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Quebec's English-speaking farmers celebrate



Over 150 QFA members and Macdonald Campus students piled into the Centennial Hall at Mac to hear presentations and celebrate the 59th anniversary of the association. Here, Canadian Federation of Agriculture President Ron Bonnett talks trade, food aid, and the future generation of farmers to the packed hall.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

— Charles Dickens

QFA's Farm Food Forums

January 26, 2017

**Highway Regulations –
Farm Machinery on the Road**

See page 7 for details.

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

Over 150 QFA members and Farm Management and Technology students gathered at Macdonald Campus on Friday, November 18 to celebrate 59 years of the association, listen to guest speakers present on controversial farm topics and gather with old friends from Quebec's Anglophone farm community.

QFA President John McCart addressed the younger generation of producers and commended the spirit of community and volunteerism in the room.

"I encourage you to get involved in community organizations," said McCart. "And especially for the younger producers in the room—become an advocate of your profession. And if people ask you why, say it's because you produce food—the tasty stuff that helps keep them alive."

David Epp of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB) spoke of the importance of feeding the hungry in countries recovering from colonialism—such as Niger, Burkina-Faso and Liberia—and, more importantly, of helping such nations provide food for themselves and their families in the longer term. Too often, well-intentioned "aid work" gets in the way of local economies keeping themselves afloat and alive.

Epps's interest in world hunger is personal. His ancestors suffered the rigors of the Ukrainian Wheat Famine-Genocide of 1932-33.

"My Opa came to Canada 90 years ago with only 16 dollars in his pocket," the Ontario Regional Coordinator for CFB related. "My great-grandparents were only two of the millions of victims of that 'Holodomor'—dying from disease and starvation."

Canadian Federation of Agriculture President Ron Bonnett took time out of his busy schedule to address the QFA supporters.

Bonnett gave an insider's view on trade negotiations like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and spoke of the problems inherent in trade and foreign aid in the global economy.

"We've got to start looking at trade as a means for countries to become independent and not dependent," said Bonnet. "You don't want a situation where rich countries—like the US, Canada or Australia—produce a product for under market value and dump it in poorer countries and completely wreck or distort their local markets."



On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gib Drury, QFA Vice-President and Treasurer, asked Bonnett the provocative question, "How, as CFA president, do you reconcile the supply management camp with the anti-supply management camps amongst your members?"

"Well, that's my full-time job!" laughed Bonnett. "But the difference between the camps is less pronounced than you might think... There is a misconception that if we reduce or scrap supply management at home other countries will just open their borders and markets to our products—and that's just not how it works."

Young farmers showing strong

A highlight of the QFA's annual meeting is always the presentation of the Warren Grapes awards—the association's very own registered charity that grants bursaries to Quebec students pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture and silviculture. This year the QFA gave awards to three deserving students enrolled at Macdonald Campus and invited them to say a few words at the podium upon receiving their certificates.

This year's winners are Mitchell Bazinet of Osgoode, ON; Gregory Bohemen of Ormstown, QC; and Claudia Meganck of Godmanchester, QC. You can find Claudia's speech printed up on page 6 of this issue. Congratulations, young farmers!

Classy digs!

Instead of taking their lunch in the Centennial Hall, QFA members and guest speakers were treated to a three-course meal in the beautiful and stately Tadj Hall—Macdonald Campus's faculty club—overlooking Lac Saint Louis. Warren Grapes awards recipients spoke with long-time agricultural producers about the challenges of contemporary agriculture and new production techniques.

Members then got down to business in the afternoon in one of the Tadj conference rooms for the annual meeting of board members and directors.

Reason to celebrate

QFA President John McCart reflected on the quality of the guest speakers' presentations, and congratulated QFA staff and members on the smooth running of the information session. QFA Treasurer Gib Drury reported on the improved financial health of the QFA to much applause and table-thumping of board members.

Advocate Managing Editor and Communications Director Andrew McClelland reported on developed content mix and increased social media presence.

Executive Director Dougal Rattray reported on the dizzying list of activities



In the afternoon, QFA members and board members got down to business in the upstairs boardroom at Tadj Hall—setting new initiatives, reviewing the past year, and celebrating the association's financial stability.



QFA Executive Director Dougal Rattray casts a suspicious glance at the camera as members enjoy lunch at the beautiful Tadj Hall.

the organization has undertaken over the course of the last year—from Rattray's own trip to the Little Flower leper colony in India (where he participated in a dairy production project), to collaborating with HelpAge Canada in a campaign to raise awareness about rural seniors isolation, to the continuing success of the QFA's Farm Food Forum videoconferences, to the Farm Fair visits and Farm Safety projects. Reference was also made to the developed community relations with Quebec 4-H, the Quebec Women's Institute, l'Ordre des agronomes du Québec, different levels of government and many of Quebec's commodity federations.

The day ended with a wine-and-cheese reception in Tadj Hall where members chatted and caught up with friends. Many thanks to those who attended the event. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Former QFA president Chris Judd takes to the microphone during the morning information session to ask David Epp of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank a question.



The afternoon's catered meal took place at Tadj Hall—Macdonald's faculty club overlooking Lac Saint Louis.



QFA President John McCart (left), QFA Treasurer Gib Drury (centre) and Executive Director Dougal Rattray (left) talk shop during lunch at Tadj Hall.



John McCart
QFA President

Now is the time of year when farmers finally have the chance to sit back and reflect on the year that was. As the growing season winds down, farmers take a look at the hay sheds, the grain bins, the now empty pastures, and the milk checks to determine if the promises of the spring bore the expected yields.

In my area around Lachute, the year started off well with a heavy maple syrup crop, followed by a very dry and warm spring that allowed for ideal planting conditions. Throughout most of the summer, the weather stressed the hay but allowed for easy harvest. Harvest in the fall showed excellent corn for silage and grain, but the soya could have used more rain. So much of our income is determined by the weather. Farmers must take measures to moderate what Mother Nature throws at us by protecting against drought, wind and runoff.

2016 QFA Christmas message

Federally, there has been no action taken to address the importation of diafiltered milk. The solution proposed by provincial milk marketing boards is a cheap band-aid at best. Signing for a lower class of milk only suits the processor and does not return the price of milk to previous levels. Farmers can only hope that the next Growing Forward 3 proposals are followed through.

Locally, some producers will have a double blow with the municipal tax rebates. In combination with the provincial overhaul, there are some municipalities that are implementing a new tax role. This could mean a significant increase as the taxes reflect an increase in the value of farmland. Local UPA syndicates are urging municipalities to implement a distinct tax rate. Another item of local importance is the adoption of wetlands by both the MRCs and municipalities. If a portion of a farm has been designated a wetland, then it is impossible to clear the land for agriculture, cut the trees for personal or commercial interests, move any of the soil for drainage or roads, but taxes must still be paid.

