

# The New Farmer Study

Marriott & Purc-Stephenson (forthcoming)

## OBJECTIVES

- How do individuals with or without a background in farming transition into farming?

## FINDINGS

- Transitioning into the industry was described as exceedingly challenging
- Identified 3 main issues that new farmers faced as they tried to navigate the agricultural industry:
  - Sustainable growing practices vs sustaining capital growth
  - Caring for the land vs owning the land
  - Resource sharing vs competition



## METHODS

- Interviewed 23 new farmers across AB
- Half had a farm background in (i.e., farm family) and half did not

## Key Takeaways

- 70.8% had off-farm jobs
- 85.6% used regenerative growing practices
- 76.2% used community supported agriculture (CSAs)
- 95.2% relied heavily on informal ag networks
- 71.4% had non-family mentor that they found helpful