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**"The truth is Canada
is a cloud-cuckoo-land,
an insufferably rich
country governed by
idiots, its self-made
problems offering
comic relief to the ills
of the real world out
there."**

— Mordecai Richler

**QFA annual
general meeting!**

Friday, November 13

Macdonald Campus

Let's talk about farming, guys!



Canadians will go to the polls on October 19, and the nation's leading political parties aren't talking enough about agriculture, say producers and rural residents.

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

Canada is set to head to the polls next month, and agricultural producers across the country are wondering what political parties will best serve farming and rural communities throughout the nation.

Getting a straight answer out of a politician is tricky at the best of times. And with the number of farmers ever decreasing in Canada, the nation's political candidates are giving ever-decreasing attention to wooing agricultural producers with election promises.

However, the Advocate has done some digging amongst the official platforms of Canada's major parties to make sure Quebec's Anglophone farmers and rural residents know which party will

serve agriculture best. Read on, and take your pick.

The Conservative Party

The Conservative Party have been in power since February of 2006. In that time, they have sold the Canadian Wheat Board, the single-desk marketing board that had been in existence since 1935. The CWB was renamed the G3 Global Grain Group, and is now a privately owned company.

The Conservatives are also the architects behind the "Growing Forward 2" a five-year agricultural policy framework that pools money from the federal, provincial and territorial governments. Growing Forward 2 is intended to invest \$3-billion in to agricultural services and programs.

Recently, the Conservatives have been in the agricultural media concerning the

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a sweeping trade deal currently being negotiated by 12 nations. Agricultural products are only a sliver of the pie being negotiated, and critics of the agreement fear that Canada would sign a deal that would hurt farming if it benefited other areas of the economy.

The big worry is Canada's supply managed sectors—namely dairy and poultry—which regulate the industry in a way that is not welcome amongst free trade champions. While the TPP might mean better access to markets for beef, pork and grain farmers, dairy and poultry producers would see their way of life radically change if Canada's negotiators signed a TPP that forbade supply management.

On the cover

The Conservatives' federal Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz, has been hard to pin down about what Canada will do when push comes to shove at the TPP.

"As the federal government we've shown concern for supply managed sector(s) in all the negotiations that we've taken," said Ritz during a recent media teleconference. "At the same time, we have to have a balanced act between the multitude of commodities that are exported."

The TPP negotiations are taking place behind closed doors. A recent meeting in Hawaii yielded no further agreement.

New Democratic Party

New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Tom Mulcair has said that he will support supply management. The NDP's plan for Canada's agricultural economy is outlined in a document entitled "Everybody Eats: Our Vision for a Pan Canadian Food Strategy".

The Official Opposition states that their food strategy would promote Canadian products through trade, claiming that the NDP would ensure "that trade negotiations secure real and meaningful market access for Canadian exporters while protecting the supply-managed agricultural sectors."

NDP agricultural critic Malcolm Allen has openly questioned the Conservatives' dedication to supply management.

"With supply management, my concern is that it's death by 1,000 cuts," Allen says. "Each time we get involved with a trade deal, we make concessions and tinker with it. At some point, if you give up enough, you look at it and wonder if it doesn't make any sense."

Mulcair has also said that he favours creating a payment protection program for produce farmers. The act has been compared with the USDA's Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, which regulates the buying and selling of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables to prevent unfair trading practices and to assure that sellers will be paid promptly.

The NDP's platform also takes aim at the updated "Plant Breeder's Rights Act", a part of the Canadian-European trade agreement that gives more patent protection to companies like Monsanto who develop and market new seed varieties.

The NDP state their food strategy would "ensure that plant varieties remain in the public domain following the expiration of plant breeders' rights."

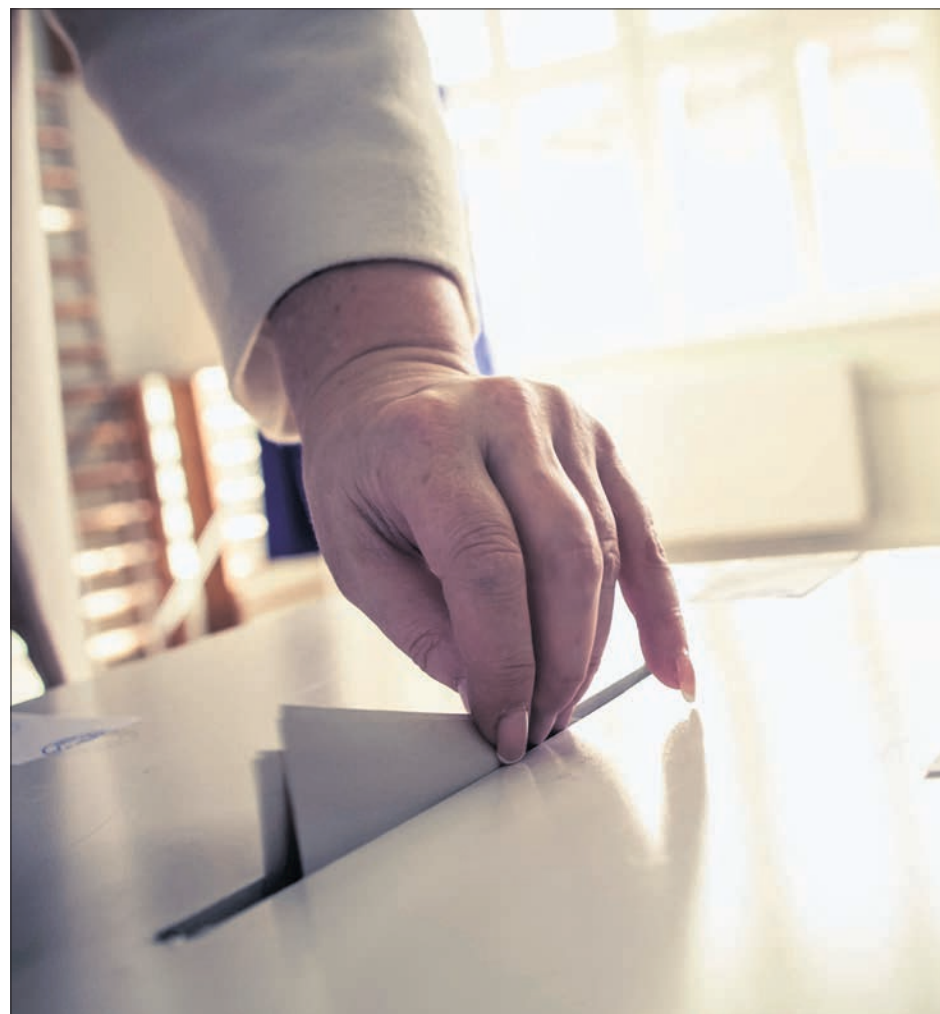


PHOTO: CREATIVE COMMONS

Canada's highest-ever voter turnout occurred during the election years of 1958, 1962, and 1963, when voter turnout was over 79 per cent. The lowest voter turnout on record was in 2008, when voter turnout fell to only 58.8 per cent.

Liberal Party of Canada

The Liberal Party's published platform states that it will pledge \$200 million to create jobs and grow environmentally-friendly technologies across the economy—including forestry, mining, energy, fisheries and in agriculture.

"Mr. Harper does not understand that clean technologies... create good middle class Canadian jobs, build wealth, and reduce pollution," Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has stated. "Only Liberals have the plan to create the sustainable prosperity and jobs middle class families deserve."

Neonicotinoids are also a big issue for the Liberals. Trudeau has proposed a policy that would protect bees and other pollinating insects by bringing in stricter control over the controversial class of insecticides.

Green Party of Canada

Elizabeth May has spoken at length on how her party does not support large-scale agribusiness, genetically modified organisms or subsidizing makers of agricultural chemicals. The Green Party prefers organic agricultural production and small-sized family farms.

Colin Griffiths, the Green Party's candidate in the heavily-agricultural Pontiac riding of Quebec, echoes those sentiments. Griffiths says that food

security and having a national food strategy should be a part of any party's platform.

"We would like to see more local produce being favoured in Canada," Griffiths told the Advocate. "And a greater emphasis on food security in a world where it may soon become increasingly difficult to transport food from countries like Mexico, the USA, or overseas."

Regarding his own prospective riding, Griffiths feels that agriculture could bring a greater identity and more prosperity to the Pontiac.

"The Pontiac has a rich agricultural heritage," says Griffiths. "It's probably the number one employer in our region and we should be helping that. Personally, I would like to see the Pontiac brand itself as a geographical area whose products could become known throughout the province and the country, both in agriculture and beyond."

On Wednesday, September 30, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will be hosting a "National Agriculture Leaders Debate". Minister Gerry Ritz is expected to participate, along with the agricultural critics of Canada and Quebec's major parties. QFA President John McCart and QFA Vice-president Gib Drury will also be in attendance.



Annual meeting: Nov. 13

Dr. Joe Schwarcz to speak to QFA meeting

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

The QFA's annual general meeting will be happening on Friday, November 13 this year. And everyone is excited by the announcement that Dr. Joe Schwarcz, host of "The Dr. Joe Show", will be the keynote speaker at the morning's information session!

Joe Schwarcz is Director of McGill University's "Office for Science and Society." He is well known for his informative and entertaining public lectures on topics ranging from the chemistry of love to the science of aging. Professor Schwarcz has received numerous awards for teaching chemistry and for interpreting science for the public and is the only non-American ever to win the American Chemical Society's prestigious Grady-Stack Award for demystifying chemistry. "The Dr. Joe Show" is aired on Montreal's CJAD radio and Schwarcz has appeared hundreds of times on The Discovery Channel, CTV, CBC, TV Ontario and Global Television.

Schwarcz will be speaking to AGM attendees about agricultural myths and facts. Terms like pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, hormones, antibiotics, GMOs appear commonly in media accounts, often in a context that raises fears.

There are some legitimate concerns, but that doesn't mean these substances cannot be used in a safe fashion. Indeed, without the proper use of agrochemicals we have no hope of feeding the Earth's increasing population. We need to guide the public on a path traced out by



Dr. Joe Schwarcz, defender and popularizer of all things scientific, host the "Dr. Joe Show" on Montreal's CJAD. Schwarcz will be the keynote speaker at the QFA's annual meeting on November 13. He is also an amateur conjurer and often spices up his presentations with a little magic.

evidence-based science instead of emotion and hearsay. Dr. Schwarcz also writes a newspaper column entitled "The Right Chemistry" and has authored a number of books, "Radar, Hula Hoops and Playful Pigs," "The Genie in the Bottle," "That's The Way The Cookie Crumbles," "Dr. Joe And What You Didn't Know," "The Fly In The Ointment," "Let Them Eat Flax," "An Apple A Day," "Brain Fuel," "Science, Sense and Nonsense," "Dr. Joe's Brain Sparks," "Dr. Joe's Health Lab," "The Right Chemistry," "Is That a Fact?" and his latest, released in May is "Monkeys, Myths and Molecules." He is also an amateur conjurer and often spices up his presentations with a little magic. Dr. Schwarcz was awarded the 2010 "Montreal Medal" which is the Canadian Chemical Institute's premier prize recognizing lifetime contributions to chemistry in Canada. In 2015 he was named winner of the Balles Prize for critical thinking by the US-based Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

The QFA's annual general meeting will take place on Friday, November 13 at Macdonald Campus. There are a limited number of places available for lunch. Reservations are recommended. To reserve please call 450-679-0540 ext. 8536 or send an email: qfa@upa.qc.ca

The AGM will also feature the presentation of lifetime QFA memberships to honorary members—men and women who have supported the QFA and Quebec's English-speaking agricultural community with determination and devotion. The winners of the Warren Grapes Awards—the QFA's very own scholarship fund that helps students pursuing agricultural education after high school—will also be announced!