The QFA has been very busy this past year fulfilling our mission, vision and

broaden its role in promoting agriculture to those outside of the province. In June, Executive Director Dougal Rattray and I welcomed the High Commissioner of New Zealand, Daniel Mellisop, and his aid, Charlotte Kempthorne, to Maison L'UPA to discuss the different Quebec productions and their values as well as agricultural trade. With the help of UPA President Marcel Groleau, this meeting was a success and opened a dialogue with our counterparts from the other side of the world. This led to a New Zealand group that toured the Gatineau and Pontiac with a wonderful evening BBQ hosted by Gib Drury and his wife, Chantal. In October, a supper event was held in the Pontiac

with a New Zealand trade delegate. The QFA has brought the English agricultural and rural community together with its newspaper, the Farm Food Forums, and, in 2017, we will be adding a new website to connect our members with farmers throughout Canada and abroad. The QFA will celebrate its 60th anniversary next year. Now more than ever English producers appreciate the work we do delivering information on a timely basis so farmers can always produce top quality food grown in a sustainable manner that ensures that future generations will never go hungry. I want to wish all QFA members a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy 2017.

The QFA will celebrate its 60th anniversary next year. Now more than ever English producers appreciate the work we do delivering information on a timely basis.

However, our physical environment is not our only concern. Government interference, or lack thereof, can make or break a farmer's bottom line. Quebec Minister of Agriculture Pierre Paradis does not seem to have a grasp on our industry's importance to the province. Since the Robillard Commission was released, numerous actions have been taken that will reduce our ability to compete. Support was taken out of the budget to aid farmers in times of need. How will this play out given the current situation in the beef and pork sectors? There is also the overhaul in the municipal tax rebate sector. At a time when the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) proposed that producers be taxed on the agronomic value of their land as opposed to the market value, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) has implemented a new system that will increase the amount of tax paid to municipalities by farmers, including a zero per cent rebate on school taxes.

shared values. In addition to my role as a member of the General Counsel of the UPA, I attended meetings in Ottawa in February with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture where I was involved in discussions for the Growing Forward 3 Agricultural Policy Framework documents. This blueprint for Ag Canada (AAFC) is used to map out the needs of food production in all sectors, including growing, processing, inspection, trade, research and marketing in Canada, and the means to achieve them. A follow-up to this was held in October at the Farm Food Forum.

A major lobbying day was held in April on Parliament Hill with numerous QFA members meeting Members of Parliament to help explain difficulties that farmers face from trade, a lack of price support and many other issues. This event, called Lobby on the Hill, is a joint effort of the CFA, the OFA, the UPA and us, the QFA. Hopefully we were able to bring our message loud and clear to those in power.

This year, the QFA continued to

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

QFA is now accepting photos to be shared with readers each month in the *Advocate*. Ideally, these would be 1MB in size or of similar quality and depict a seasonal rural scene. Please send to qfa@upa.qc.ca.



Guess which of the QFA board members was spotted out at the Rupert Christmas Party in West Quebec – answers on a post card please.



Marcel Groleau
UPA President

Last week, the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) held its 92nd Annual Congress. Few organizations in Quebec have reached this venerable age. This year's theme was "Together, we make up the UPA." Our 41 affiliated groups collectively adopted the UPA's development plan for the next five years. The plan is built around four major dimensions (4-D): Development, Demand, Sustainability and Evolution.

The environment, consumer expectations, competitiveness, social acceptability and citizen understanding of the issues that farmers face were at the heart of our discussions.

To go even further, we also received, for the first time at an Annual Congress, representatives from various political parties with representation at the National Assembly of Quebec: the Member for Mercier (Québec solidaire), Amir Khadir; Leader of Coalition avenir Québec, François Legault; and Leader of the Parti Québécois, Jean-François Lisée. The three parties each held distinct positions on responsible agriculture as guarantor for high-quality food, and on the need to safeguard food security through prosperous and competitive agriculture.

Thank you to delegates from the 92nd UPA Annual Congress

While flavoured by different political allusions, what the three politicians had to say stretched far beyond the usual partisan debate. The delegates and guests really appreciated their attendance, and I thank them for coming.

At the Congress, we emphasized three priority issues: the future of the PCTFA (farm property tax credit program), the future of the ASAQ (animal health enhancement program of Quebec), as well as the urgent need for a recovery plan for agricultural investment.

A survey of farmers shows that their level of trust is low. They are motivated to produce, but the risks for investment are too high.

We expected to hear from Minister of Agriculture Pierre Paradis about these three issues. The latter's exchange with delegates was detached, not presenting any discernible interest for our very reasonable and totally justified demand. We hope administrative changes to the PCTFA are delayed, as they will cost a lot more, based on our assessments, than what Mr. Paradis predicts for a large number of farmers. The results of our analyses differ from those of the Quebec government. The minister trivialized our assessment, deferring to Minister

of Finance Carlos Leitão, the "second-best economist in the world," which he repeated many times. Is Mr. Paradis distancing himself in case we are right? And I know we are.

Asset spending on Quebec farms lags considerably behind the rest of Canada. A survey of farmers shows that their level of trust is low. They are motivated to produce, but the risks for investment are too high. In the meat sector and in some regions, the situation is even more alarming and has been deteriorating

Quebec, he said: "Until now, consumers have always been told what to eat and how by producers and processors. That's over." I know of no other minister of agriculture, in Canada or abroad, who says such things about the producers and processors of their part of the country. This completely lacks respect for the work that approximately 200,000 people involved in producing and processing food in Quebec put in every day.

These comments are even harder to hear when Quebec has the strictest laws in Canada for environmental protection, health and food traceability. Must we remind him that it would no longer be mandatory to label Quebec fruits as such, had it not been for the outcry of producers and the horticultural sector, since Mr. Paradis removed the requirement by repealing the regulation on fresh fruits and vegetables, despite our opposition and warnings?

So yes, the delegates did not take Mr. Paradis's message well. They remained, however, very respectful and did not cause any scenes. The night before, they had expressed their gratitude towards François Gendron, who had only been Minister of Agriculture for 18 months, by a standing ovation. This goes to show that respect breeds respect.



Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec

DECEMBER 2016

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Nombre	kg de MG/jour
Offers to sell		
Total	309	1,594.7
Eligible for allocation	309	1,594.7
Successful	309	1,594.7
Reserve		
Quantity purchased (-)/ sold (+)		+ 0.4
Offers to buy		
Total	717	6,049.4
Eligible for allocation	715	6,030.7
Successful	715	1,595.1

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 0.4 kg of BF/day.

Centralized Quota Sales System (SCVQ)

ALLOCATION OF OFFERS TO SELL AND TO PURCHASE PER PRICE STRATUM

SALES				PURCHASES		
Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day	Cumulation	Price offered \$/kg b.f./day	Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day	Cumulation
15	125.9		< 24 000.00	2	18.7	
294	1,468.8	1,594.7	24,000.00 ceiling price	715	6,030.7	6,030.7

ALLOCATION TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

Buyers			
	Number	kg of BF/day	%
Startup Assistance Program	1	16.0	1.0
Holding of less than 12 kg of BF/day	1	0.2	0.0
Reimbursement of startup loans	5	0.5	0.0
Iteration (1.2 kg of BF/day)	713	808.2	50.7
Prorata (14.80%)	627	770.2	48.3
26.45% of the offers have been processed		1,595.1	100.1
Sellers			
	Number	kg of BF/day	%
Seller who stopped producing 1 or more months ago	0	0.0	0.0
Offers partially processed in the previous month	0	0.0	0.0
Offers in the current month	309	1,594.7	100.0
100.00% of the offers have been processed	309	1,594.7	100.0



Young farmers speak out!

