



December 3-5, 2019

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Immediate Release

### Farm Forum Event Addresses Urgent Need to Protect Soil Health

Saskatoon, SK., Nov. 19, 2019 – Like a stream meandering across a swath of prairie farmland, soil health, and the urgent need to protect and improve it, is a thread running throughout the program at this year’s Farm Forum Event (FFE) being held Dec. 3-5 in Saskatoon.

“It doesn’t matter what kind of farming system you’re invested in or what your goals are as a producer, soil health is key to achieving success,” says Laura Rance, chair of the Farm Forum Event programming committee for 2019. “We know producers both need and want the latest information about soil health and nutrition, and we’ve made it a cornerstone of this year’s event.”

Along with soil health and nutrition is a regenerative agriculture focus in the program. Regenerative agriculture is a relatively new term, she explains, one that includes a range of farming principles and practices designed to increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve watersheds and enhance ecosystems while at the same time, capturing carbon to reverse its accumulation in the atmosphere. “The two—soil health and regenerative agriculture—go hand in hand and so we’ve addressed both in our Farm Forum Event program.”

One of the highlights this year will be a father/son keynote presentation that will look at improving soil health from their unique perspectives.

The father in the pair is Don Lobb who owned a successful farming operation that served as a model for sustainable management of soil, water and the environment. His Ontario farm was the site of more than 50 major research projects, many focused on soil and water management. His dedication to soil-care practices was recognized nationally in 1992 when he was inducted into the Soil Conservation Council of Canada’s Conservation Hall of Fame.

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The son is Dr. David Lobb, a professor of soil science and Senior Research Chair for the Watershed Systems Research Program at the University of Manitoba. His broad research program focuses on biophysical processes within landscapes, particularly soil movement by tillage and tillage erosion. His lab, set up to assess soil erosion and sedimentation, is the largest of its kind in the country and second largest in the world. His induction into the Conservation Hall of Fame came in 2015.

In their Soil Health keynote and in breakout sessions, Lobb and Lobb will share their thoughts on why so many farmers continue to lose soil when so much is known about conservation practices. They will also address the short- and long-term consequences of lost soil productivity.

“Don has decades of practical experience as a successful farmer and David brings a scientific lens to the discussion,” says Rance. “The result is a look at both the art and the science of soil conservation.”

The Farm Forum Event runs Dec. 3-5 at TCU Place in Saskatoon, SK. For detailed program information, visit [farmforumevent.com](http://farmforumevent.com)

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