Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel - Thursday, October 1, 2020

The Agriculture and Forestry Panel meeting held its second meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020. It began with a presentation from Cornell University’s and Panel member, Peter Woodbury’s on a Carbon Farm Study. He provided an overview of the latest research on sector mitigation actions that could derive the greatest emissions reductions. These included methane flaring, biochar, increasing feed efficiency, nitrogen use efficiency, planting trees on idle land, and improving woodland management. The Panel then received an overview of goals for the sector that would form the basis of its work plan. They included carbon sequestration, agriculture and cross-sectoral emissions reductions goals as well as goals for avoiding emissions leakage, resource conservation, and ensuring resilient food and forest product systems. In the ensuing discussion on the scope of work, Panel members brought up several considerations including the role of forestry, harvested wood products and wood substitutions in emissions reductions, carbon sequestration from wetlands, soil health, avoided conversion, afforestation, economic development, market incentives, bioenergy, and establishing resilience goals in recognition of long-term climate change impacts, among others. The chair concluded by commending the Panel for a productive working session on the work plan, which he will present to the Climate Action Council on October 8. Presentations and notes from past Advisory Panels and Working Groups meetings can be found here.