Three aspiring farmers were awarded Warren Grapes Scholarships at the QFA's AGM this year. As part of the awards ceremony, the QFA invited each student up to the podium to say a few words. Reprinted below is the speech delivered by award winner Claudia Meganck. Speeches by award winners Mitchell Bazinet and Gregory Bohemen will appear in the January issue of the Advocate.

Hello, good morning everyone. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Claudia Meganck. I'm currently in my third year of FMT and plan on doing a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics next year. I grew up on an average-sized dairy farm in south-western Quebec, in a place called Godmanchester. I am the third generation to take over the home farm. My grandparents emigrated from Belgium after having been expropriated from the home farm in Europe and seeing better opportunities for ag in Canada. Though I did many years in my local 4-H club when I was younger, my ag journey really started at home. From the time I can remember I've been working out in the barn or fields with my parents. The farm was always a huge part of my life and it really made me who I am today.

When I was younger, following my dad around while he managed the cows or fixed machinery just seemed like a fun pastime to me. But after doing a year of schooling in a non-ag program, I quickly realized that farming was more than a pastime for me, but an actual passion. As

crazy as it may seem, I actually missed getting up early to go milk the cows.

But being in the city also taught me how lucky I was to have grown up so close to nature. As I made friends that did not have any ag experience, I quickly realized that consumers really are no longer as connected to ag as past generations might have been. They might no longer have cousins or grandparents with a farm like in the past. The older I get, the more I also see how stressful and difficult managing a farm can be on a family. It is no longer a few cows or acres to feed relatives; farms today are full-fledged businesses.

In the future I think it is going to be important to help farmers connect with consumers to demystify romanticized perceptions of the ideal farm and to help them see conventional farming as a sustainable option for food production. This will also help farmers better manage their businesses, reduce mental illness and improve their overall health.

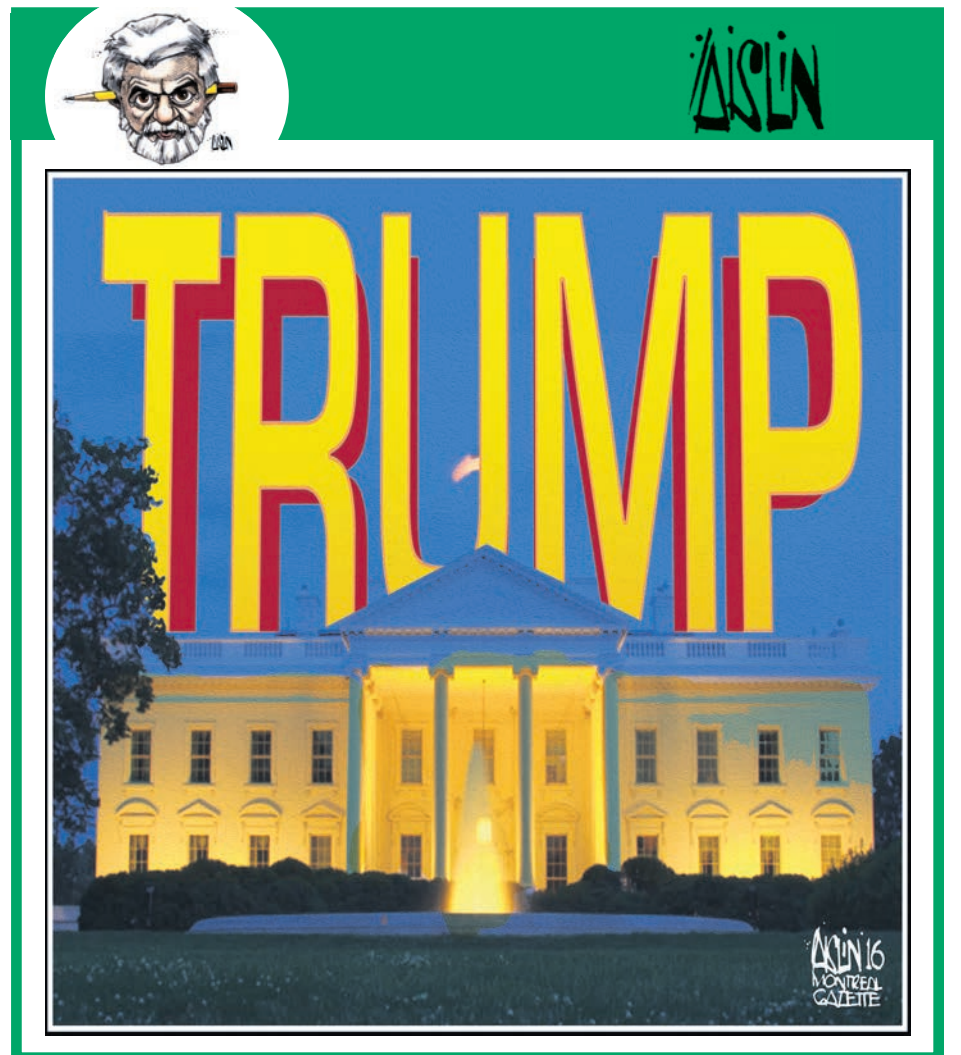
In conclusion, I'd like to thank the QFA for this opportunity to help me continue pursuing my education and, in turn, my agricultural journey. Thank you.



Quebec Farmers' Association President John McCart (right) congratulates Macdonald Campus's Claudia Meganck on receiving her Warren Grapes Scholarship.



Warren Grapes award winner Claudia Meganck with her favourite cow from her family's dairy herd—the only one with Jersey blood in the 100 per cent-Holstein group.





Special travel report

Passage to India: Little Flower highlights for change

Dougal Rattray
QFA Executive Director

This is the second part of the story that appeared in the November Advocate reporting on a recent visit to Little Flower Leprosy Welfare Association, a non-profit organization in northern India that supports a community of around 3,000 people affected by leprosy. Little Flower has had its own dairy herd since 1986 and there is a strong local market for milk and dairy products. It supports 21 other satellite communities throughout northern India. In a bid to become less dependent on charity, it is seeking to put greater emphasis on milk production to create a stronger revenue stream for much-needed services.

I woke up early on my fourth day, gently pulled from sleep by the sound of prayers coming from the local mosque. The heavy heat was broken by the swishing of the overhead fan, and the air was thick with exotic aromas wafting in through the screened window. It was dark and would not be light for another three hours. The siege on my senses continued, with snoring coming from Ishur, our Nepalese interpreter who was sharing the room. I guess he'd never heard of such privileges as anti-snoring gum shields or chin straps. I smiled to myself and thought, "Nothing comes close to the experience of India."