**QFA annual
general meeting!**

Friday, November 13

Macdonald Campus



The QFA's new season of Farm Food Forums



Great talks about agriculture through videoconferencing

Thursday, October 29, 2015 – *"I don't know where to begin"*
Farm transfer and succession planning

Thursday, November 26, 2015 – Precision agriculture in practice -
how you can make use of it too

Thursday, January 28, 2016 – *Cooking with the Advocate.*
Food, farming and health

Thursday, February 25, 2016 – Technical advice on improving
animal health and nutrition

Thursday, March 24, 2016 – *This changing world.*
Growing food with more unpredictable weather

Thursday April 28, 2016 – *"It will never happen to me"*
This is why! Understanding safety risk management

Begins at 19 h 30 - ends at 22 h 00

Connecting Community Learning Centres in Shawville, Low, Lachute,
Ormstown, Magog, Richmond and Bury
The Quebec Farmers' Association – representing Quebec's Anglophone
agricultural and rural community since 1957

QFA, 555 Boul. Roland-Therrien, Longueuil, QC. J4H 4E7

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Mission

To defend the rights, provide information and advocate for the English-speaking agricultural community in Quebec.

Vision

The QFA's actions contribute to a sustainable future for both agriculture and the environment while providing a decent quality of life and financial return for the individuals and their families who have made agriculture and food production their chosen professions.

Shared Values

Members of the QFA believe in:

Maintaining family-owned and operated farms / Food sovereignty and self-determination by individuals and nations / Intergenerational involvement / Lifelong learning / Protection of the physical environment / Preserving land for agricultural production / Minimum government interference / Working alone and in partnership with others

Board Members

Mark Boyd, Wakefield / **Ken Brooks**, Executive Member, Franklin / **Andrew Hickey**, 4-H representative / **Wendall Conner**, Executive Member, Canton de Hatley / **Roy Copeland**, Lachute / **Gib Drury**, Executive Member, Alcove / **Chris Judd**, Past President, Shawville / **Patricia Keenan**, Brompton / **Walter Last**, Poltimore / **John McCart**, President, Grenville-sur-la-Rouge / **Ben Nichols**, Compton / **Armin Ruf**, Executive Member, Stanstead / **Andrew Simms**, Shawville / **Jennifer Hayes**, Gaspésie

Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

Last Name.....

First Name

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Price

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:

- ☐ 1 year \$68.99 (\$60 + \$3 GST (5%) + \$5.99 TVQ (9.975%))
☐ 2 years \$137.97 (\$120 + \$6 GST (5%) + \$11.97 TVQ (9.975%))

☐ My cheque is enclosed, payable to "Quebec Farmers' Association"

GST No. 107 867 814 RT 001 QST No. 100 611 322 9 TQ 001



Signature

Membership Includes

- a one year subscription to the Quebec Farmers' Advocate
- discounts on QFA sponsored events and services
- free advertising in the Advocate's classified ads
- voting privileges at the QFA Annual General Meeting

Quebec Farmers' Association

555 boul. Roland Therrien, office 255
Longueuil, Quebec J4H 4E7

Receipts are issued upon request. Memberships are valid for 12 months from month of purchase.



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Algae-fed lamb has market potential

GASPÉSIE

Antoine Rivard-Déziel
Regional Correspondent

Algae-fed lamb from Baie-des-Chaleurs is more in demand, which ensures good turnover for Bergeries du Margot. Entering the US market could increase production by 25 per cent.

BONAVENTURE — At the foot of a rolling field in Bonaventure, the Bergeries du Margot family farm offers a product unique to North America: lamb fed with algae. A delicacy for many, algae-fed lamb is a niche product with a loyal clientele.

Four Montreal-area butcher shops buy a total of 30 lambs per week. "At the beginning, we were a cooperative of six butcher shops producing algae-fed lamb. For the last three years or so, Bergeries du Margot has taken over the market," owner Manon Lelièvre told LaTerre en region during our visit. Lelièvre and her husband, Sylvain Arbour, are keen on maintaining this specific production. "Algae comes from the sea, which gives us a local advantage. But marketing isn't everything. Our methods produce superior-quality meat," she said, while guiding us around the oldest of the farm's three sheep barns.

In addition to feeding their animals with dried algae from Nova Scotia, as well as with non-GMO grain and forage, the farmers manage their flock based on industry standards for lighting, space for comfort, ram selection, weight and fat percentage for lambs, etc. "These factors allow us to offer lamb that is clearly distinguishable from conventional production," Lelièvre pointed out. Once slaughtered, the lamb is selected for quality. "Sometimes we slaughter 30, but keep only 27. Algae-fed lamb is standard, consistent and never treated with antibiotics."

A market up for grabs

The 600-ewe flock produces around 1,200 algae-fed lambs per year. The business markets the algae-fed lamb from two other regional businesses, in Ascension-de-Patapédia and in Saint-Alphonse. An electronic chip is inserted into each animal to compile data to monitor their growth, including fattening rates. Animals not meeting desired results are sold to conventional markets; the others are kept for the algae-feeding production line. Between 40 and 50 per cent of the farm's lambs are sold to this specialized market.

In 2014, the Bonaventure business completed construction of a third sheep-barn, an investment of \$160,000, which the owners hope will grow their flock from 600 to 700. They also want to team up with other local sheep producers to more efficiently market algae-fed lamb. One short-term goal is the US east-coast market. "I have a customer waiting for me. She tried my lamb and wants to distribute it through network, which includes around 30 buyers."

But before the farm can sell to the United States, the Luceville slaughterhouse, where the animals are sent,



Succession is waiting in the wings at Bergeries du Margot. After years of consideration, Leïla Arbour, the owners' daughter, decided on a career in agriculture. She is now studying in La Pocatière. To her right: her mother, Manon Lelièvre.

must comply with US regulations. Lelièvre believes the farm will increase production by 25 per cent once they penetrate the US market. In the meantime, the couple hopes to keep the farm—in operation since 1992—in the family. Leïla, their 19-year-old daughter, is studying agriculture in La Pocatière and hopes to take over Bergeries du Margot from her parents one day. "I've always been interested in the animals and management of the farm," she said. And her mother is proud that her daughter has inherited her passion, but refuses to put any pressure on her. "We want her to live life a bit first," said Lelièvre smiling at her daughter.

Sour cherries in Lanaudière

LANAUDIÈRE

Audrey Desrochers
Special collaboration

SAINTE-MÉLANIE — The sour cherry season ended on a sweet note at Bleuétière G. Beaulieu, based in Sainte-Mélanie. The owners opened their fields to you-pick customers earlier than expected—and the red fruits sold like hotcakes.

Sour cherries have been gaining popularity in Québec over the years. Blueberry producers Suzelle and Gaétan Beaulieu decided to diversify their operations and started growing the fruit in 2011. They have planted a total of 1,700 cherry bushes.

This year, the bushes were ready for their first full harvest—and people were eager to pick. "When you first try a sour cherry, it's a surprise!" says Gaétan. "After that, it's like eating chips: you can't stop!"

Because the small red fruit is not all that common in *la belle province*, the Beaulieu's fields have attracted visitors from all over. "We get lots of customers with European ancestry and from Montreal's Romanian community coming to pick, because they're more accustomed to cooking with the sour

cherry," says Gaétan. "One person even left with 20 pounds' worth of fruit!"

Suzelle and Gaétan Beaulieu treat their visitors like royalty. The cherry trees are spaced over 2 metres apart so pickers don't "fall on top of each other," boasts Suzelle. "We want people to have a positive experience here." They don't have any bushes taller than four feet. "We have no interest in fussing with ladders," adds Gaétan Beaulieu.

Rising to the challenge

"Growing sour cherries is the greatest challenge I've faced in my farming career," says Gaétan, who used to grow tobacco. The small fruit plants are quite fragile and require very stringent disease control as soon as the spring thaw hits. Gaétan monitors the plants on a weekly basis. "We have to treat our fields like an orchard," his partner explains. "What diseases affect cherry bushes? That's easy: all of them!" chuckles Gaétan.

To keep herbicide use to a minimum, the couple's employees weed by hand. "It takes longer, but it gets results," says Suzelle. In winter, her husband covers the plants with snow to protect them from the cold. This technique is effective for plants at this



The Beaulieus are satisfied with the sour cherry season.

height. The Beaulieus' cherry bushes were unaffected by the particularly harsh weather last winter.

With the help of their consultants, Suzelle and Gaétan have risen to the challenge of producing sour cherries. Now that the season is over, they are focusing on the blueberry harvest.

Queen bees: in high demand

HAUTES-LAURENTIDES

Murielle Yockell
Special correspondent

FERME-NEUVE – The astronomical mortality rates seen in the beekeeping industry over the last fifteen years—30% to 70% annually—have left queen bee breeders scrambling to meet the beekeepers' growing demands, reports Anicet Desrochers, of Api Culture Hautes-Laurentides (ACHL).

Queen bee production has never been higher. The worldwide decline of the insect pollinators is forcing farmers to turn to beekeepers for help, given that a third of their production depends directly on bees. Beehive rentals for commercial pollination now amount to 70% of beekeepers' earnings.

The bee mortality rate in Québec was nearly 20% this year, and this has been more or less the norm for some time now. Worldwide beestock losses are as high as 50%. In good years and in bad, beekeepers have to find new queens to compensate for their losses.

An international market

In response to this reality, queen bees are being bred in a number of countries. The five largest producers are the United States (California and Hawaii),



Anicet Desrochers and Anne-Virginie Schmidt, co-owners of Api Culture Hautes Laurentides, with their daughter Miela.

in the top position with one million queens produced every year, followed by New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and Argentina. According to Anicet, the queen bee market represents nearly 5 million individuals per year worldwide. The living cargo is transported by plane.

With his 1,500 hives, Anicet Desrochers has the largest queen bee operation in Canada. For the last fifteen years, he has been selecting larvae from his honey colonies that are the most productive and the most resistant to disease and

harsh weather. ACHL specializes in raising high-quality bees. Anicet works in collaboration with an apiary located in California, in order to extend his season into the spring by three months. The young fertilized queens from there are mostly sold within Canada, where they acclimatize very easily because of their northern origin; the remainder are sold in the United States. Each year, Anicet's hives produce between 30,000 and 35,000 queens in California and between 6,000 and 8,000 in Québec.

According to the beekeeper, Québec brings in as many queens as it produces, and Canada imports about 500,000 queens every year. Queens from other countries are more expensive than those produced here because of transportation costs; they are also less well adapted to our climate, the young expert explains.

Production

It takes 24 to 30 days to raise a queen. The breeder removes young larvae from the hive and places them in cell cups mounted on a frame that imitates a queen cell. The frames are then placed in populated hives, where the larvae are fed royal jelly by young bees. Ten days later, the queen cells are ready, and the beekeeper transfers them to queenless colonies just as they are about to hatch (a given hive can accommodate only one queen). Once fertilized, the queen is placed in a small cage along with a few young bees plus a little food and water and sent to a beekeeper. She will live for four to five years. The queen bee is the only bee in a colony that can reproduce, and can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day. Queens fetch between \$25 and \$35 on the market.

Not everybody is cut out for the world of beekeeping, warns Anicet. "The science has become so complex that it is now too complicated for an amateur beekeeper to keep their bees alive," he concludes.

MANAGEMENT COLUMN

Contract work: how much does it cost?

