambitious 2030 climate targets and net-zero emissions by 2050 in non-ZEV transportation.