I highly recommend it.

Unable to get back to sleep, I shuffled my way to the newly built dinner hall where a small group of colourfully adorned Indian women were busying themselves making the morning meal of scrambled eggs, toast, chapatti and an assortment of different curries with fresh local fruit. "No Fruit Loops here," I thought to myself, just as one of the women carried through a large container of said processed morning cereal, probably kept in storage for special events such as visits from foreign *sahibs*.



Kabita Bhattarai is the director of Little Flower and is seen here surveying maps with the author.

After a large cup of sweet tea, I opened the QFA laptop, gathered my thoughts and set to work, stabbing madly away at the keys, trying not to become too distracted by the encroaching mosquitos and flies. Except for the occasional soothing sound of water being hand pumped from the well outside or dogs competing to fill the silence with local hard-headed roosters, I was buoyed by the knowledge that there would be no interruptions for a few hours at least.

I was in India to support the dairy farm, providing recommendations on how management might be improved to increase production. I was a dairyman for a number of years in my early twenties and I have had some experience in farm business management and working and travelling in developing nations, so QFA's wise president put two and two together. He thought I was eminently qualified, and I was drafted to help with the cause.

Dairy farming in India is a far cry from what it is in North America, Europe and Australasia. Conceptually, there are similarities of course. Cows are mammalian ruminants after all, regardless of where they come from on planet Earth. Climatically, however, the nations are as far removed as Venus and Mars, and at times I felt I was on the moon.

Early on in my visit, I had spent time observing the milking routine and asking lots of questions of the resilient team of dedicated staff who had tasked themselves with working on the farm. Little Flower is a community in the true sense of the word. People receive an "allowance" in exchange for work. Their housing, education and medical expenses are all covered by the Little Flower organization. They look out for one another. Decisions are made democratically and after much consultation. But with 27 cows and

GIVE. TO A YOUNG FARMER.



QFA Board Member Mark Boyd presents Macdonald Campus student Amelie Sarrasin with her scholarship from the Warren Grapes Fund at the QFA's 2014 annual general meeting.

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 \$25.00 or more.



WARREN GRAPES FUND
c/o Quebec Farmers' Association
555 boul. Roland-Therrien, Office 255
Longueuil, QC J4H 4E7

Special travel report



“Little Flower is a community in the true sense of the word. They look out for one another. Decisions are made democratically and after much consultation.” — Dougal Rattray

29 workers and so few in-calf animals and replacement stock, any profit is a far reach. After many meetings with management and staff, I came up with a list of recommendations, the highlights of which can be viewed at the end of this article.

All in all, my visit to India is one chapter in life that will remain with me, always. It strengthens my resolve and reminds me of the depth of human character. I met with many courageous people: people missing fingers, toes and limbs, some with disfigured faces, socially amputated by stigma and caste, compounded by the ills of illiteracy, poverty, unhygienic environment and malnutrition. I will never forget meeting with one particular elder, a solitary figure confined to a hospital bed for years. Without legs or arms, blind and disfigured, her senses numbed by disease, she refuses to give up her dignity, her strength of spirit, and she is a beacon to us all.

Prescription highlights for Little Flower dairy farm

- 20-22 replacement cows with calves at foot are to be purchased in the New Year.
- Less productive and infertile stock are to be selected for culling. Indigenous / Friesian cross-breeds should be favoured for hybrid vigour, reflecting existing herd strength.
- Consideration should be given to increasing the size of the herd. There is capacity for 35-40 cows.
- Dividing “loose housing” yard in three to allow for distinct management groups—high, medium and low yielding cows—should be costed.
- Wiring and installing lighting in the calving quarters should be considered.
- Young calves should be segregated from older calves

and older calves free-housed to encourage socialization, instead of being tied 24/7.

- Calves should be fed six to eight pounds of colostrum over two feedings within the first 12 hours of birth and dehorned where necessary within the first six weeks.
- Proper cattle handling facilities with head gate, holding pens and chute should be carefully located, designed and constructed within close proximity of the milk barn for efficient and effective management.
- A steam clean power washer should be costed and squeegee scrapers made to aid in better cleaning of housing area.

- Four wheelbarrows with shovels/forks for transporting feed and manure should be purchased and clearly marked, along with protective and safety clothing for staff (gloves, overalls).
- An “employment” agreement detailing “job descriptions” with expectations and compensation package should be developed to provide accountability for both management and staff.
- Management records should be kept for production and traceability.
- Third-party advisory services should be researched to provide dietary advice as part of a well-developed advisory team. Greater attention should be given to growing grasses and expanding production.
- Five identified members of existing work-team should undertake training.
- A computer should be purchased specifically for the dairy farm for recording, management and educational purposes.



The author had many meetings with management and staff.

ANNA TYSKIEWICZ



2016/17 FARM. FOOD. FORUM.

◆ INFORMING IDEAS ◆ ENCOURAGING DISCUSSION ◆ AFFECTING THE WAY YOU DO THINGS ◆

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017 – Highway Regulations - Farm Machinery on the Road

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017 - Knowing Your Cost of Production

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 - Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Production

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 - Farm Business Advisory Services

Begins at 7:30 p.m. - ends at 10:00 p.m.

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
450.679.0540 Ext. 8536 qfa@upa.qc.ca www.quebecfarmers.org



FARM MANAGEMENT CANADA

QFA WISHES TO THANK ITS FORUM PARTNERS
FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN BRINGING YOU
THE 2016/2017 SERIES



Young Farmers



ARCHIVES/STON

Next July, the Global 4-H Network Summit will take place in Ottawa. About 600 young farmers from around the world will share experiences, develop skills and learn about agriculture.

Canada invests in a Global Agricultural Youth Summit

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, announced, December 7, an investment of up to \$780,040 to 4-H Canada to host the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit, which will take place in Ottawa in July and will coincide with the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

Minister MacAulay also announced changes to Farm Credit Canada's (FCC) Young Farmer Loan. Indeed, FCC will increase its support for young farmers by doubling the amount of credit available to \$1 million from \$500,000, and lowering the possible minimum down payment to 20 per cent of the value of the loan which supports the purchase or improvement of farmland and buildings.

"Our government is committed to helping youth obtain the skills and support they need to help them move into good-paying jobs, including the many opportunities in Canada's agriculture sector," said Minister MacAulay. "This investment in 4-H will help youth develop leadership skills, and raise their awareness and interest in pursuing careers in agriculture. Doubling the amount of credit available through the FCC will also help

new farmers to get their businesses up and running." The summit will host over 600 4-H delegates from across Canada and around the world where they will share experiences, develop skills and learn about agriculture. The summit will include four days of workshops and plenary sessions including a two-day trade show focusing on education and career opportunities.

"The Global 4-H Network Summit will be an exciting celebration of positive youth development and opportunity for the global 4-H community to come together to share best practices and resources to grow 4-H and empower youth around the world," said Shannon Benner, CEO of 4-H Canada and Chair of the Global 4-H Network Board of Directors. "We are honoured to host this important event in Canada and involve our 4-H youth and leaders in a global conversation about increasing the impact of 4-H."