Emilie Bouchard, agr.
Anne St-Onge, agr.
Groupe multiconseil agricole (GMA)
Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean

Whether you want to profit more from your machinery, use available labour or forecast contract labour costs, many farmers find it useful to estimate field work operating costs.

The booklet entitled *Machinerie: Coûts d'utilisation et taux à forfait*, available at the Economic reference section of the Centre de référence en agriculture et agroalimentaire du Québec (CRAAQ), provides an excellent overview of current rates for field work according to job type.

The recently updated booklet (August 2014) shows that rates have gone up for all agricultural operations. There

are two reasons for this: machinery is more expensive and machine operators' salaries have increased—from \$15 to \$18 per hour.

This booklet mainly provides base reference rates; it is important to adjust these rates according to your actual situation. You must factor in the real efficiency of your machinery, desired profit margin and fuel costs, which fluctuate throughout the year. As management consultants like to say, "Each case is different!" The following table provides several examples of base reference rates.

These examples only serve as a reference for different contract work rates; it is essential to verify these rates with a management consultant, who will help you determine the right price to charge potential clients. It is important to consider other factors, such as local supply

RATES		
Contract work (including labour)	Rate per hour	Rate per hectare
Corn threshing (6 rows) No box	\$290	\$130
Corn silaging without wagon	\$275	\$215
Liquid manure tank (4,500 gallons)	\$161/h (3 trips per hour)	
Solid manure spreader (11.5 m ³)	\$130-\$140/h (3 trips per hour)	
Moldboard plow	\$180	\$118
6-tooth subsoiler (2 in. deep)	\$35 for loam \$47 for clay	\$85 for loam \$109 for clay

and demand (competition), machinery specifications, operator efficiency, distances to cover, fuel costs, field conditions where the work will be done and, as mentioned previously, the desired profit margin (or safety cushion).

Equipment rental

Although the table above provides con-

tract work rates, it gives you an idea of equipment rental rates. For example, if a neighbour wishes to borrow your boxes or a manure mixer, rental rates are easy to calculate. Contact your management consultant for any information related to your field work operating costs; this will ensure that you charge a fair price for your equipment.

Heart and soy

MONTÉRÉGIE

Caroline Barré

Special collaboration

Having joined Ferme Beau-Porc in 2010, Cindy wanted to improve the family business to make it viable for future generations. She and her brother Billy founded EdaNature in January 2014 to bring consumers edamame, a legume that they had been growing in their garden.

SAINT-VALÉRIEN-DE-MILTON — The \$10,000 Bourse d'accompagnement à la relève agricole du CLD Les Maskoutains, won by Cindy and Billy Beaudry, has been put towards increasing their production of edamame, a crop that is still not widely known in Québec. "My mother saw it [edamame] in a book called *Les aliments contre le cancer* [cancer-fighting foods] by Richard Béliveau," explains Cindy. The Beaudry family had been looking for a crop to grow that they could market directly from field to fork, and edamame fell into their laps.

"We've been passionate about this project for a long time," Cindy says. To her knowledge, there are no other Quebec edamame producers that do all their own processing, all the way to freezing. EdaNature's main competitors are mainly from China and the United States.

"We didn't want to jump into something completely unknown," Cindy explains. Soybeans, which are similar to edamame, were already being grown on the family farm. The difference between the two crops is in the pods: edamame pods bear larger and sweeter beans. "We were already set up to grow them," the young woman continues. However, she and her brother did have to buy a one-row bean harvester and a stationary thresher to shell the edamame.

They did their first harvest in 2014 on the five acres they set aside for the crop. They ran out of time (freezing must be



Cindy and Billy Beaudry, the founders of EdaNature, a business located in Saint-Valérien-de-Milton. Edamame is a variety of soy. The bean, harvested green, is blanched and frozen to lock in flavour. Billy is a former winner of the QFA's Warren Grapes Scholarship, which he was awarded in 2005.

done within 24 hours of harvesting for optimal quality), which meant that some of the plants couldn't be harvested, so the amount of production was not calculated. This year, the brother and sister team spread their plantings out two weeks apart on the same size plot. "Over

the short term, we'd like to get up to 10 tonnes [of edamame], but ideally we'd do at least 50 tonnes per year," says Billy, who estimates that 40 or 50 acres of land would be needed to produce that amount. They began their marketing approach in mid-March 2015. EdaNature

already has 12 points of sale spread out over the MRC des Maskoutains and elsewhere in Montérégie, in addition to various ÉcoMarché de solidarité régionale locations.

A welcome hand

Cindy and Billy have been lucky enough to receive a little help from their parents, Sylvie Cabana and Alain Beaudry, in starting their business. "They support us with their time because we also work on the family farm," explains Cindy. Without managing the business, Sylvie and Alain share their experience on all aspects of farming with their son and daughter in addition to renting them some of their land.

The brother and sister also rent a facility at the Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC) in Saint-Hyacinthe to freeze their products. Because this facility meets the necessary standards and they use it for a relatively short time, their solution comes with real advantages, despite the inconvenience of moving the equipment. "It's helping us create a network," declares Cindy. "And the Bourse will help us get better equipment so we can be sure our product is top quality," Billy says cheerfully.



ARCHIVES/TON

Blanchette's trees

MONTÉRÉGIE

Audrey Desrochers
Special collaboration

SAINT-CHARLES-SUR-RICHELIEU — Hervé Blanchette is a collector. He's passionate about farming, collects old tractors, and owns 16 properties (he's bought one every three years for the last 45 years). In cultivating his interest in protecting farmland, he's even taken to collecting trees. So it's no surprise that the farmer didn't think twice about getting involved in a project to improve water quality in the Huron River, a project that won him the Prix Bon Coup – Environnement awarded by the Montérégie UPA federation.

When Blanchette bought his first farm in Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu 40 years ago, the property had only two trees on it. Today, his house is surrounded by plants of all kinds and looks like it was built in a forest. And hiding behind this intensively managed wooded area is the Ferme S.C.H., with a herd of over 400 dairy cattle.

Blanchette also owns nearly 1,000



Hervé Blanchette was awarded the Prix Bon Coup – Environnement by the Montérégie UPA federation in recognition for his environmental protection efforts.

acres of cropland. Many creeks run through his land before they reach the Huron River—one of the most polluted in Québec.

"Catherine Plante of the Montérégie UPA federation asked me and some other farmers to do something to improve water quality in the river," he explains.

That "something" turned out to be the planting of over 8,500 trees and bushes

in 2014, totalling over 3,600 metres of windbreak. Farmers operating within the Huron River watershed also planted plants along various bodies of water to protect the banks from erosion.

For his part, Blanchette planted shrubs along several streams running through his fields. Part of his management strategy involved placing rocks to oxygenate the water and slow the flow.

"A committee was created to oversee the watershed initiative, and Michel Lamoureux and I were chosen to receive the award," Blanchette explains. "I wasn't expecting it; it was a nice reward."

A forester at heart

Blanchette has always been interested in plants. "I love nature. Trees are oxygen, and oxygen is life," he says enthusiastically. This passion comes from his family. "Both my grandfathers planted many, many trees on their land," he recalls, proud to follow in their footsteps. In Blanchette's view, projects like this watershed initiative and being smart about how we manage riparian buffers are good ways to protect farmland. He travels frequently to the United States to keep abreast of the latest trends in land management.

Today, Hervé's son Stéphane has partly taken over the farm. Their arrangement allows Hervé to devote more time to his passions. He continues to do some of the farm work himself, but he meticulously maintains his designs in hopes of eventually making a difference to water quality in the Huron River.

Taking our place in world of organics

Here and elsewhere in the world, organic agriculture is seeing a tremendous increase. Its future looks promising, according to the Filière biologique du Québec, which is forecasting annual growth of seven per cent between now and 2018. Despite this rosy outlook, 70 per cent of organic products consumed in Québec today are imported. Clearly, Québec farmers are facing a major challenge: increasing organic production to prevent foreign competitors from taking advantage of the opportunities this consumer demand offers.

To ensure organic farming in Québec takes its rightful place and gains traction, the UPA, in collaboration with

the Fédération d'agriculture biologique du Québec (FABQ), has given itself the goal of bringing stakeholders from specialized groups together in the same room. It is in this spirit that the Table de développement de la production biologique was created. Its purpose is to better meet farmers' needs by sparking more synergy among labour unions and specialized groups, and by mobilizing all the available resources to give the organic sector the development and coaching tools it needs. The creation of the Table, overseen by UPA president Marcel Groleau, also sends a strong message about the leadership that the UPA intends to exercise in supporting organic

production. To set the stage for true collaboration, the Table also hopes to partner with other organizations involved in organic agriculture, including the Coopérative pour l'agriculture de proximité écologique (CAPÉ), the Centre d'expertise et de transfert en agriculture biologique et de proximité (CETAB+), Équiterre, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Given that the Table is still relatively new, most of the focus so far has been on creating a structure for its action and developing a targeted plan for strategic activities to take place over the coming years. These include designing crop insurance programs and farm income security programs tailored to organic farming, reducing the red tape and costs related to the certification program, and organizing exploratory missions to find out how things are being done elsewhere.

The creation of the Table marks the beginning of a promising venture that will help organic agriculture in Québec position itself as a vibrant sector, realize its full potential, and encourage new



The future of organic farming looks bright—and Québec needs to pick up the pace.

Organic agriculture in Québec is:

- 13 per cent of the Canadian market, with \$400 million in sales of organic products in 2012
- Over 1,000 farmers offering a wide range of products
- The world's top supplier of organic maple syrup, cranberries, and blueberries
- The leading province in organic milk production, with 38 per cent of Canadian production

farmers to go organic—all with the aim of proudly meet the growing demand for organics and taking our place on the market!

Milking systems: the robotic milking situation

Gervais Bisson, agr.,
Robert Moore, Ph.D.,
and Daniel Lefebvre, Ph.D., agr.¹

The popularity of robotic milking systems (RMS) in Quebec is undeniable. Here is an overview of the situation today. More than 7 out of 10 farms in Canada currently use tie-stall barns and milk lines for their herds (Table 1). In Quebec, it is 89 per cent. Over 500 robotic milking operations are enrolled on DHI in Canada. Quebec has the largest number (216), Western Canada the largest proportion of the total (11 per cent). The growth in the number of robotic installations among Valacta and Atlantic customers is just getting under way. Indeed, in some European countries (Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands), over 20 per cent of dairy farms are equipped with RMS.

How do Quebec herds compare according to the milking system they use? Table 2 presents comparative statistics for farms on which the Holstein breed is predominant (the number of robots is insignificant for coloured breeds). Tie-stall herds have an average of 56.3 cows, milking parlour operations 115.1, and robotic installations, 94.2.

RMS have higher milk and component yields, despite a slightly lower fat content. The increase in milk production cannot, however, be attributed automatically to the changeover to robotic milking; it may be that the best herds have been switched to robotic milking.

RMS have the highest Transition Cow Index (TCI). This is excellent news since there is a strong correlation between the TCI and productivity over a complete lactation.

Herds in robotic milking operations include a slightly lower percentage of cows in their third lactation or more. An estimate of up to three per cent of cows don't adapt to automatic milking system (AMS) (Rodenburg 2002) among which many mature cows. This difference should diminish over time, since many herds have only recently transited to robotic milking. The culling rate is slightly higher on farms with RMS, but the reasons for culling vary little among milking systems, apart from a slightly higher proportion to lameness in free-stall operations.

RMS and milking parlour show similar indicators of reproductive performance, while they are lower in tie-stall operations. Many free-stall operations rely on automated heat detection systems. As for somatic cell count, herds in milking parlours show slightly better results.

