

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



KEY SPEAKER

Christy Hoepfing – Extension Vegetable Specialist
Cornell University, USA

During her bachelor degree studies at the University of Guelph, ON, Canada, Christy Hoepfing held several positions focusing on soil quality and muck crop research. Her focus shifted to onions during her master degree studies with her thesis written on Pesticide Interaction in the Management of Onion Maggot and Onion Smut. Christy joined the Cornell Vegetable Program in 2001. Today, much of Christy's time is spent in the field conducting valuable research on onions, cabbage, garlic, and broccoli. She was the 2016 Excellence-in-IPM award winner and recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Accomplishments in Extension/Outreach award from Cornell CALS.

Conference Topics: Stemphyllium leaf blight, onion smut and other disease associated with onions



Dr. Calum Wilson PhD, MSc (Distn), BSc (Hons) – Professor in Plant Pathology
Tasmania Institute of Agriculture

Professor Calum Wilson is a plant pathologist working at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) within the University of Tasmania, based in Hobart. He has over 25 years' experience in plant pathology research and is Vegetable Research Leader for the TIA Horticulture Centre. He actively works with a diverse range of plant diseases including those caused by viruses, bacteria, protozoa and fungi with a focus on those that induce significant disease in potato. Recent work on novel controls for common and powdery scab has been notable. He has a passion for the realisation and application of quality research by industry and is actively involved in connecting research and industry to deliver real-world benefits and has received several awards for his work including the AUSVEG-Bayer/CropScience "Researcher of the Year" in 2012, an award that acknowledges researchers who have a significant track record of research or extension work that has provided long-term benefits to industry; who have actively communicated their research outcomes and encouraged uptake of outcomes on-farm; and who have advanced the reputation of Australian science internationally, and the 2016 Premier's Tasmanian STEM Researcher of the Year, Tasmanian STEM Excellence Award from the Tasmanian government.

Conference Topics: Common and Powdery scab and soil diseases



Dick Neale – Technical Manager
Hutchinson Crop Protection, United Kingdom

Dick has been involved with farming from the age of 12, he holds an HND in agricultural engineering. In 1984 he joined Velcourt where he was Farm Manager based in Kent and focused on trials for 5 years, arable and top fruit until 1995. Dick joined Hutchinsons Crop Protection in 1995 (a £220mil distribution business with national coverage of the UK employing 220 agronomists covering all crop situations) and works as the Technical Manager with a team of 16 for the technical department and European collaboration. He particularly focuses on grass weed control, crop establishment, cultivations and crop nutrition and integration with precision farming techniques. Hutchinson's Brampton site near Huntingdon in the east midlands of England has been a leading commercial research centre for the control of black grass. Collaboration with Cousins and Amazone UK, has seen the development of new 'surface tillage' and strip tillage cultivators for the management of soil and grass weeds in arable cropping, sugar beet and Maize. Dick developed the Hutchinsons healthy soils assessment to measure and record the status and health of a soil providing a complete benchmark report to provide guidance on soil health and fertility improvements and the integration of alternative cultivation techniques, cover crops and their management.

Conference Topics: Getting the right break crop/How healthy is your soil

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Howard Hinds - Consultant
Root Crop Consultancy Ltd – United Kingdom



Howard Hinds qualified from Nottingham Trent University in 1983 in Applied Biology. Prior to setting his own consultancy in 2006, he has been involved in the commercial agricultural sector working with potato processing agronomy, vegetable sprayer development and vegetable consultancy. Root Crop Consultancy is based in Nottinghamshire from where it provides services for carrot and parsnip businesses in the East Midlands, North East and Scotland. In addition to agronomy services the consultancy is involved in carrying out root crop trials and developing new innovations for the industry. Howard is an active member of the British Carrot Growers Association Research and Development Committee. Other groups he is involved with include the Association of Independent Potato Consultants and the Vegetable Consultants Association. Over 20 years ago Howard Hinds pioneered the introduction of advanced Decision Support Systems to the UK which are now operating from Cornwall to Scotland, and overseas from Jersey to Spain. Specialist knowledge on potato DSS's was gained from attending EuroBlight workshops from its inception in 1996. All services at Root Crop Consultancy Limited are focused on bringing benefits to clients and the environment through specialist knowledge, innovation and sustainability.

Conference Topics: Carrot Disease and Disease Modelling

John I Keer BSc (Hons), PhD – Technical Manager
Richard Austin Agriculture



John holds a BSc (Hons) and PhD in Soil Science and Agronomy. His PhD thesis entitled 'the role of soil in the supply of sulphur to plants' was published in peer reviewed scientific journals. John's career has covered various advisory, teaching and development work. Some being:
Establishment of various field trial programmes and agronomy developments.
Managed Laboratory services to agriculture and horticulture
Consultancy work covering crop protection, crop nutrition and soil management.
Management of development trials programme in arable and vegetable crops to HSE Chemicals Regulation Directorate 'Official Recognition' status, with specialisation in potatoes.

Conference Topics: Management of Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN), control of late blight and weed control options in potatoes

Dr Len Tesoriero BSc, MSc, PhD – Senior Plant Pathologist
University of Sydney, Australia



With over 30 years' experience in diagnosing plant health problems and conducting disease management research in Australia and South-East Asia, Len has recently retired from his Senior Plant Pathologist role with NSW department of Primary Industries and has set up a consulting business called Crop Doc Consulting Ltd. Len has specialist skills with IPM in a range of crops including vegetables and olives. A significant part of several research projects that Len has completed was to evaluate efficacy of chemical, cultural and biological controls for diseases.

Besides publishing research in scientific journals Len has also co-authored several field guides and books on plant disease recognition and management.

Conference topics: Keep the same please.

Conference Topics: Baby leaf and Spinach, Lettuce soil-borne disease management and Sclerotinia control

Venue
Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club