4-H Canada is one of the longest running youth development organizations in Canada for youth aged six to 25. The 4-H Canada mission is to provide strong national leadership to ensure a quality 4-H program across Canada.

Quebec students awarded



The QWI would like to congratulate the following students:

Sharina Patel, who was awarded the Mrs. Alfred

Watt Memorial Prize. This bursary is awarded to a student from rural Quebec enrolled in the first or second year of the McGill BSc Dietetics and Human Nutrition or concurrent program who shows qualities of leadership and is worthy of financial encouragement to complete the course.

Catherine Vézina, who is the recipient of the Frederica Campbell MacFarlane Prize, a scholarship which is awarded to a student from rural Quebec based on the results of final examinations of any year of the McGill BSc Dietetics and Human Nutrition or concurrent program.

Kyle Smith, who was awarded the Frances Taylor Memorial Bursary. This bursary is awarded to a Quebec student furthering their education by entering any vocational school.

Stéphanie Bisaillon, who was awarded the Edna L. Smith Memorial Bursary in Agriculture, which is awarded to a student entering the second year of the McGill Farm Management and Technology program.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope, the warmth of Christmas give you love, and may you keep your Christmas heart open all year round.

If you are interested in joining a branch of the Women's Institute in your area or for any inquiries, please contact us at: info@qwi.la or 1-877-781-9293.

FARM PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

MORE MONEY, FEWER RULES



An improved version of the farm property tax credit program will begin on January 1, 2017!

188733

The Producteurs de grains du Québec meets in Quebec City

Provincial day for PGQ affiliate syndicates: Members come together in Quebec City

On November 23, the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) organized a provincial day to bring together members of the 13 regional syndicates and the specialized syndicate (seeds). Setting the stage for discussions among its members, this annual meeting gave them the opportunity to discuss several important issues, such as cohabitation, income security and pesticides. It was also a good day to share the 2015-2016 report on grain marketing. This unique tool, specifically designed to help producers market their grains, is now available at www.pgq.ca (French only).

While together in Quebec City, members got the chance to watch presentations on key files in progress and learn more about the state of affairs on issues that are relevant to them, as well as to give their take on these subjects. In addition, the presentations allowed the PGQ to present an overview of its activities in different areas and to provide updates on its advancement.



On November 23, the Producteurs de grains du Québec went to Quebec City for a reflexion day and a meet with members of the National Assembly.

Meetings with members of the National Assembly of Quebec caucus

The other reason the PGQ gathered in Quebec's capital was to meet with members of different political parties in the National Assembly caucus. On November 22 and 23, thanks to initiatives made over the past several months by affiliate syndicate directors from each region, representatives of the PGQ met with members of Québec solidaire, the Quebec Liberal party and Coalition avenir Québec to discuss key issues in their industry.

The caucus meetings, including one with the Parti Québécois on December 1, allowed us to remind members of the importance and role of grain production in Quebec's economy, especially in the agri-food industry. These talks also allowed us to reiterate that the extremely competitive nature of the grain industry creates a situation in which this key economic industry in Quebec must receive special attention from the government. Furthermore, members of the organization used this opportunity to emphasize the importance of producers having a regulatory environment that is consistent and science based, while promoting development and good property farming business management.

The RMAAQ acknowledges the work of the Producteurs de grains du Québec

The PGQ is satisfied with the conclusions of the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec's (RMAAQ) report, published on November 7, as part of a periodic assessment of its actions as the grain marketing office. The goal of this five-year process, which began on January 21, 2015, pursuant to section 62 of the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products, was to assess the office's performance in applying the joint plan with the grain producers of the province.

As mentioned in the RMAAQ report, the PGQ has put "considerable effort into their information collection and sharing system (SRDI), as well as into their market information service." Note that these analytical tools were developed to improve our understanding of the industry's markets and business dynamics. Furthermore, despite opposition from certain groups to the Règlement sur la transmission des renseignements des producteurs de grains du Québec (regulation respecting the transfer of information on Quebec grain producers), the Régie supports the efforts of the PGQ by stating that the "federation chose to work collaboratively with producers rather than be directive and rigid in its application."

Based on the conclusions of the RMAAQ's periodic assessment report, it appears that the PGQ's activities truly do serve the interests of all producers and promote efficient grain marketing. Considering the five recommendations of the Régie as opportunities to strengthen its actions among members, the organization plans, as suggested, to maintain its commitment to remain involved in the Quebec grain industry focus group (GCSGQ), increase the social acceptability of the industry and its practices, support the next generation of farmers, and continue with market research, development and diversification. Visit www.pgq.ca for more information.

Quebec's 2016 grain production: A copy & paste of 2015

Statistics Canada issued their final production figures for 2016. Quebec's yields are up from the previous estimates, reaching record-high levels of 10.6 t/ha for corn and 3.2 t/ha for soybeans. What is striking is that the overall grain production profile is very similar to last year's. A 3.8 million-ton corn production means that the province will have a surplus of about half a million tons in 2016-17, an almost identical situation to last year's. The only significant change is the 20 per cent drop in the oats crop as acreage dropped by 18, 000 hectares due to low prices. It is worth noting that wheat production keeps increasing, reaching a record-high level of 310, 000 tons. It will be interesting to see how the local market will absorb this volume of wheat.

	Seeded area 2016 (ha)	Yield 2016 (t/ha)	Production 2016 (tons)	Production 2015 (tons)
Corn	360 000	10.6	3 790 000	3 760 000
Soybeans	325 000	3.2	1 040 000	1 000 000
Wheat	91 000	3.6	310 000	281 500
Oats	77 000	2.7	200 000	249 000
Barley	50 000	3.5	175 000	168 000
Canola	13 000	2.3	30 000	26 000
Total	91 600	n/a	5 545 000	5 484 500



The Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) represent the interests of about 11,000 Quebec grain farmers. In addition to liaising with farmers, the PGQ engages in monitoring, analysis, collaboration and communication with industry and government. The PGQ is responsible for acting on various economic and political levels, specifically in the following domains: market information, commerce and market development, research, technology transfer and consulting, financial protection, and risk management.

Foodgrains Bank

Retired Quebec farm couple part of larger effort of Canadian farmers to end global hunger

"When you're out plowing on your tractor, you have a lot of time to think."

That's how Nelson Weippert of Chateauguay Valley, Quebec, describes how he first began thinking about how he, as a farmer, could help make a difference for people in the world who are less fortunate than those in Canada.

"I was thinking, 'What can I do?'" he says.

Shortly afterward, he saw an article in a local farming publication about a grain drive on the Prairies, where local farmers were getting together and growing a crop that was being delivered to help people affected by severe hunger in Africa and Asia through Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"I saw that article, and was really inspired," he says.

Since that time, almost 20 years ago, Nelson and his wife, Sharon, along with others in surrounding communities, have raised funds for the Foodgrains Bank in a variety of ways.