Since AMS show slightly higher component levels, they have the highest milk value. Because of higher feed costs, however, robotic milking installations have a feed profit margin comparable to tie-stall setups and slightly lower than milking parlours.

The time spent on herd management shows significant differences: with AMS, three minutes less time per cow are spent than with milking parlours. That difference doubles with a milk line. For a 60-cow herd migrating towards a robotic milker, the savings is 2 to 3 hours compared to a herd in a milking parlour, and 4 to 6 hours compared to a tie-stall barn. Upgrades in the automated feeding system also contributes to gains in work efficiency. The time savings with robot milking is a gradual process. Initially,

a great deal of time is required to help the animals adapt to the new type of housing and for producers to learn the robotic software to access their management reports on a daily basis.

Unsurprisingly, the labour- and time-saving factor is the number one motivator for the purchase of RMS. Not to reduce the number of employees but to improve the work-time flexibility of the owner. When the work schedule is less demanding, farmers devote more time to other tasks or simply enjoy better quality of life. Nonetheless, managing the herd based on the reports generated by the robotic system remains a priority, since AMS offers less regular direct contact with the cows than manual milking.

AMS provide producers with useful data for herd management, but so do the modern milking parlours and more and more the tie-stall milking systems. Nevertheless, most of the Canadian farms equipped with RMS (and in all countries where RMS are widespread) continue to avail themselves of the benefits of milk recording programs. The added value of this service is mostly attributable to advanced milk analyses, data aggregation, and benchmarks (like those presented here), as well as recognition of performance in genetic improvement. Canadian milk recording agencies continue to adapt their services to the changes in milking systems.

¹ Gervais Bisson, Robotic Milk Production Expert, Robert Moore, Scientific Manager, and Daniel Lefebvre, General Manager, Valacta.

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF CANADIAN FARMS ENROLLED ON MILK RECORDING (VALACTA AND CANWEST DHI) BY MILKING SYSTEM.

MILKING SYSTEM							
Region	MILK LINE		MILKING PARLOUR		ROBOTIC MILKING		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Canada	6115	71.4	1941	22.7	503	5.9	8559
Atlantic Canada	149	47.2	151	47.8	16	5.1	316
Quebec	3892	88.7	280	6.4	216	4.9	4388
Ontario	1948	68.0	752	26.3	164	5.7	2864
Western Canada	126	12.7	758	76.5	107	10.8	991

TABLE 2. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR QUEBEC HERDS ON MILK RECORDING IN WHICH THE HOLSTEIN BREED IS PREDOMINANT (>75%) BY MILKING SYSTEM. (VALACTA, JUNE 2015)

	MILKING SYSTEM		
	Milk line	Milking parlour	Robotic milking
Number of cows/herd	56.3	115.1	94.0
Annual milk production (kg)	9224	9177	9776
Annual fat production (kg)	369	371	385
Average fat content (%)	4.00	4.04	3.94
Annual protein production (kg)	303	300	320
Average protein content (%)	3.28	3.27	3.27
Transition Cow Index	133	79	150
3rd lactation and + (%)	39.6	39.0	37.5
Culling rate (%)	34.2	33.4	35.5
Mortality rate (%)	3.9	4.4	4.1
Culling for lameness (%)	3.0	3.6	3.7
Culling for reproduction (%)	5.9	5.5	5.9
Culling for udder health (%)	4.8	4.0	4.5
Culling for production (%)	4.1	2.1	2.8
Calving interval (d)	423	413	414
Days to 1st service	79.8	76.7	76.1
Days dry	63.4	59.6	63.3
Annual SCC	227	206	227
Milk value (\$/cow/year)	6955	6972	7166
Feed profit margin (\$/cow/year)	4790	4933	4792
Feed cost (\$/hL)	24.26	23.89	24.62
Work time (minutes/cow/day)	12.6	9.7	6.8

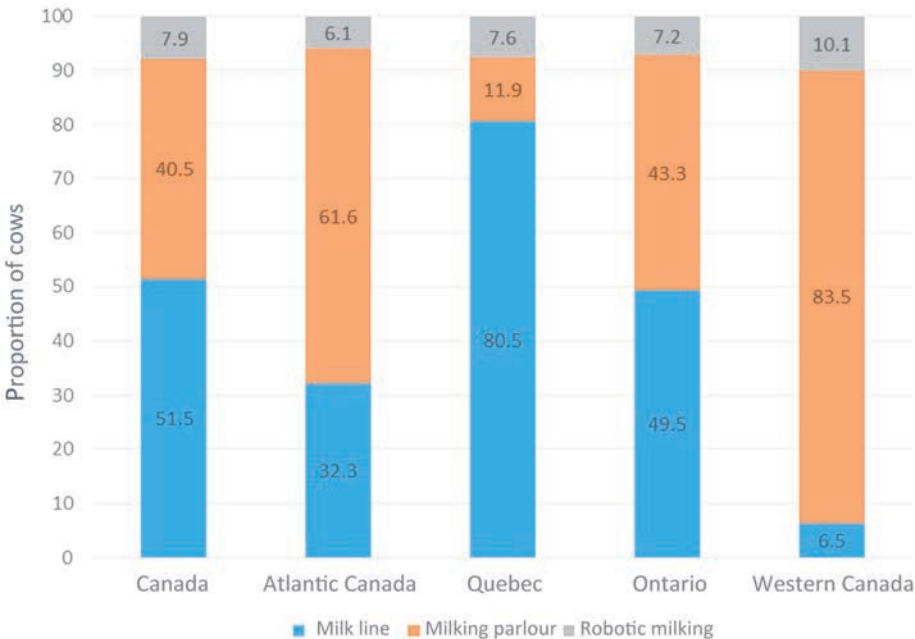
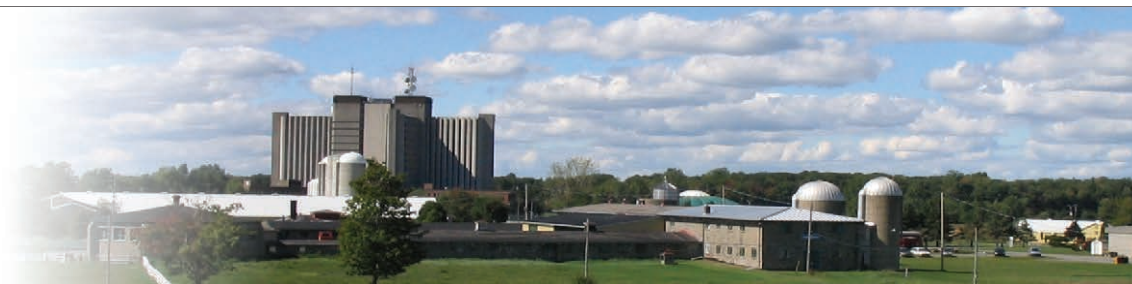


Figure 1. Proportion of cows enrolled on milk recording (Valacta and CanWest DHI) by milking system.

Macdonald

Reports



Despite weather, Open House a resounding success



PHOTOS: TOM D.

Despite the torrential downpours that had visitors scrambling for cover every couple of hours, a good time was had by all at the Macdonald Farm Open House. The Open House, held on Sunday, September 13 was part of a province-wide "Portes Ouvertes" sponsored by the UPA (Union des Producteurs Agricoles). By all accounts, the day was a resounding success! A huge thank you to all who made this possible - a dedicated group of Mac Farm and FMT staff, an amazing team of student and staff volunteers, and our industry partners.

Students take hands-on learning to the next level

Caitlin MacDougall
Liaison Officer,
Farm Management and Technology
Program, Macdonald Campus

We focus on two more students completing the Agricultural Internship course as part of the Farm Management and Technology diploma—Jessie Leblanc-Ykema and Félix Bertrand. They gained hands-on experience with machinery and the management of tasks and responsibilities while working for outside clients.

All students in the FMT program complete a 13-week internship (or "stage") in the summer between their first and second year. This is the Agricultural Internship and counts for course credits in the fall semester.

Jessie Leblanc-Ykema - intern at Les Équipements TM Inc.

For her summer internship, Jessie Leblanc-Ykema chose to work at Les Équipements TM Inc. in Huntingdon, Quebec, an agricultural equipment and repair business. In her role as stagiaire, Jessie learned to do routine maintenance on tractors, forage choppers, and other machinery, assisting the head mechanic and learning some basic skills.

She also got the opportunity to be involved in various aspects of the business, working as part of the 10-person team that keeps things running smoothly

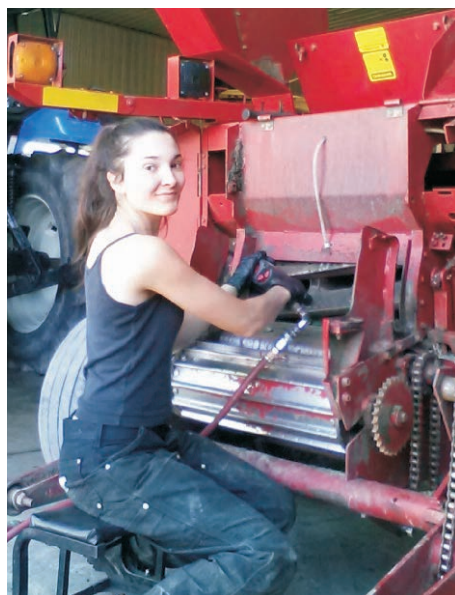


PHOTO: COURTESY JESSIE LEBLANC-YKEMA

and keeps clients happy. Jessie filled in at reception, picked up and dropped off parts, and balanced tires in addition to assisting the mechanics.

In preparing her internship report, Jessie reflected on "what keeps the company running effectively the way it does: quality customer service, quality work and teamwork." These are important lessons learned for her future plans to take over the family dairy and crop farm in Dundee, Quebec with her younger sister.

"Being a female intern at a mechanics shop has its perks Clients walk in [...] and question if I am the new employee, when I clarified that I am doing an

internship here, they are all surprised and glad to see a girl working in an equipment shop," noted Jessie.

"The most valuable lesson learned from the internship was to learn to keep your mind open. Being the only girl working alongside male mechanics taught me to not narrow your vision of your abilities and instead challenge yourself, be confident in yourself."

Félix Bertrand – intern at Les Entreprises Keurentjes Inc.

Félix Bertrand decided to complete his stage at Les Entreprises Keurentjes Inc. in Henryville, Quebec. The family-owned business operates on 2,800 acres of their own cultivable land, and owns their own garage for machinery repairs and maintenance on their fleet. It includes cash cropping, custom fieldwork, grain storage, tile drainage, manure spreading, and other operations.

During his internship, Félix did maintenance work in the garage, helped prepare fields for seeding and planting, spread fertilizer and was also involved in manure spreading and drainage work. This allowed him to improve his tractor-driving skills and learn more about the management of fields, drainage, and fertilization. He also improved his hands-on skills with parts and repairs.

He wrote in his internship report: "I am better at doing maintenance on a variety of machinery than before. I am



PHOTO: C. BEGG

better with tools than before. These skills are manual/hands-on skills which will be good for me in the future because I will be able to repair my machinery alone, which also means that I won't spend as much money in repairs."

Félix's family operation has 4,200 acres of land and raises 195,000 pigs; they also own a garage for repairs and run three feed mills. The skills learned from the Keurentjes will be applicable on his farm as well.

"I learned from the people that I worked with that they have experience in what they do, which is a good thing for me because I can learn from them a lot," added Félix.

The QFA has always been there And we always want it to be.

Since 1957, the QFA has been the voice of English-speaking farmers and rural residents in Quebec.

