

# FAI NEWSLETTER

Seasonal Newsletter of the Food and Agriculture Institute



*Dr. Lenore Newman sits on the 'Seeds of Innovation' panel at the Fraser Valley Economic Summit, May 2024, Photo credit: Dale Klippenstein*



## Dr. Lenore Newman Invited Panelist at Inaugural Fraser Valley Economic Summit

The Fraser Valley Business Coalition, comprising the Chambers of Commerce from Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, and Langley, hosted the inaugural Fraser Valley Economic Summit at UFV this past spring. A key focus was promoting innovation in agriculture and ag-tech, with Dr. Lenore Newman participating in the Seeds of Innovation panel to discuss food security and agricultural technology in BC. In the panel, Dr. Newman highlighted the need for collaboration between industry, community, academia, and government to advance the Fraser Valley's ag-tech ecosystem. Newman noted challenges, such as UFV's mandate limiting graduate programs, leading to talent migration to other institutions, and the necessity for clear regulatory policies for agri-tech businesses. Despite these challenges, Dr. Newman expressed optimism about the region's potential to significantly impact agricultural technology in the next decade.

Video recordings of all the panel discussions from the summit, including the Seeds of Innovation panel are available [online](#), offering further insights into ag-tech strategies for the Fraser Valley.

## Giacomazzi Family's Generosity Funds Research with Stipends for Three FAI Students

A local family with a longstanding commitment to UFV has once again shown their generosity by supporting student researchers at the FAI. Bruna Giacomazzi with sister Gina Alary and family visited UFV's Abbotsford campus to celebrate their contributions, providing three students Shelbea Julseth-White, Harleen Johal, and Carla Young with \$1,000 research stipends through the Giacomazzi Alary FAI Endowment Leadership Award. Covered more in depth in an article by [UFV Today](#), the family's dedication to UFV, inspired by their mother Amabile, has led to significant support for educational research initiatives. During their visit, they discussed UFV's unique undergraduate research opportunities and innovative work in sustainable food systems with the FAI's Dr. Lenore Newman and Dr. Stefania Pizzirani.

## FAI Hosts Inaugural One Health Meeting

In early June the Food and Agriculture Institute and Dr. James Mandigo hosted the first-ever One Health visioning session at the Gathering Place on UFV's Chilliwack Campus. In the report [A One Health Approach for UFV](#) written by Dr. Newman, One Health is described as a transdisciplinary approach that studies interactions between human systems and their ecosystems, focusing on human, animal, and environmental health. The One Health strategy is being used by universities to create applied research solutions to emergent problems like a rise in zoonotic diseases and aligns with UFV's strengths in agriculture, environment, health, and Indigenization. This session explored integrating the One Health strategy into academic planning at UFV's Chilliwack campus with UFV faculty members from various disciplines in attendance to share insights and feedback on working together to develop this concept and integrate it into its programs.



Dr. Stefania Pizzirani summarizing major themes from the One Health event on UFV's Chilliwack campus, June 2024

## Congratulations to UFV's Dr. Lauren Erland Appointed CRC, Tier 2

This spring Dr. Lauren Erland, Director of Berry Horticulture Research and Assistant Professor in the Agriculture Department at UFV, and Faculty Associate of the Food and Agriculture Institute was appointed a Canada Research Chair, Tier 2 position. With funding from the Provincial Government Dr. Erland's Berry Environmental Resilience Research and Innovation (BERRi) Lab out of the Chilliwack Campus will open its state of the art lab this summer. The [BERRi Lab](#) focuses on generating information on climate resilience of berry horticultural systems and ecosystems. Understanding how traditional and commercial species of Vaccinium such as the cranberry, blueberry, and huckleberry, respond to stress associated with climate change, and applied research to promote food security, food sovereignty and berry health to help address food security issues for BC and beyond.

Collectively, the FAI team is grateful to both live and work on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the Stó:lō.

## Recent Publications & News Media

Dring, C., Cremer, A., Glaros, A., Pizzirani, S., Newell, R. & Newman, L. (2024). [Vertical Agriculture Education Workshop Report](#). The University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, BC.

Glaros, A. (2024). [The Canadian Agriculture and Agri-food Micro-credential Landscape](#). University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, Canada.

Vancouver Sun. (2024, July 31). [Lenore Newman: B.C. could double food production, but do we have the political will?](#) Vancouver Sun.