These days, the Weipperts are retired from farming, but they are still keeping busy. Their current project is a Christmas tree farm, where the proceeds from the sale of the trees are donated to the Foodgrains Bank.

A crop of Christmas trees is unique, but the willingness of Canadian farmers to give time and energy to help people around the world who are hungry is not.

Every year, through something known as growing projects, groups of farmers across Canada get together to plant, tend and harvest a crop, selling it on the Canadian market and donating the proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to be used in the work of ending global hunger.

The Foodgrains Bank was initially dreamed up in the early 1980s, when



Nelson and Sharon Weipperts seen here in their Christmas tree plantation.

Canadian Prairie grain farmers wanted a way to share their abundance with the people they heard about overseas who were starving. At that time, no mechanism for this existed.

Since then, the Foodgrains Bank has grown and expanded tremendously.

In Ontario last year, 125 growing projects raised \$1.6 million for the work of ending global hunger. Including projects across Canada, over \$6.5 million was raised.

This impact is multiplied several times, as the Government of Canada matches donations to the Foodgrains Bank on a 4:1 basis of up to \$25 million a year.

"The way Canadian farmers have been able to make a difference in the lives of so many people by doing what they know—farming—is truly incredible," says Dave Epp, Foodgrains Bank regional representative for Ontario.

"Doctors and nurses can give back by providing medical care, engineers can provide technical expertise, and farmers can do what they know best—use their

agricultural expertise to grow food."

He notes that many farmers are surprised to learn the majority of people in the world who are hungry are farmers themselves.

"Here in Canada, the number of people who farm for a living is steadily declining," says Epp, whose family operates a tomato farm in Leamington. "But in many parts of Africa, for example, the opposite is true. Farming is how many people earn their livelihoods. They struggle with things like erratic weather conditions and a lack of access to things like extension services, agricultural training and affordable inputs."

That's not the only difference between Canada and Ethiopia.

"In Canada, if my family's harvest failed or was rained out or damaged by hail, we are protected by crop insurance,"

says Epp. "For most of the farmers I met in a recent trip to Ethiopia, though, a crop failure could be devastating."

Such times of emergency, including major crop failures, extreme drought and conflict, are when the Foodgrains Bank responds with emergency food. Ongoing emergency response projects of the Foodgrains Bank right now include responding to the war in Syria, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and drought in Malawi.

"The impact Canadian farmers have had and continue to have on the world always amazes me," says Epp.

"How they are making a difference is really an incredible story."

For more information on how to get involved with the Foodgrains Bank, contact David Epp at 519-796-0840 or send him an email at depp@foodgrains-bank.ca.

Beware of wood smoke

As temperatures are dropping, it's time to think about getting warm. Whether as a primary source of heating or as a backup system, your wood stove emits smoke containing many pollutants that can be harmful to your health or that of your loved ones.

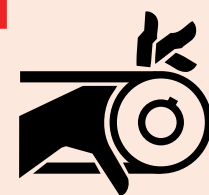
Some actions are therefore necessary to reduce the risks to health:

- Maintain your stove. Make sure that your wood stove is well maintained and working properly. Have it inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- Clean your chimney. Clean your chimney and flues regularly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use your dampers. Allow more air (ventilation) when starting a fire, and close the dampers when the wood is well charred. This technique produces more heat, so you use less wood.

Symbols for Safety

There are hundreds of potential hazards to keep in mind when working on a farm. Be aware of the risks by getting to know the symbols and signs that alert you to danger.

Below, we've reprinted some of the warning signs you might find on farm machinery and equipment. Take a quick look at them and remember what they stand for. It could save your life.



WARNING:
Belt drive

WARNING:
Machine backover,
cutting or severing,
blade



WARNING:
Falling or tripping
forward



Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.



TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN



POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR

L'Union des producteurs agricoles



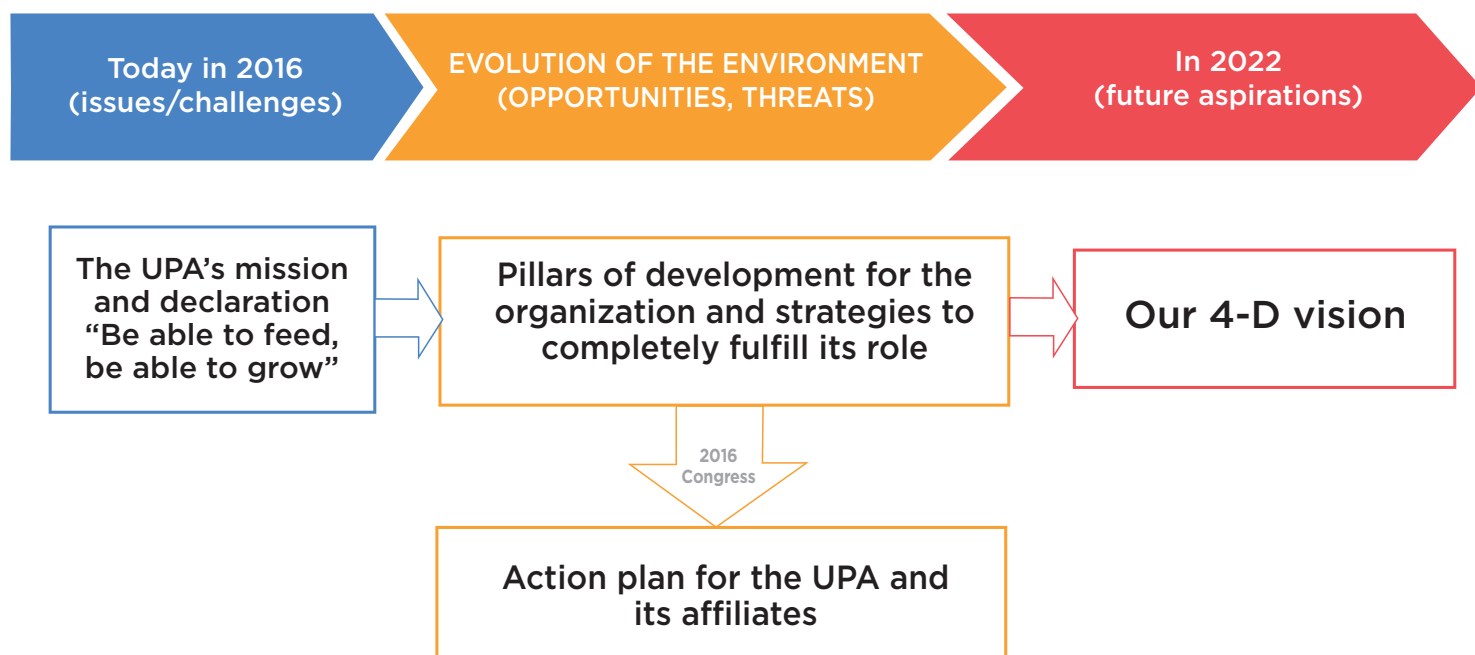
The 2017–2021 development plan outlines the strategic directions our work will build towards over the next five years. It will also help us determine what resources we will need to reach our goals.

