



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Immediate Release

December 3-5, 2019

### **Black Swans, Expert Information, Motivation at the Farm Forum Event Dec. 5**

Saskatoon, SK., Nov. 26, 2019 – The resilience of Canada’s agriculture and agri-food system to extreme, unpredictable and highly disruptive shocks, and whether such events might actually change producer practices for the better, will be explored in Don Buckingham’s keynote address Dec. 5 at the Farm Forum Event.

Buckingham, president and CEO of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute, will speak about “black swan events,” described by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his 2007 book *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* as rare outlier events capable of overwhelming otherwise robust systems. In his presentation titled *Black Swans—Friend or Foe in Agricultural Systems?*, Buckingham will identify where and when such events have occurred in the past, and consider whether current changes in food consumption patterns, international trade and the world’s climate constitute black swans.

He will also evaluate the ability of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food system to reboot after experiencing a black swan event, suggesting such events create the potential to stimulate innovation at the farm level.

A more immediate challenge, one faced by many Western Canadian farmers after this year’s disastrous harvest, will be tackled by a second keynote speaker, Joy Agnew, director of applied research at Olds College. Agnew’s presentation—*Managing Grain Storage Risk in a Changing Climate*—will provide producers with fundamental information about key questions related to managing their harvest, including how much drying can be reasonably expected using in-bin drying systems, the cost of in-bin and heated air drying, and whether it is worth the risk to leave the crop in the field for another week.

And, two MarketsFarms experts will shine a light on potential ag market disrupters in 2020, and beyond.

Bruce Burnett, director of markets and weather at MarketsFarm, will outline the current global weather situation and its possible impact on grain and oilseed markets. His presentation will include an update on the South American and Australian crops, winter crops in the northern hemisphere and the Western Canadian outlook.

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Conflict in world trade policy and how it is altering the grain flow matrix for oilseed, grain and pulse markets will be the subject of Mike Jubinville's presentation. Jubinville, senior analyst with MarketsFarm, will explain the changing grain market dynamics in an era of policy uncertainty.

Rounding out the Dec. 5 featured presenters is motivational speaker Chris Koch. His inspirational "If I Can ..." presentation describes, through experiences and humour, how he has made the most out of life despite being born without arms and legs. Koch believes that if he can achieve his goals and dreams in spite of his physical limitations, everyone is capable of amazing things.

The day – and the entire Farm Forum Event – will wrap up with the Grand Prize Giveaway. All attendees have the opportunity to win the prize consisting of a Stoller High Yield Package for 160 acres and a Winnipeg Jets Prize Package, sponsored by Stoller Enterprises. Participants must be present at the draw to be eligible to win the Grand Prize Giveaway.

The Farm Forum Event 2019 runs Dec. 3-5 at TCU Place in Saskatoon, SK. Visit [farmforumevent.com](http://farmforumevent.com)

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