*Our organization receives no core funding from the UPA.
The QFA is faithfully supported by the men and women
who pay their memberships.*

**Become a member today.
Tell the world that you believe in agriculture.**

**To become a member, fill out the application form
on page 4 of this issue.**



Are you a QFA member?

Your neighbours are joining QFA...



The QFA receives no core funding from the UPA. When English-speaking agricultural producers pay annual dues to the UPA, none of the money is transferred to the QFA to cover its operating expenses.

Files show that there are around 1,500 English-speaking farmers paying their dues to the UPA. All are potential members of the QFA and ALL receive the *Advocate*. Only one quarter of potential members pay the fee that goes to support production of the *Advocate* and other services.

If you become a member, not only does your money go directly towards production of the newspaper, you are eligible to receive exclusive benefits such as competitively priced health insurance, considerably reduced prices on Farm Credit Canada management software, discount cards for Carhartt work wear, discounted

QFA translation services, a 7½ per cent discount on VIA Rail travel and free classified ads in the *Advocate*. Taking advantage of these benefits more than pays for the membership cost and so essentially, membership is free. **A list of new and recently returning members appears below.** To join, simply complete and return

the membership application found on page 4 of this issue.

If you have recently paid for membership but have received another notice, please accept our sincere apologies and disregard the renewal notice. Occasionally, they are delays in processing. A membership package will be delivered in due course.

Art and Eleanor Abbey
Benjamin Ball
Gary Bowers
Irvin Brennan
Mike and Diane Bringans
Grant Burnett
Neil and Marlene Burns
Bill Butler

Albert Cairns
Wendall and Myrna Conner
Dawn Ebbett
Glen Enderle
Ferme SD & S Taylor Farm
Lucas Gass
Wendel Goundrey
Douglas and Marion Hadley

Arthur and Sharon Laberee
Daniel LaLonde
Steven Latulipe
John, Susanne and Thomas
Lapierre
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Hicham Fram, agr.

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Laurentians region

Valentin Baci, agr.

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New Executive Director takes QFA where it's never gone before

As you may well be aware, the QFA appointed former QFA Director of Operations, Dougal Rattray, as its new Executive Director earlier this year, following the early retirement of Ivan Hale. In this first-part in-depth interview, Rattray gives a clearer picture of his background and shares some thoughts on navigating the waters ahead. The second installment will appear in the October issue.

Quebec Farmers' Advocate: So, how are you settling into your new position?

Very well, thank you. Of course there is always a steep learning curve when you take on new challenges, but the President, staff and Board have been very supportive and I have faith in the teams now forming around the organization. It has been a fairly hectic summer, introducing some internal changes and setting up projects and programs, but I am excited and eager to get on with things.

You have been with the QFA since 2010, but can you tell us a little more about yourself? The readers might like to have a deeper understanding of the person now helping to guide the organization.

Yes, of course. My family comes from Dundee, a city just north of Edinburgh on the Scottish east coast. Dundee is surrounded by some of the best soil in the UK and we would always visit farming relatives further north during summers growing up. That is where my interest in agriculture developed. I went on to study agriculture at Scottish Agricultural Colleges in Aberdeen, kind of similar to Macdonald Campus, and was active in 'Young Farmers'. After a few years' work experience in different capacities, in different productions and on different farms throughout Britain, I returned to university studying Rural Resource Management down in England. I then went on to manage a large sheep operation in the far north of Scotland for a few years, before taking off around the world to get the travel bug out of my system. On my return, I was fortunate to be accepted into an accelerated management training program which prepared graduates for the fast-paced UK super-market supply chain, and it was during that chapter of life that I met my Canadian wife. I immigrated to Quebec in 2006 and joined QFA in 2010. We have two young children and live on a small acreage in the western part of the province. I see myself as a generalist and optimist, with a broad-spectrum lens.



QFA's newly-appointed executive director, Dougal Rattray, is excited about getting more areas of Quebec involved in the association. "We need to develop deeper involvement and relationships within the different regions. Being self-critical, we have not paid enough attention to that in the past, and it is high time we did."

Are we to expect any changes for the QFA? If so, what might they look like?

Yes. Expect changes. Positive changes. There is a lot going on, so bear with me while I try and explain what these look like. Ideas are developing and some activities are already maturing. Much greater use of UPA services will be made for the internal running of the organization, in particular for processing memberships. Production of the *Advocate* will be done differently to maximise efficiencies. Andrew McClelland, who has been the Managing Editor over the last 10 years, will move up into a new position of Director of Communications and there will be greater emphasis on electronic media: social media; website renovation and maintenance; and general communications. He will be spending a greater proportion of his time working from the office in Longueuil.

Use of *La Terre de chez nous* services will be expanded to support the graphics and contributors coordination areas of production. Readers should expect this to kick into gear with the October issue. Editorial services will be outsourced, but with QFA staff still holding responsibility for final approvals.

A team of new writers is being developed to support those already providing content. New themes will begin to appear in the *Advocate* in the coming months with a much greater emphasis not just on the Anglophone farming community, but

also on partners within Quebec's family of commodity federations, agricultural supply businesses and others within the Anglophone community.

Well, all that sounds very interesting, but are there any intentions for doing new things? If so, can you share a little about what they might be?

Sure. There will be a greater number of projects that aim to support the community at the grass-roots level and already we have two interesting pilot activities underway over in the west which have a lean towards our more senior community. The pattern of activity would be to pilot projects first, before rolling them out province-wide. For that to happen we need to develop deeper involvement and relationships within the different regions. Being self-critical, we have not paid enough attention to that in the past, and it is high time we did. Energy will be invested in engaging volunteers and to get to know people in the different regions better. We will be seeking new private/public partnerships to help support projects.

What about 4-H?

We need to develop our youth capacity. We have already had conversations with Lorelei Muller at Quebec 4-H and others and this is something that is being explored. New space towards the back of the *Advocate* is now being offered to

regional 4-H clubs for free, to help support them in broadening their communications. All people have to do is call us if they want to know more. We received no submissions for the 'Roland and Shirley Maxwell Pasture Manager of the Year Prize' launched earlier this spring, and so are looking to spend this money in a different way; perhaps organizing a Quebec Anglophone Farmers' Pasture Day next summer. Ideas are in gestation and the Board are discussing options.

And Macdonald Campus?

The QFA's signature legacy fund, the 'Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund', is set to continue and we are very grateful to all the generosity expressed in support of this crucial apparatus. I never met Warren, but reading about him is inspiring and I draw from his example. We have still to meet with Anja Geitmann, the new Dean at Macdonald Campus, but I am very happy to report that she has accepted our invitation to speak at the AGM this year, alongside Dr. Joe Schwarcz. We value our relationship and shared heritage with Macdonald very highly and I am in contact with Peter Enright and others relatively regularly to share latest news.

The second installment of this interview will appear in the October issue where Rattray will explain more about new directions for the QFA.



Cookin' with the Advocate

That leftover savoir-faire

Cynthia Gunn, Advocate Food Writer

It's the mayonnaise that makes this sandwich. It may sound a little ridiculous, but trust me, this flavoured mayonnaise is delicious and also pretty simple to make. If you also choose to make your own base mayonnaise, you have just added that little extra to the taste sensation as well as creating a most healthful condiment. As Sally Fallon points out in *Nourishing Traditions*, when you make mayonnaise and other cold sauces and marinades yourself, taking care to use high-quality ingredients, "such as extra virgin olive oil, organic eggs, whey and cultured cream, your condiments will not only add taste to your meals but will also serve as rich sources of vital nutrients."

Now, because I hadn't made mayonnaise from scratch for far too long, I decided to take that extra step. It was worth it. This sandwich bears similarities to the currently popular pulled pork sandwich, but the flavours are different, and really a crusty bun or baguette must be used. This is not the occasion for a "softie", those squishy white buns beloved by some.

You may use any roast pork for this sandwich—the best thing about roasts is the leftovers for sandwiches and stews—however, I tend to lean towards a porchetta style of roast pork, which is bursting with garlic, herbs and lemon zest. Visit me here next month and we'll explore porchetta a little further.

Not having a supply of local pork this year, I purchased a pork roast from our General Store. I was stunned at how inexpensive the pork was. I'm not sure of its origin, or how it was raised, but it did make me realize again that it is a hard road for the smaller farmer attempting to raise their animals in good health to compete against the large industrial producers. And for the large producers, at least of pork, I do wonder how a profit can be made with such low prices. It seems inevitable that something has to give. I'm sure many of you know more than me about the pork industry. My knowledge is limited to snippets of news items and awareness of the existence of some enormous set-ups in Alberta, the U.S. and, of course, China. My homework this month is to dig a little deeper into the pork industry, since that is the basis for the delectable porchetta.

Cynthia has many years of experience in the environment, heritage and tourism fields. After a decade in Banff, Alberta, she worked for two years at an environmental firm in Ottawa. She then wrote research reports for the Heritage Canada Foundation. In the last decade she has been raising her family and running a small catering business in Western Quebec. She holds a MA in Geography.

Orange Shallot Mayonnaise

- 1 large or 2 medium oranges, juiced and zested
- ¼ cup finely chopped shallot (red onion in a pinch)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- A grind or two of pepper

Place 1/3 cup orange juice along with shallots in a small heavy-bottomed pot. Turn heat to moderate and stir occasionally until almost all of the juice is reduced. Remove from heat and let cool. Add to mayonnaise along with 1 tsp. orange zest and pepper. Stir. Refrigerate and let sit a couple of hours before using. Keeps in fridge for at least a week.



Homemade mayonnaise

- 1 pastured egg
- 1 pastured egg yolk
- 1 tsp. Dijon-type mustard
- 1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ tsp. sea salt
- 1 tablespoon whey (optional)
- ¾ - 1 cup extra virgin olive oil or cold-pressed (expeller-expressed) sunflower oil

In your food processor, place egg, egg yolk, mustard, salt, lemon juice and optional whey. Process until well-blended. With motor running, add oil drop by drop. Add more salt if desired. If you have added whey, mayonnaise will keep several months in the refrigerator. Without whey, mayonnaise will keep for about two weeks.

For the sandwich, warm slices of pork in some of the leftover drippings (in a double boiler, or in a pan on low heat). Liberally slather mayonnaise on the bun or baguette and stuff with slices of warmed pork.

This mayonnaise recipe can be found in Nourishing Traditions (1999, 2001), p. 137, by Sally Fallon.



Les
Producteurs
de lait
du Québec

NEW STARTUP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The application process for the 2016 startup assistance program will be put on hold so that a new program adopted by the P5 provinces can be implemented. The new program will be incorporated into the By-law respecting quotas for Quebec milk producers and come into force once it has been approved by the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec.

A notice will then be issued with the application deadlines.

182205

When lightning strikes a tree—WAIT!



Leilak Anderson
Certified Arborist
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

We've had some magnificent electrical storms this summer, and I bet a few readers have seen the affect of this on their trees. Trees are good conductors because they are tall and full of moisture, especially when they are in an open area. The wiring or plumbing in a house can also enhance conductivity in a nearby tree.

You might have heard of the saying, "Beware the oak, it draws the stroke." Oaks, elm, maple, poplar, and ash are species that are most commonly struck because of high moisture content, whereas beech, birch, and horse chestnut are rarely struck. Pine, spruce, and



Tall eastern white pine struck by lightning near cottage.

fir—trees with high internal resin—are also very good conductors and may be more susceptible to internal heating and explosion.