The consultations we led for almost a year have allowed us to better define our current issues and challenges, as well as possible short- and medium-term opportunities and threats. In addition, we conducted a survey among agricultural producers to obtain their point of view on the future of farming and their perception of the organization, in terms of both its role and its services.

Our vision, for both the development of farming and the UPA, to protect the interests of agricultural and forestry producers and to promote their profession, is built around four dimensions (4-D): DEVELOPMENT, DEMAND, SUSTAINABILITY (Durabilité) AND EVOLUTION (Devenir).

To help guide our actions and fulfill our aspirations, we have defined three pillars of development for the organization:

-  **THE UPA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ROLES**
-  **THE UPA'S COMPONENTS**
-  **UNION LIFE**



OUR VISION IN 4-D

Without being an exhaustive list, these elements of our vision for the future of agriculture and private forestry set out how we would like to guide their development

Development (Développement)



Within 5 to 10 years, farming and private forestry will have the right conditions for proper development. Accordingly, they will be in a position to contribute to economic growth in all parts of Quebec.

This assumes:

- A government economic plan that elicits confidence and investment
- Income security programs that ensure long-term business stability
- Higher farming revenue through a combination of:
 - A fair market price
 - Lower production costs
- Pro-business environment support programs (labour, energy, etc.)
- Programs that take regional differences into consideration
- The active presence of farming representatives within local and regional collaborative bodies

Demand (Demande)



Within 5 to 10 years, agriculture will help meet the growing food demand. Our local products will be Quebecers' first choice as well as a source of pride.

This assumes:

- Products from Quebec take up more and more stock space in nearby markets and supermarkets
- Adequate support for research, training and consulting services
- Powerful collective marketing and supply management tools
- Work in the sector that allows greater effectiveness and revenue at all levels
- A policy that promotes the use of wood in the construction industry

Sustainability (Durabilité)



Within 5 to 10 years, agriculture and private forestry will be fully recognized for their role in sustainable development in Quebec.

This assumes:

- The presence of many agricultural and forestry businesses, especially family-run ones, ensuring vitality in all regions
- Control measures that limit the phenomena of farmland grabbing and financialization
- A preferential property tax system that allows farming business to be competitive and profitable
- A legislative and regulatory framework that guarantees the longevity of the land and its farming activities
- An integrated (producer/government) agri-environmental strategy that allows farmers to contribute to sustainable development without detracting from their competitiveness

Evolution (Devenir)



Within 5 to 10 years, farms successfully established by youth from the next generation and new producers will allow a large number of farms to be maintained on the land. The farming profession and the UPA will receive major support from Quebec society.

This assumes:

- A profession that is valued by the general population and a stable business environment that encourages youth to establish themselves
- Youth establish themselves in agriculture thanks to better land access
- Recognition by government and civil society actors of the UPA's expertise in all areas relating to agriculture and private forestry
- An active union life
- Farmers who take pride in the UPA

THREE PILLARS FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

PILLAR 1



AN ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED FOR ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Extend the UPA's reach to assert its position as a credible organization that is actively engaged in the economic development of Quebec and its various regions.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
1.1. An organization with strong representation among public authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More effectively coordinate political representations- Establish and maintain ties with political representatives at the federal, provincial, regional and municipal levels- Develop key messages based on shared positions to defend
1.2. A recognized organization that works cooperatively	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Be more active in strategic locations and develop our network of alliances- Showcase the UPA's expertise
1.3. An organization that is actively committed to Quebec's economic and social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Document and promote the economic contribution of the agricultural and forestry sectors- Design and launch promotional agricultural campaigns directed at consumers- Optimize all activities to promote the profession and organization- Develop and promote shared tools

PILLAR 2



AN ORGANIZATION MADE STRONGER BY THE SYNERGY OF ITS COMPONENTS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Maintain the synergy between specialized and general sectors, and ensure consistency between words and actions.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
2.1. An organization that works quickly and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Give the specialized sector an active presence among local syndicates and regional federations- Improve how information circulates within the UPA- Encourage cooperation and partnerships between specialized groups- Clarify and improve support and guidance measures, especially for groups that are not affiliated or financially autonomous
2.2. An organization that builds consensus among its constituent groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explore new forms of consultation for affiliates- Set up decision-making processes that promote consensus building
2.3. An organization made stronger from the commitment of its directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide increased and more accessible union training for elected and permanent staff- Identify and prepare the union's next generation
2.4. An organization with cutting-edge expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop services that meet the collective needs of producers- Define in greater detail the role of the different levels, attribute the necessary resources and avoid redundancy

PILLAR 3



AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PRODUCERS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Steer action based on producers' expectations for their organization and on concrete issues that matter to them. **TOGETHER, WE ARE THE UPA**

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
3.1. An organization that is in touch with its world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase chances to meet with producers- Hold a welcome session for new producers- Adapt the UPA's services according to producers' changing needs; promote its services, along with the actions of the UPA and its affiliates- Split responsibilities between the general and specialized sectors for keeping the list of producers up to date
3.2. An organization that is connected to its world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Optimize internal communication tools- Increase the quantity and quality of the information shared with producers, especially through L'U magazine and the Internet
3.3. An organization that brings all producers together and where everyone belongs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote diversity within the UPA and continue with work to connect with unaffiliated groups- Increase the proportion of women in positions of authority- Profile small farms and establish work plans with the representatives of those farms
3.4. An organization with a high capacity to mobilize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Target hot-button issues requiring mobilization and develop key rallying messages- Keep the mobilization plan up to date for hot-button issues- Diversify mobilization activities- Improve the organization's visibility in affiliated group activities and vice versa

THE UPA'S FOUNDATIONS

Our values

The UPA's purpose and actions are based on respect for people, solidarity, collective action, social justice, fairness and democracy.

Our mission

In keeping with these values, the UPA's chief mission is to promote, defend and further the professional, economic, social and moral interests of Quebec's farm and forestry producers, regardless of race, nationality, sex, language or belief system.

By staying in tune with Quebec society as a whole, the UPA also helps improve social, economic and cultural life in rural communities.



POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR

L'Union des producteurs agricoles

DECLARATION

BE ABLE TO FEED BE ABLE TO GROW

For the men and women who play a part in the Union, “the power to feed” is definitely linked to the ability to feed people, yet it is also the capacity to feed the dreams and ambitions of all generations—generations, part of a movement, who collectively aspire to greater social solidarity.

It means feeding the passion that gives life to all crop and livestock producers in Quebec. It means feeding the ambition to offer high-quality products to all, and ensuring they are as good as they can be. It means feeding discussion, political discourse and the social commitment to make our voice heard—to gain public support for our perspectives and positions.

It means feeding the growth of this solidarity, a solidarity that is present here, at home, and that is being built on other continents. To grow our ambition to make our living from this land that we inhabit and cultivate, and to grow our “oneness” in a universe that is less and less differentiated. It means giving ourselves the power to grow through concrete action. The power to harvest the fruit of our collective efforts. The power to create jobs that boost Quebec's economy every day. The power to garner awards and recognition for our products, which are respected and enjoyed all over the world.

