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Trade is my future



Meet Caroline Sekulic

From a young girl who had never even been on a farm, to a world-traveling farmer and rancher in northern Alberta, Caroline Sekulic has come a long way.

Sekulic grew up in Saskatoon, Sask., where as a young woman she completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

"I decided I would take a great adventure when I married a third-generation farmer," Caroline says, "Our farm and ranch is on land that is agricultural, but has lots of trees and rocks so we are always finding ways to use the land in the most sustainable way. I love it all."

Now living and working at Prestville Farms near Rycroft, Alta., she says that her appreciation for farming has only grown with the adventures she has taken around the world—seeing where the products she grows are sold.

Alongside her husband Nick, Caroline grows several crops including pulses, canola, and cereals. They also raise red and black Angus cows with calves. All three of their children, Max (17), Olivia (15) and Theo (14), help the couple out on the farm.

While all of their crops are primarily destined for export, Caroline has a particular passion for pulses, which includes chickpeas, lentils, peas, and beans. On her farm, she grows yellow peas and has also grown faba beans.

"Pulses are of special interest to me because they help fertilize the soil, are water-efficient and a practical source of protein and nutrition," she says. "They are already a staple food in most countries where food security and access are issues. They are also versatile and can be added

to so many foods. I know they will continue to be a strong export commodity for Canadian producers."

With that being said, it makes perfect sense that Caroline serves as a director at Alberta Pulse Growers and as a designate to Pulse Canada.

"These are opportunities I am savouring!" she says. "I have travelled to Istanbul to see the Grand Bazaar and the markets of Dubai, where pulses and cereals are still sold in bulk. Participating in international pulse conferences and meeting the traders, buyers, and processors who complete the value chain makes me proud of the effort I put into growing a quality product."





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Caroline, her family, and their international friends, left to right: Guillaume Desloge, Theo Sekulic, Nick Sekulic, Olivia Sekulic, Lukas Högemann, Caroline Sekulic, Max Sekulic. Credit: Gregory Sekulic.

"I've also been to Singapore where pulses are eaten in many creative ways," Caroline adds. "And to Greece, where the Mediterranean diet is a way of life. There, pulses are everywhere."

She also describes her pride in raising Alberta beef.

"I've visited a lot of places in Europe and the U.S., where the Alberta Beef logo is displayed and the beef valued for its quality."

As Caroline looks to the future of Canadian agriculture, she says that the possibilities are endless and can be unlocked with an emphasis on free trade. The implementation of trade agreements is the quickest way to get there, she adds.

"The U.S. is our largest trading partner. We need global

trade and agreements such as the CPTPP and CETA to remain viable as a trading nation."

Caroline's extensive travel experience has given her a keen understanding of the impact Canadian growers have on the world's food supply. This drives her belief that eliminating hunger and food insecurity is a borderless endeavour.

"Free trade is absolutely essential. Non-tariff and tariff barriers are costly and create huge imbalances," she adds. "The world can only have sustainable food-production systems and proper food access if trade is unimpeded."

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