When lightning strikes a tree, the biological functions of a tree are interrupted—sap boils, steam is created, and at a cellular level, the tree suffers intense damage. However, trees are amazingly



Electrical storm in Farrellton, Quebec, summer 2015.

resilient. If the lightning only affects a portion of a tree, it may be able to survive and close any visible wounds. Here is some key advice for homeowners.

WAIT.

International experts suggest simply monitoring the tree for potential hazards for AT LEAST A YEAR OR MORE. Internal damage cannot be assessed

immediately, and sometimes damage extends to the root system. (Of course, serious external damage, like broken branches hanging precariously over your house, should be dealt with immediately.) If you go ahead and start corrective pruning too soon, you risk stressing an already stressed tree; in the worst case, you waste time and money on a tree that might die the following year, and must be removed as a hazard. The International Society of Arboriculture recommends that after the initial waiting and watching, treatments to consider include restoration pruning, water management, pest attack prevention, and bark repair, if applicable. The injury may not immediately cause structural damage, although it might serve as an "open door" for borers, decay, and future structural degradation.

Leilak is five-time Quebec tree-climbing champion, and proudly represents Quebec in the international arborist scene, most recently in Tampa Bay, Florida. Leilak runs a tree-care company in the Outaouais and National Capital region. When he's not climbing trees, he's a volunteer fire-fighter. You can read more of his articles at www.leilak.info

GIVE. TO A YOUNG FARMER.



QFA Vice-President John McCart presents Carrie Simpson with her scholarship from the Warren Grapes Fund at the QFA's 2013 annual general meeting.

PHOTO: JAMES ANDREW ROSEN

The QFA's Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund helps to promote agricultural and silvicultural education and learning among the English-speaking farm community of Quebec. Bursaries are distributed to post-secondary students of agriculture each fall.

Support the young farmers of tomorrow and give to the Warren Grapes Fund!

Please make cheques payable to "Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund". Receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20.00 or more.



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Climate of change



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

Agriculture and the Election: Playing the Economic Card

Resolving to “play the economic card,” in the words of Canadian Federation of Agriculture President Ron Bonnett, is exactly what the farm sector should be doing as we straggle through the second half of a marathon federal election.

That’s because big, important issues rarely get government attention without a convincing economic case to support them.

In the real world, we don’t live by economics alone: We make life-shaping, life-changing decisions for a bunch of different reasons. And it’s a very good thing that dollars are sometimes a secondary consideration.

But to get the policy support that sometimes makes those business and household choices possible, the numbers have to add up. It’s one thing to promote the branding statement that farmers feed cities, as Grain Farmers of Ontario did for many years. Or, for that matter, that they build their communities, support their households, and keep rural traditions strong.

But at the risk of endorsing the decade of torment we’ve all endured with an economist as our Prime Minister, all of those arguments are stronger when they’re supported by a column of figures.

Canada as Agriculture Powerhouse

Fortunately, those numbers aren’t hard to find.

Agriculture already employs one in eight Canadians, and farm receipts

totalled \$57.4 billion last year, York University food policy specialist Rod MacRae told DeSmog Canada in late July. By comparison, the auto sector notched \$82.6 billion in sales in 2012, while oil and gas contributed \$133 billion to Canada’s GDP in 2013. (Courtesy of the oil price crash, that number would be quite a bit lower today.)

Hands up, anyone who thinks agriculture receives two-thirds as much time and attention from the federal government as automakers. Or half as much as the fossil fuel sector.

But that balance could shift in the years ahead, according to bestselling author Jeff Rubin, former chief economist with CIBC World Markets. Rubin’s latest, *The Carbon Bubble*, “forecasts a not-so-distant future in which climate change will open up the possibility for cultivating crops, historically grown in places like Kansas and Iowa, much farther north,” DeSmog writes.

“At the same time, Rubin argues, global dependence on fossil fuels will drop, freeing up capital to migrate to crops like corn and soy.”

I’ve just finished Rubin’s book, and it contains some fairly wacky ideas about the future of Canadian agriculture in a warming world. But in an interview with DeSmog, he pointed out that agriculture is faring far better right now than

the sector on which the Prime Minister has bet the farm, the federal treasury, and possibly his own political future.

“Food is the only real sector in the commodity field that has been resilient, that’s kept its pricing power,” Rubin noted. “You could argue that just that alone is sufficient” to warrant a different set of economic priorities.

Putting Farmers at the Centre

Which makes this exactly the right moment for the Federation to be hosting its own election debate, September 30 from 11 AM to 1 PM at Ottawa’s Château Laurier Hotel. The event will be carried live on CFA website, and on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

“We need to raise agriculture’s profile,” the CFA’s Bonnett told iPolitics last month. “All politics is local,” and the farm vote could play a bigger role than in past elections as farm issues factor into close races in individual ridings.

He told iPolitics’ Kelsey Johnson the debate will focus on the sector’s chronic labour shortage, climate change, education, farm risk management, and the connection between farmers and consumers.

Mitchell Beer is President of Smarter Shift in Ottawa and curator of *The Energy Mix*, a thrice-weekly e-digest on climate change, energy, and the low-carbon transition.

Credit for UPA dues for farms with gross farm revenues of less than \$20,000

A credit for UPA dues is in effect at the UPA and applies to some farm businesses. The object of this credit is to aid multiple-owner low-income farms. It reduces their fees for 2016 by an amount equivalent to a single UPA dues fee.

**Find out more!
This credit could
be for you!**

To be eligible for the program applicants:

- ✓ Must be agricultural producer registered as double-dues paying farm for the current year (2015), (\$652);
- ✓ Must be in compliance with the regulation concerning dues, having paid all UPA dues, including the current year;
- ✓ Must show that gross farm revenues for the year 2014 were less than \$20,000;
- ✓ Must complete the appropriate forms and send them to the UPA before **October 31, 2015** (Note : The credit will be applied to the 2016 UPA dues).

If you meet all the criteria, you may be able to obtain a credit of \$331, which is equivalent to a single UPA dues fee. Please obtain the necessary form from your regional federation or from the UPA website (www.upa.qc.ca/en/partners-ressources/services-for-producers) or by calling 450 679-0540, extension 8213.

If your application satisfies the conditions, your file will be adjusted effective January 1, 2016, and the farm will automatically be considered as an individual producer.

UPA POUVOIR NOURRIR
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L'Union des producteurs agricoles

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News Highlights

Non-family-related partners: a new model for farm transfers

Étienne Dupuis

As many farmers continue to look for ways to find a competent successor to carry on their farm businesses, a family in Compton in the Eastern Townships is living a unique experience that could serve as a model for other farm transfers. Indeed, recently Alexandre Paré has partnered with some non-family-related associates.

On a Tuesday afternoon in August, the weather was warm at the Ferme R. Paré et fils. Members of the Paré family and the Pronovost-Drouin family were gathered around a table. After a year of meetings and preparations, including a residence move, the two families finally became partners. "This union is the culmination of two dreams," explained the farm succession advisor for the Centre régional d'établissement en agriculture de l'Estrie (CRÉA), Yolande Lemire, who has been coaching the two families throughout the partnership process.

On one hand, there was Charles Drouin and his spouse, Julie Pronovost, who had been renting a barn for 10 years to house their dairy herd and who wished to settle down and own their own place. On the other hand, the Paré family found themselves at an impasse. They were at a point where they wanted to progressively retire from the farm-



After having worked with numerous employees, Alexandre Paré wanted to find an associate to continue with the development of the family farm.

ing activities and needed to find a good manager or an associate to accompany Alexandre Paré, a family member in the farm business.

"What I was looking for was for the family business to continue to grow," stated Robert Paré. He explained that Lemire had come up with the idea of a partnership. "She was the match-maker," he declared, adding jokingly that it was "love at first sight" between his family and the Pronovost-Drouin's.

"Nevertheless, it was difficult for us to decide to enter into a partnership, since from the beginning, it has been a family affair. It required some good chemistry to work."

Sitting at the other end of the table, Charles Drouin added that the members of the new partnership have complementary strengths. "Alexandre is very good with everything concerning crops and farm machinery," he noted. "My strength is with livestock." Julie

Pronovost, for her part, has completed her studies in accounting and will progressively take over the responsibilities presently held by Ginette Bellavance.

Plenty of projects

The new associates of the Ferme R. Pagé et fils have many projects in mind. A modern dairy barn has recently been built and the partners plan to re-design the housing for the replacement animals. "I must say that the farm was already in pretty good shape," Drouin admitted. "By coming here, I have gained 25 years in my career plan." For him, the farm has enormous potential. Lemire agrees. "The business has had moments of glory in the past and now, with the combining of forces between the new partners, it will have many more, she stated. "It has all the makings of a real success story."

For this farm succession advisor, the example of the Ferme R. Pagé et fils could become a model for establishing other young farmers. "However, it must be supported by the government and the Financière agricole," she added. "This is not a unique case. There will be more and more farms for sale. A future generation of farmers is waiting in the wings, but they must have the necessary tools available to them in order to establish themselves."

A 27 per cent jump in value of cropland

Martine Giguère

The average value of cropland in Quebec rose from \$12,332 to \$15,657 between 2013 and 2014—an increase of \$3,325 per hectare, or 27 per cent—the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) revealed on August 26. The FADQ attributes this major leap to the increased number of transactions seen in the Montérégie, Lanaudière, and Laurentides regions, where land values are relatively high. Also, transactions were more common in the produce sector, in which land values are also quite high.

UPA's chief economist Charles-Félix Ross says this leap in value is cause for concern: "Over the last five years, we've seen an increase of 100 per cent. The

value of land has more than doubled, and we haven't necessarily seen any increase in profitability for the businesses along with it. Overall, this undermines competition in the sector and has a big impact on the ability to transfer farm businesses to future generations."

The UPA has documented the fact that transactions have been increasing in number, frequency, and value over the last few years. "We know that it's not just farmers who are doing these transactions. There are also new players from outside the farming world involved, including investment funds and real estate developers. This is a worrisome situation, as it leads to speculation," mentions Ross. The FADQ did not publish data on the value of farms in

Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean in 2013, but it is known that land grabbing is common in the region. Looking at the FADQ data from 2012, we see that the average value of cropland was \$3,770 per hectare. It rose to \$6,191 per hectare in 2014, an increase of 60 per cent over two years.

In Montérégie, Lanaudière, and the Laurentides, the average value of cropland is over \$20,000 per hectare. Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Lanaudière, and the Laurentides have seen the greatest shifts relative to 2013 figures, with respective increases of 43, 36 and 34 per cent. Only the regions of Chaudière-Appalaches Sud and Nord saw decreases, by seven and four per cent respectively. The value of cropland remained comparable to 2013 levels in Montérégie Ouest.



The average value of cropland in Quebec shot up 27 per cent between 2013 and 2014, and the UPA's chief economist Charles-Félix Ross sees it as a worrisome increase.

Essential and legitimate



Marcel Groleau
UPA President

Because of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, over the past several weeks I have been asked numerous times how the UPA can simultaneously defend the interests of producers operating under supply management, who want the Canadian markets to remain protected, as well as the interest of farmers who hope to acquire increased access to foreign markets.

A letter I received from the Éleveurs

de porcs de la Montérégie gives me the opportunity to explain the importance for the Union to support all of the tools concerning risk management and agricultural development. In fact, this duality is part of the strength of the Union and its affiliates.

The practice of agriculture brings with it many risks: production cycles are dictated by Nature, yields vary from one year to the next and our products are perishable. Thus, supply can fluctuate greatly, bringing volatility to prices. Agricultural products must be sold rapidly and there are many sellers and relatively few buyers. This limits the bargaining power of farmers when marketing their products, no matter where they are located on the planet. In addition, we must add the various advantages and disadvantages resulting from climate. In this regard, Quebec is not privileged.

