

THE CAPI CONNECTION

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Elise Bigley | Editor

What's New at CAPI

Chronic Wasting Disease and The Canadian Agriculture and Agri-food Sectors: Current Knowledge, Risks and Policy Options

Report by Vic Adamowicz, Ellen Goddard et al.

What We Heard: Dialogue on Chronic Wasting Disease and The Canadian Agri-food Sectors CAPI What We Heard Report

CAPI in the News

Sustainability is key to the future of Canadian food production

Alex Binkley, National Newswatch

Chronic Wasting Disease could poise risk to humans, says Sask.-Alta study

Gillian Francis, Regina Leader-Post

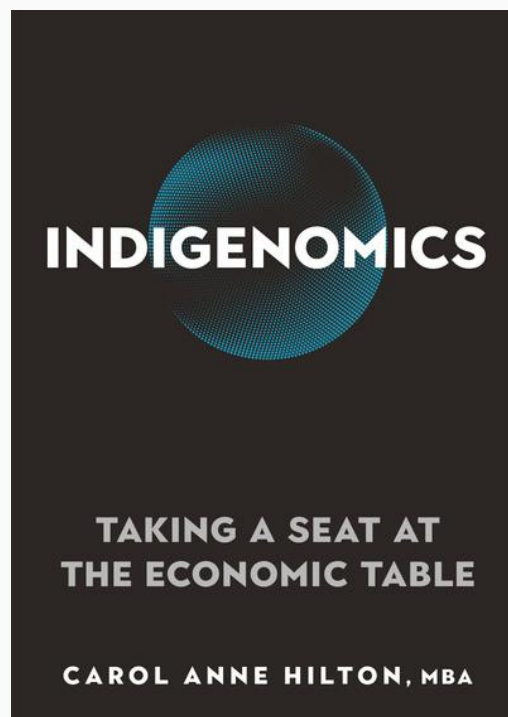
Wildlife disease threatens deer, elk - and maybe humans, new research says

Bob Weber, The Canadian Press

What We're Reading

Published earlier this year, Carol Anne Hilton's book ***Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table*** argues for a model of development that advances Indigenous self-determination, collective well-being and reconciliation. In a recent **article** in the **Financial Post**, journalist Kevin Carmichael wrote that the book "has the potential to reframe First Nations as active participants in the economy, rather than the takers that are portrayed in myths created by the Indian Act."

Indigenomics draws from current key leadership, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who are actively bringing awareness to the growing Indigenous economy in Canada. Through this, Indigenomics exposes false narratives of Indigenous dependency and calls into importance the relevance of an Indigenous worldview in today's modern economy. The book "is a contribution to a new world of thinking – where economics, productivity, development, progress, and prosperity are aligned with human values from an Indigenous perspective."



Funding Opportunities at CAPI

Your commitment is vital. It is urgent to intensify our efforts as agriculture and agri-food can be essential solution providers for the economy, environment, health and global food security. But creative policy changes are critical.

CAPI is pleased to announce it will be hosting its first-ever Agri-Food Policy Competition in the fall of 2021!

CAPI is committed to seeking out bold, innovative policy ideas that will address the Canadian agri-food system's critical need: to build a more resilient agri-food system that produces more and better, sustainably, and profitably to meet the growing needs of consumers in Canada and around the globe.

The competition will call for creative ideas on how public and private actors can help meet this need. Grants will be awarded to turn those ideas into concrete policy proposals.

Investing in the Environment

New technologies and tools are changing the way today's farmers operate. However, there can be a cost to adopting new technologies or changing the way food is produced that can prevent farmers from increasing their contributions to the fight against climate change and protecting biodiversity.

These new technologies and practices can positively impact the environment, but that only happens if farmers adopt them.

The project *Spearheading Solutions: Helping Farmers Operate Better, Smarter, and Environmentally Sustainably* aims to determine what public and private policies can be used to rapidly increase the adoption, implementation of new tools, and the practices to maximize environmental outcomes.

This project is funded in part by the RBC Foundation and we are actively seeking additional private and foundation partners to officially launch the project.

