

Animal Care Advisory Council



Yolande Seddon, PhD

Associate Professor, Western College of Veterinary Medicine / Prairie Swine Centre

Dr. Yolande Seddon is an Associate Professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and an adjunct research scientist at the Prairie Swine Centre. Dr. Seddon's research focuses on the behaviour and welfare of farmed pigs and explores the interactions between management, pig behaviour, welfare and productivity, with a strong multi-disciplinary and applied research approach. Dr. Seddon also holds the Research Chair in Swine Welfare at the University of Saskatchewan.



Karen Schwean-Lardner, PhD

Professor, University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture & Bioresources

Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner is a Professor at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture & Bioresources. Dr. Schwean-Lardner's research is often multi-dimensional, using production, behaviour and physiological indicators to examine how various management practices impact both the welfare and productivity of turkeys, broilers and laying hens, and to provide producers alternatives for management practices that can maintain productivity and improve bird welfare. Dr. Schwean-Lardner is also heavily involved in teaching poultry sciences, including production and management, but also behaviour and welfare of poultry and other livestock species, and serves a number of organizations in an advisory capacity.



Collette Kaster, MS

Chief Executive Officer, American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Executive Director, Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO)

Collette Kaster is the CEO of the AMSA and Executive Director of PAACO, and brings more than 25 years of industry experience in animal welfare, food safety/quality assurance, meat quality and business management. Kaster has long been involved with key industry activities such as the animal welfare, food safety and meat quality committees of both the Meat Institute and the National Pork Board. She has served as a past appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection and is past president of the AMSA as well as an AMSA Fellow.



Temple Grandin, PhD

Animal Science Professor, Colorado State University Designer of Livestock Handling Systems, Autism Expert, Author and Speaker

Dr. Temple Grandin is a world-renowned Animal Science Professor at Colorado State University and designer of livestock handling systems. Dr. Grandin teaches courses on livestock behaviour and facility design and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling and animal welfare. Other areas of research include cattle temperament, environmental enrichment for pigs, reducing dark cutters and bruises, bull fertility, training procedures, and effective stunning methods for cattle and pigs at meat plants. She has also developed an objective scoring system for assessing handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants.



Ken Opengart, DVM, PhD, DACPV

Principal Owner, 3 Birds Consulting

Dr. Ken Opengart is the Principal Owner of 3 Birds Consulting, which focuses on assisting those in the food animal sector to continuously improve in animal welfare, antimicrobial stewardship, and sustainability. Dr. Opengart has worked in animal agriculture for over 25 years, holding leadership roles in animal welfare, sustainability, live operations, and processing at global food companies including Tyson Foods and Keystone Foods. He was a founding board member of the International Poultry Welfare Alliance and US Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry and Eggs and has served in many other industry associations. In 2024, Dr. Opengart was recognized with the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association Lamplighter Award for sustained and exemplary service to the poultry industry.