To compensate for the imperfections of agricultural markets and to ensure production stability from year to year, countries have adopted policies and programs. As a result, when negotiating trade deals, they have the dual interest of protecting their domestic markets while attempting to increase their export markets. Thus, their programs are designed to meet these

objectives, while they introduce various strategies to complicate trade agreements. The United States and Europe are champions in this regard, with their Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), the Buy American Act, the banning of hormones and OGMs and a host of other non-tariff trade barriers.

Europe, which has recently abolished milk quotas, also protects its domestic markets by stabilizing agricultural income through so-called decoupled payments. Decoupled payments are really subsidies, since they are based on historic support measures completely dissociated from market prices or producer performance. In fact, the French government recently increased its support to its farmers by an additional €600 million.

In Quebec, supply management is used to achieve the desired market stability through regulation rather than subsidies. In addition, when we compare the retail prices of products under supply management with those of other countries, there is no significant difference. In other words, our consumers are not suffering because of these regulations.

Like our principal competitors, our producers who export products must have access to competitive programs. Farm

income stabilization insurance (ASRA) is a cost-sharing program, the main quality of which is that it intervenes only if market prices do not adequately remunerate producers. Between 2009 and 2012, ASRA did, in fact, make payments to the beef sector as a result of drastically depressed prices, but since 2012, it has intervened very little, thus permitting the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) to accumulate surpluses, which the government has been very quick to recuperate. On the other hand, our "agri" programs provide financial support based on business performance. However, these programs need to be improved. In this regard, the UPA participated in a working group that has submitted over 25 recommendations to the Minister.

Thus, I am perfectly at ease in my role of defending and representing all producers. To ensure production stability, our support programs, whether regulatory or financial, have their *raison d'être* and are all equally essential and legitimate. They meet the particular needs of each sector and, to use a sports analogy, they permit Quebec and Canada, along with many other countries, to effectively play defensively as well as offensively.

LTCN 2015-08-26

Pesticide reduction: providing the means to achieve our aspirations

Marcel Groleau
UPA President

Two reports were recently published by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC), entitled «Bilan des ventes de pesticides au Québec pour l'année 2012» [Report on pesticide sales in Quebec in 2012] and «Présence des pesticides dans l'eau au Québec –Portrait et tendances dans les zones de maïs et de soya – 2011-2014» [Pesticide levels in Quebec waters – an overview and trends in corn and soybean zones – 2011-2014]. These reports show mixed results, with improvement in certain areas, but decline on some other aspects.

What is most worrisome in these reports is that they show that the risks linked to pesticide usage have not been reduced in spite of the Quebec government's objective of a 25-per cent reduc-

tion, as set out in its Agricultural Pest Control Strategy – 2011-2021. This is certainly concerning but not surprising. It is not enough to simply announce an objective and wait for it to happen. Adequate means must also be provided. In this regard, the government has been dragging its feet and lacks vision.

Indeed, the UPA has been calling on the government for over five years to renew its Concerted Agro-Environmental Plan, to deal specifically with improving water quality, integrated pest management and pesticide risk reduction – all of this, through a collective approach that includes an objective to ensure the continued economic viability of agricultural businesses. Instead, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) has slashed its budgets supporting the collective funding of agro-environmental advisory clubs, has reduced its financial support for the

Prime-Vert program and is underfunding research on alternatives for crop pest control.

Farmers are like any other entrepreneurs. In order to survive, they must adopt the same techniques as their competitors. For example, if neonicotinoids are used without restriction in the United States, why should we expect our producers to choose more expensive and less effective methods to protect their crops? This amounts to wishful thinking. On the other hand, farmers are concerned about the environment. Let us not forget that they live in the environment that they farm and are the first ones to be exposed to the risks of pesticide usage. Therefore, if they are adequately supported and are given viable alternatives, they will be the first to adopt them.

If we have succeeded in improving fertilizer management in the past, it is because, collectively, we were pro-

vided with the means to do so. Over the next few years, specific action must be taken against non-point source pollution, which is difficult to identify because it comes from multiple sources. The government can no longer delay the renewal of the Concerted Agro-Environmental Action Plan, including a genuine partnership with farmers. Furthermore, funding must be ensured for a minimum period of 10 years, since to implement agro-environmental changes, the objectives must be set over medium and long terms. As long as the Quebec government continues to deny the merits of this approach, based on the collective involvement of producers, it will continue to wonder why it is so difficult to achieve the objectives it has set. Over and above the reports and strategies that it has produced, it is high time for the government to start supporting farmers and to provide the means to achieve our aspirations.

News Highlights

"Quebec could become the garden of the eastern US." – Sylvain Terrault

Yvon Laprade

Quebec has everything it needs to become "the garden of eastern US" and a major exporter of fruits and vegetables to our neighbours to the south.

So says Sylvain Terrault, CEO of Hydroserre Mirabel and chairperson of the board of directors of the Quebec Produce Growers Association, which has 400 members.

"The time has come to tap into the enormous potential of exporting to several states in the northeastern US," he told *La Terre de chez nous* in an interview.

"In order to succeed," he adds, "we need to become aware of our strengths and our capacity to grow quality crops in large volumes."

The greenhouse grower stresses that a proper strategy is still required, and that we shouldn't set about conquering this lucrative market without planning appropriately. Exporters are required to follow certain rules, he cautions.

"For example, we shouldn't cut back on transportation costs for our vegetables. It's also important to check with clients and distributors what their needs are, how many pallets [of produce] they want to buy. Small-scale growers will run

into difficulties negotiating on their own. They'll be on a more even playing field if they join with other farmers," he says.

There's also the language barrier to consider, which sometimes discourages produce growers from venturing into the fertile ground of the American market.

150 million consumers

Terrault is no stranger to the issues of foreign trade. His business, Hydroserre Mirabel, produces greenhouse-grown Boston lettuce, and its profitability is closely tied to the strength of the American market. In his view, the "Made in Quebec" label needs to be promoted.

"It's a simple equation," he explains. "We have access to a market of 150 million consumers less than 12 hours away. For example, Boston is five hours by truck. New York is six to seven hours. Detroit's not far either. There's a whole world out there. Why not venture out there?"

"In Quebec, we have the capacity to distribute our own fresh produce," he points out. "Ontario is starting to understand this. That's why market gardening is catching on among our neighbours. Here in Quebec, we need to keep our eyes open and position our-

selves in the northeastern US market, especially when the Canadian dollar is so low."

Bringing home the greenbacks

The business owner says he feels that the loonie's low value relative to the US dollar is actually an "added advantage" for Quebec exporters.

"When we sell our products south of the border," he explains, "we get paid in US dollars and bring those dollars back to Quebec. The exchange rate obviously works in our favour. It's good for our economy, and [the profits] create work for people here."

The "local" market

One thing's for sure: farmers are a bit wary. In turning towards export markets, they still want to keep their share of the local market in Quebec grocery stores.

It's a fiercely competitive business, and the major grocery chains (Metro, IGA-Sobeys, Loblaws-Provigo)—not to mention Walmart and Costco—are demanding more and more of their suppliers, whether from Quebec or elsewhere.

"That makes it all the more important to maintain a close relationship with Quebec consumers," Terrault argues.



Sylvain Terrault wants to push the distribution of Quebec produce way beyond the province's borders.

"We need to do more to encourage them to purchase Quebec produce."

He is still bothered when he sees the flyers from the big chains, "who promote imported produce at times of the year when we grow huge quantities of our own of the products they advertise, in peak season."

"We can't stop the chains from managing their businesses as they see fit," he adds, "but it's a bit irritating."

"Ultimately, it's up to consumers to decide," he admits. "Given equal prices, we hope they'll side with us."

Nevertheless, Terrault feels that the big chains "are working better and better with Quebec farmers collectively."

Three successful matches in Argenteuil

Pierre-Yvon Bégin

The MRC d'Argenteuil's farmland bank is off to a good start. One year after its launch, the project has successfully matched three aspiring agrarians with practising farmers.

"We're seeing a lot of interest in this model," says Jonathan Palardy, who plays the role of "matchmaker." He goes on to mention that the pairings so far have included a student, a group of chefs, and a young farmer hoping to expand operations.

"The interest seems highest in the fall," he adds, "because future farmers want their fields to be ready for spring."

Palardy, who works as an agri-food development officer, says that the mentorship process takes three to six months. He says he's in the process of refining the model to ensure it's as effective as it can be.

"It's a really far-reaching project, and regardless of how much land we have



The first harvests of the community agriculture project in the MRC d'Argenteuil will help distribute 12 tonnes of vegetables to its most disadvantaged citizens.

available, its success is dependent on the people we have on the ground," he says.

Twelve tonnes of veggies

The very first harvest from the community agriculture initiative in the MRC d'Argenteuil has so far yielded 1,180 kg of fresh vegetables. By the end, organizers expect a total of 12 tonnes of beets, zuc-

chinis, turnips, radishes, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, and other vegetables will have been collected and distributed to the region's most disadvantaged citizens.

"This is beyond expectations," explains Palardy, who says he received high praise from representatives of the Club agroenvironnemental de Lachute and the regional MAPAQ office.

Since 2013, the MRC d'Argenteuil has been in possession of a 245-hectare plot of zoned farmland. Located in Brownsburg-Chatham, the plot features 45 hectares suitable for cultivation. A number of farmers pitched in to help get the community garden off the ground by donating the use of their machinery. These farmers include Raymond Jetté, Caroline Bélanger and Simon Rochon of Ferme Belle Roche; Heather Elliott of La ferme coopérative aux champs qui chantent; Glenna Poitras of Les Entreprises Agri-Choux; and Michel Jetté and Réjeanne Huot, owners of the greenhouses of the same name.

"The farmers also helped us determine which vegetables would grow well here," Palardy adds.

Scott Pearce, warden of the MRC, notes that this innovative concept is a direct result of the adoption of the Plan de développement de la zone agricole in 2011. He adds that the plan is focused on innovative land use, multifunctional agriculture, and sustainability.

News Highlights

Foresters want to be considered environmental allies

Pierre-Yvon Bégin

The government should consider woodlot owners as allies rather than increasing the constraints on them regarding the protection of the environment. "It is preferable to make friends rather than enemies," declared Marc-André Côté, director-general of the Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec.

Accompanied by the organization's president, Pierre-Maurice Gagnon, he was scheduled to make a presentation to the Parliamentary Environment Commission, which is holding specific consultations on the Green Paper concerning the modernization of the environmental authorization process, under the Environment Quality Act.

The federation is favourable to the proposed approach described in the consultation document, which introduces a risk classification for various types of projects. "Wetlands and other water environments do not all require the same level of protection, which should be based on the intervention's environmen-



Woodlot owners, many of whom have significant wetland and water areas, have shown great interest in the modernization of the environmental authorization process.

tal risk," Côté explained several hours before his presentation.

"Certain forestry improvement activities have little impact on the environment, compared to others such as residential development, for example," he added. "Presently, the law does not make any distinction." According to

the federation, the current definitions of wetlands and other water environments leave too much room for interpretation. The result is confusion among the various professionals working on the same files. The federation's written submission explains that it is difficult for woodlot owners to recognize and

delineate these areas on the ground, thus exposing them to hefty fines. "Some woodlot owners do not even realize that they have wetlands on their property," emphasized the director-general.

The federation therefore proposes the development of definitions for the various categories of wetlands. Thus, forestry advisers and woodlot owners, 60,000 of whom have valid woodlot improvement plans, could more easily delineate these areas.

