



Season 4, Episode 11: The Future of Animal Agriculture & Canadian Pork Production Systems

Jack Bobo, previous Director of Global Food and Water at The Nature Conservancy, now Director Food Systems Institute, University of Nottingham, shares how agriculture can save the planet. Dan Bussières, Cofounder of Groupe Cérès Inc., discusses the Canadian pork production system.

Good and getting better

Jack Bobo discusses that many of the opportunities in agriculture are not “bad and getting worse” but rather “good and getting better”. They just are not getting better fast enough. Today, only 10% of people in the world go to bed hungry. However, 20 years ago, 20% of people went to bed hungry and 50 years ago 30% of people went to bed hungry. Mr. Bobo explains that this is an example of how agriculture is good and getting better, just not fast enough because agriculture is expected to produce more and more every year, making its improvements overwhelmed by demand.

After 2050

There is predicted to be a few more billion people to feed in 2050, causing agriculture productivity to increase drastically. Mr. Bobo explains that if we can get to 2050 without cutting down our forests, draining our rivers, lakes, and aquifers, that we won’t need dramatically more food after 2050. This is due to the population rate slowing dramatically due to people not having more children. He emphasizes that agriculture will no longer need to increase productivity after 2050, which is when we can focus on sustainability. “Every day until 2050, it gets harder to feed the world, but every day after 2050, it gets easier to feed the world”, remarked Mr. Bobo.

Making decisions based on research

Mr. Bussières emphasizes that no information is better than wrong information when making decisions. He explains that when research is done correctly, producers are able to make good decisions that are best for their operation. In order to create research that will lead to good industry decisions, researchers must be able to “think outside of the box”, listen to what others are doing, and be willing to work with others that might not have the production experience.

Applicable Research

Applicable research is important as it helps producers make decisions about what to implement in their operation. Many large integrators conduct their own applicable research compared to many independent producers as they have the funds and resources to do so. However, producers are encouraged to get involved in applicable research by partnering with local universities as well as collecting their own data. This data should include mortality, pig weights, feed intake per pen, and studies being conducted as “side-by-side” comparison, as Mr. Bussières mentioned. He explained that a side-by-side comparison allows the trial to be completed at the same time so there are no changes that can take place over time. This is why pen experimental units are so important.

To Listen to this full podcast please visit: <https://globalagnetwork.com/pigx/podcast/season-4-episode-11-the-future-of-animal-agriculture-canadian-pork-production-systems>