Support CAPI

You can make a difference! Become a partner or supporter of our work through the Canadian Agri-Food Foundation, a registered charity. Your commitment is vital as it is urgent to intensify our efforts as agriculture and agri-food can be essential solution providers for the economy, environment, health, food and global security but creative policy changes are essential. [Click here to learn more.](#)

CAPI Webinars - Sponsor Spotlight



CAPI acknowledges the overall support of its many partners particularly Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



Engaging With The Next Generation

CAPI recently outlined four key actions for the future sustainability and prosperity of the Canadian agri-food system: systems approaches, strategic thinking, public-private partnerships and aspirational leadership. The CAPI report highlighted how a changing environment, economy and society will make the future even more complicated and call for difficult choices. Those that have the most at stake are not those making the decisions today, but those who will live with the consequences of those decisions in the future. Those next generations, including today's young leaders, are critical to delivering the aspirational leadership the agri-food system needs. CAPI believes that to ensure we can feed the world sustainably well into the future, we must engage with the next generation.

One way that CAPI does this is through the Doctoral Fellowship Program. CAPI's Doctoral Fellowship Program convenes young scholars in a wide range of disciplines from across Canada to tackle some of agriculture's most critical issues. In the first year the cohort provides individual reports on a specific topic. In their second year, the cohort comes together to provide a group report on a specific topic in agriculture. Our first cohort (2017-2019) tackled the issue of water and agriculture. They provided an interdisciplinary overview of wetland ecosystems as an important asset for a more sustainable Canadian agriculture. I invite you to read the report and subsequent media coverage.

July marks the end of year one of the 2020-2022 CAPI Doctoral Fellowship Program. Our doctoral fellows from across the country have produced four impressive individual reports on soil health and Canadian agriculture: from cover cropping on the Prairies, to flooding in agricultural lands in Quebec, to soil conservation practices for long-term productivity and climate change mitigation, to natural climate solutions in Canada's agricultural sector.

In June, the fellows presented their individual research at a webinar moderated by Senator Rob Black. Thank you to Farm Credit Canada for sponsoring the webinar, supporting the fellowship program and the next generation of agricultural researchers. During the 90-minute webinar the doctoral fellows engaged with the audience in dialogue on their individual reports and explored areas for their future group project in year two.

CAPI is preparing for future cohorts of Doctoral Fellows. The Doctoral Fellows program is an excellent opportunity for organizations to partner with CAPI to support the next generation of policy leaders as they explore topics critical to the future of the agri-food system. If your organization is interested in partnering with CAPI on a Doctoral Fellow cohort please contact us.

The Doctoral Fellows program is only one way CAPI is engaging with the next generation of agricultural leaders. For example, in 2019 CAPI hosted two dialogues "Optimizing Land Use for Sustainable Growth" in Calgary, Alberta and Guelph, Ontario. The final panel at the Guelph dialogue was a NextGen panel, comprised solely of young researchers and farmers having the last word on issues of land use and potential solutions towards a more sustainable agri-food system in Canada.

As CAPI builds on its past work it is committed to making the next generation of leaders, including farmers, researchers and policy markets a core part of our approach. We are exploring creative new ways to connect experienced leaders with emerging leaders, to identify policy priorities that respond to the different priorities of the next generation and to ensure that the agri-food system is considering the changing landscape that comes with changing generations.

CAPI welcomes your feedback and input on how to creatively address these issues.

Elise Bigley, Manager, Projects and Programs

One Great Graphic

According to the most recent OECD Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Canada increased its support to farmers and the agriculture sector in 2020, as measured by the producer subsidy estimate (PSE), which rose from 8.7% of gross farm receipts (GFR) in 2019 to 9.6% in 2020. This was the highest share since 2012, but still substantially lower than support provided in the 1980s and 1990s.

Canada compares favourably with the U.S., the EU and China, which provided

higher support to farmers at 11%, 19% and 12.2% of GFR, respectively, in 2020. However, like these other countries, a large share of Canada's support is trade and market distorting, promoting unsustainable production and underinvesting in infrastructure and innovation systems. The OECD argues that governments should phase out price interventions and market distorting producer support, and instead reorient public expenditures towards an enabling environment for a strong, productive, sustainable, and resilient agri-food system.

Source: OECD iLibrary | Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2021: Addressing the Challenges Facing Food Systems (oecd-ilibrary.org)