Finally, the federation is calling on Quebec to recognize that the expense of preparing a project evaluation could cause an explosion in the cost of obtaining an authorization certificate. The federation is actually hoping for a reduction in the cost of the permit. This might be possible if the majority of forestry activities having little impact were to be categorized as having a low or negligible risk.

The hearings continued on September 3, with presentations by the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and other stakeholders.

Agriculture: a shared responsibility

In Canada, the responsibility for agriculture has been shared between Ottawa and the provinces for a very long time. Farmers get their say as well. As we prepare for the upcoming federal election, it's helpful to distinguish between the different jurisdictions to better understand the agricultural issues at hand.

To simplify our understanding, we'll start off with the fact that anything that crosses borders is the federal government's domain. The provinces are only in charge of what happens within their borders. Michel R. St-Pierre, former deputy minister of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), explains how responsibilities for agriculture are divvied up in Canada.

Major issues of national scope, such as control of epizootic diseases (such as mad cow disease) and food safety, are the federal government's responsibility. Therefore, it has authority over institutions like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as well as the establishment and oversight of import/export standards. For example, all agricultural products for export must bear the official Canadian inspection seal.

Supply management, which has been a particularly hot topic recently in the context of the Trans-Pacific free-trade negotiations, also falls within the federal government's purview.

The provinces have full latitude in setting their own policies to oversee and support agriculture as



Michel R. St-Pierre



Charles Cantin

they see fit. Quebec has full autonomy to govern the production and marketing of agricultural products within the province. For example, the National Assembly adopted the Act Respecting the Marketing of Agricultural, Food and Fish Products in 1956 after farmers fought for 30 years to establish a fair balance of power with purchasers.

Charles Cantin, a former consultant for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework, notes that the first framework clarified these rules. He explains that in the early 2000s, Ottawa and the provinces agreed to determine exactly how public funds would be allocated. This became the Fredericton formula.

"Farmers also have an important role to play," he says, underlining that each province has its own agriculture authority.

The split

As we've seen, over the years the federal and provincial governments have settled on how responsibilities are to be shared. When it comes to risk management, Ottawa and the provinces fund certain programs jointly, with the federal government footing 60 per cent of the bill and the provinces making up the remaining 40 per cent. This is what people mean when they speak informally of "60/40."

The most well-known agricultural program in Quebec, the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (FISI) program, is a special case. Only the provincial government and farmers pay into it.

When it comes to crop insurance, St-Pierre explains, the split varies from one province to the next. He mentions that Quebec joined the program in 1967 after an especially hot and dry summer in 1966.

"The split," he says, "has been defined over time. Quebec could have done it alone if it had wanted to; that was within its exclusive domain and responsibilities. The provinces have the strongest voice when it comes to a programs like crop insurance."

"Quebec can create its own specific programs and insure anything it wants to without the federal government's permission," he adds. P.-Y.B.

Preventing grain entrapment

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

As harvest comes to a close, combines are cleaned and stored, augers fall quiet and the result of all that hard work in the field is safe at home in the bin. Grain bins represent the bounty of the harvest and they are the symbol of a successful season, but they also pose serious hazards.

There are many hazards associated with grain and grain storage. Respiratory hazards, fire and explosion hazards and fall hazards. However, there is one hazard that is becoming all too common in stories about near misses, injuries and deaths in and around grain bins – grain entrapment.

Grain entrapment can happen within seconds. There are all sorts of reasons why somebody might enter a grain bin, but without proper equipment and training, a simple action can turn into injury and even death.

First of all, just like farm equipment, grain bins should be off limits to children and unauthorized personnel. This means talking to children, employees and visitors about the dangers associated with grain bins. This first step can go a long way in preventing grain entrapment and suffocation.

It's also a good idea to understand how grain entrapment can occur. There are three types of entrapment. Flowing grain, an avalanche of a vertical grain wall, and a collapse of a grain bridge. Understanding how grain behaves under different circumstances is a part of understanding how to work safely around it.

Flowing grain

When a grain bin is being unloaded, the grain flows in a funnel shaped path towards the auger. The grain then acts like quicksand, pulling the victim down. Depending on the size of the auger, it can take only seconds for a person to become fully emerged in grain.

Avalanche of a vertical grain wall

Sometimes grain in a bin can become spoiled due to high moisture content and variation in temperature. This spoiled grain can lead to serious issues including the sides of the bin wall becoming encrusted in grain. Grain in bad condition can stand almost straight up and down, and removing it becomes difficult and dangerous. Victims of this type of engulfment have tried to remove the grain by shoveling at the base or poking the vertical towers. This can cause the grain to break free from the walls, resulting in a grain avalanche that can bury the worker inside the bin.

Collapse of a grain bridge

Grain bridges form when grain on the surface becomes spoiled, moldy or frozen. The grain forms a hard crust that spans to the grain bin walls. When any of the grain is unloaded, the crust remains in place, resulting in a void under the grain bridge. The danger arises when a victim enters the bin and attempts to walk across the crusted surface. The extra weight can cause the grain bridge to collapse. This results in the victim not only falling but becoming completely submerged in falling grain.

Suffocation and entrapment can be avoided. It comes down to taking the time and energy to ensure safe operation around grain bins. First of all, make sure nobody enters a grain bin when unloading equipment is running. If you must enter a bin, shut off the unloader. Locking out the equipment before entering the bin will prevent someone from inadvertently starting the equipment while you are inside.

Don't walk on a grain bridge. It isn't always easy to determine if a grain bridge exists, one way to detect if a grain bridge exists take a look at the surface of the grain, look for an inverted cone or funnel after unloading from a bin. Follow fall prevention strategies and use a pole or weighted line to free the bridge. Remember to watch out for power lines.

Entering a bin to work with vertically crusted and spoiled grain requires equipment and planning. If at all possible, don't enter the bin. Use a long wooden pole to break up grain but remember to

watch out for power lines. If entering a grain bin becomes necessary because of crusted grain, a detailed plan has to be developed and appropriate safety equipment needs to be used to ensure safety. If at all possible, consider hiring a contractor to clean out the bin. They have the necessary equipment and expertise to safely and efficiently clean out the bin.

The need to enter a grain bin to clean out spoiled grain can be avoided all together. By developing storage strategies

for the grain, conditions that cause spoilage and formation of vertical grain walls and grain bridges can be avoided. Grain storage specialists can give good advice about storing grain to prevent spoilage. Places to go for advice include local grain handling experts and provincial agricultural departments and ministries.

Grain entrapment can be avoided. It's a matter of communicating and planning.

For more information about farm safety, visit casa-acsa.ca.

SPLITS LOGS BOTH WAYS



Self contained, 3-point-hitch or skid steer mount, all Split-Fire log splitters feature a unique 2-way splitting action from the knife that splits wood in both the forward and reverse stroke, doubling productivity and saving time!

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2 months	\$13.00
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4 months	\$22.00
Full year	\$55.00

NOTE: Rates based on 20 words/classified ad. Each additional word is 10 cents. Photos (black and white) \$5.00 each. Taxes are extra.

DEADLINE: Noon, Tuesday, October 20.

BOOK YOUR AD TODAY: Fax: (450) 463-5291 E-mail: qfa@upa.qc.ca
Place the words 'Advocate ads' in the subject line.

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DIG IN! Dear Tomato: An International Crop of Food and Agriculture Poems. Illustrated with b/w photos. For kids 8+. Order for \$12.57 from Amazon.ca or \$10 (+ shipping) from Carol-Ann Hoyte (email: carol_ann_hoyte@hotmail.com).

PROPERTY FOR SALE
122 acres of mostly pasture-land with barn, machine shed and 2 houses. Currently used for cattle. Spectacular views of Lac Memphremagog and Owl's Head. \$699,000 + taxes. Beverly de Winter 450-405-6866 & Diana Timmins, REB, 450-531-3094 Les Immeubles Coldbrook Ltée.

MACHINERY FOR SALE
2810 John Deere Mold-board plough 5-furrow in good condition. Massey Harris 8ft double-packer. Call Jonathon on 450-288-2944. Nr. Ormstown/Huntingdon.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Quebec 4-H is seeking an Office and Communications Assistant. 20 to 30 hours per week. \$11 to \$13.50 per hour dependent on experience. For more complete information, please refer to 'Job Opportunities' on the Quebec 4-H website: www.quebec4-h.com Submissions deadline Sept. 25. Forward cover letter with resume to jobs@quebec4-h.com

QFA MEMBER BENEFITS
HEALTH INSURANCE – There is strength in numbers and the QFA has negotiated a competitively priced comprehensive group insurance plan for its members. Cost dropped by 12% at the beginning of the year. Call the plan administrator toll free for further information: 1-800-268-6195.

\$100 OFF Farm Credit Canada (FCC) management software – AgExpert Analyst and Field Manager – contact your local FCC office for details!

3 FREE QFA CLASSIFIEDS – for all your machinery & livestock sales, auctions and other announcements.


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While supplies last!
For more information or to order contact the QFA office – qfa@upa.qc.ca



QFA annual general meeting!

Friday, November 13

Macdonald Campus



ATTENTION: Change to the SCVQ

Beginning with the June 20 to 28, 2013 period of offers, quota transactions will be done through the producer Extranet site or through an IVR system (interactive voice response). Please refer to the letter sent to you in this regard. Instructions on how to place quota transactions may be found on the producer Extranet site or from your region.

Centralized Quota Sales System			Purchase and Sale offers by Stratum					
Centralized Quota Sales System			SALES			PURCHASES		
Fixed Price	\$25,000.00		Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day	Cumulation	Price offered \$/kg b.f./day	Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day
								Cumulation
Total offers to sell	175	1,686.7	49	177.9		< 25,000.00		
Offers to sell participating in the distribution	175	1,686.7	126	1,508.8	1,686.7	25,000.00 ceiling price	1,457	8,599.4
Successful offers to sell participating in the distribution	175	1,686.7						8,599.4
Net quantity bought by the reserve		2.2						
Total offers to buy	1,457	8,599.4						
Offers to buy participating in the distribution	1,457	8,599.4						
Successful offers to buy participating in the distribution	1,457	1,684.5						

The fixed price for September 2015 is the ceiling price for this month. A quota quantity of 1,686.7 b.f./day was offered for sale at the fixed price. Of this quantity, an amount of 23.9 b.f./day was allotted to producers benefiting from the Start-up Assistance Program and producers holding less than 12 kg, in accordance with the quota regulation.

1st step distribution by iteration = 0.6 kg BF/day • 2nd step distribution by prorata = 10.57% • Portion of quantities satisfied = 19.59%

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Quirky QFA Crack-ups

Pa Won't Like It

A farm boy accidentally overturned his wagonload of corn. A farmer who lived nearby heard the noise and yelled over to the boy, "Hey, Willis, forget your troubles. Come in and visit with us. I'll help you get the wagon up later."



"That's mighty nice of you," Willis answered, "but I don't think Pa would like me to."

"Aw, come on, boy," the farmer insisted.

"Well, OK," the boy finally agreed, and added, "but Pa won't like it."

After a hearty dinner, Willis thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know Pa is going to be real upset."

"Don't be foolish!" the neighbour said with a smile. "By the way, where is your dad anyway?"

"Under the wagon."

Cat got your door?

Two church members were going door to door, and knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their message and

slammed the door in their faces. To her surprise, however, the door did not close and, in fact, bounced back open. She tried again, really put her back into it, and slammed the door again with the same result—the door bounced back open.

Convinced these rude young people were sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson, when one of them said, "Ma'am, before you do that again, you need to move your cat."



CASE IH AG CO-OP PROGRAM

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