The power to feed means uniting people in a continuing movement. The power to grow means uniting strengths, always with an eye towards the future.

Be able to feed. Be able to grow.
It's our promise.

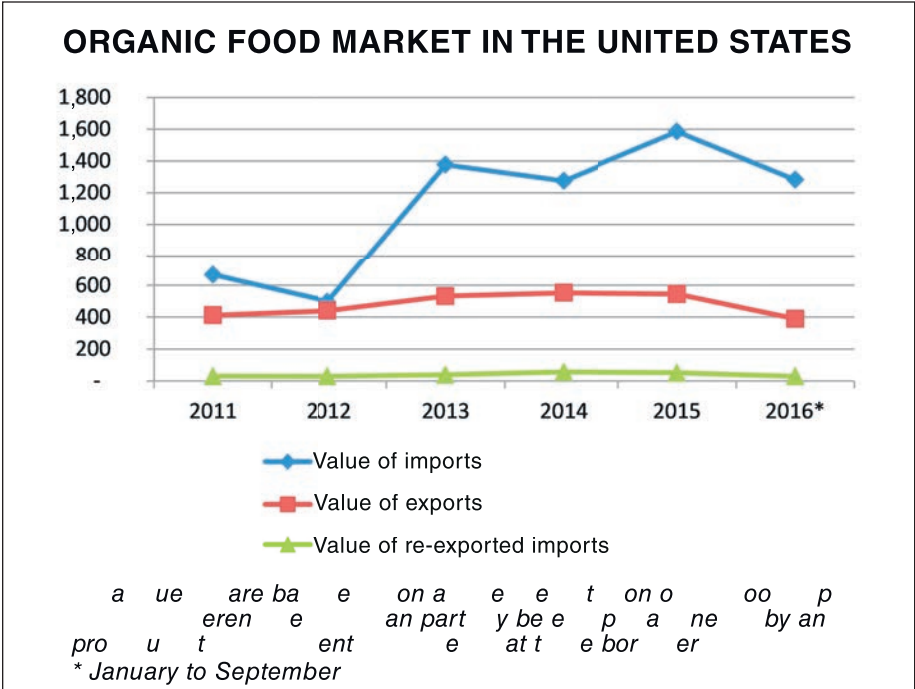
What are the references for organic prices?

Jérôme-Antoine Brunelle, agr.

Canadian consumption of organic products has increased by over 10 per cent annually for over 10 years. While half the imports that feed into the market come from south of the border, we have noticed that US export prices for organic food have remained stagnant for several years, compared to import prices, which have been rising rapidly since 2012 (see graph). These factors indicate that Quebec producers could gain a great share of this market, especially since Canada and the US are partners under an organic equivalence arrangement. However, the market for organic products comes with different challenges. From the outset, there are fewer buyers and producers in this market compared to conventional markets. Market information is therefore more restricted and often more difficult to obtain.

Sales data for organic grains provided by the Producteurs de grains du Québec's information collection and sharing system in 2016 show prices ranging from \$430/t to \$497/t for grain corn, \$900/t to \$1,139/t for soy, and \$450/t to \$615/t for food wheat. The reference prices at the end of November for organic grains in Ontario and western Canada, as published by OrganicBiz, are essentially the same. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports on trends in the organic market (National Organic Comprehensive Reports) also remain a good reference on price changes and can help producers take the organic market's pulse.

What will the prices be in 2017? Unfortunately, forecasts rarely exceed the trends observed in conventional markets. This makes knowing the needs of potential buyers in the local market of the utmost importance.



Source for the data: United States Census Bureau



POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR
Table de développement
de la production biologique

The Quebec Organic Production Roundtable (Table de développement de la production biologique) represents the organic farming sector's interests and seeks to better meet farmers' needs through creating more synergy among the different commodity and regional groups within the UPA. It strives towards the efficient use of available resources in order to give the organic sector better development and coaching tools.

EGGS PRODUCERS



Paulin Bouchard, President
Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec

The consumer remains at the heart of our priorities

Over the past several months, we have noticed a groundswell of support to increase unregulated limits in poultry production (eggs, chicken and turkey). Several organizations and national media editorials criticize the current limits, and we would like to explain the reasons that led to their creation with respect to the possible impacts that an increase would have on disease control and possible health-related risks to our products. In no way do we wish to dismiss the work of our organizations, whose ultimate goal is to ensure the safety of our products, in order to satisfy a minority of people at the expense of the majority.

Some may believe that the regulations

governing our agricultural production are exaggerated or even pointless, and that it is a good time to take a step back and start over, but it would be a mistake to forget the past when planning the future.

Ninety-nine point eight per cent of the 160 million dozens of eggs needed to feed 8 million consumers in Quebec are used in supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and institutions (HRI) or processed products. The remainder of egg sales, or 0.2 per cent, go directly to pro-

ducers or local markets as direct sales. As supply management requires us to provide for all markets and meet consumers where they are, we have been pioneers by establishing a new direct sale program that recently allocated its first five recipients. As we continued to see a growing number of consumers seeking eggs directly from farmers, we introduced this program that was built on a solid foundation in accordance with our regulations. As a matter of fact, the Federation's board has ratified

the renewal of the program for another year to introduce five new exclusively direct-sale producers in 2017.

Since the Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec was created over 50 years ago, our industry has risen above many challenges and pitfalls to develop a strong, ever-evolving and innovative industry, while maintaining consumer satisfaction as a primary concern. We will continue to develop our industry while respecting all markets—big and small—based on what consumers want.



Fédération des
producteurs d'œufs
du Québec

Created in 1964, the Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec (FPOQ) is the first specialized provincial farm association to have instituted a joint plan for marketing and production. Under its organizational structure, the FPOQ is involved in administering supply management and promoting eggs among consumers. Quebec's 113 egg producers care for 4.4 million laying hens, producing a total of 1.4 billion eggs per year.



Climate of change



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

When this column launched a couple of years ago, its purpose was to bring the QFA the best information and insights I could find on climate change, energy and sustainable operations.

That last aspect of the assignment brings a good deal of flexibility. Sustainability has economic, environmental and social dimensions, and some definitions even extend to culture. But this month, the question I keep coming back to is the thin-skinned, orange-hued elephant in the room.

How does anything we can do better in our day-to-day lives and careers make a difference when a proudly confessed multiple sexual predator is about to become president of the world's most prominent superpower?

When a man whose campaign team could only win by wrestling away his control of his Twitter account will soon have control of the nuclear codes?

With a candidate so ungracious in victory that when he learned he had lost the popular vote while winning America's complex and arcane Electoral College, he claimed without a shred of evidence that millions of ballots had been illegally cast?

How do we build stable businesses in a strong economy when our country's biggest trading partner is led by a head of state who thrives on drama and uncertainty, who can casually pull \$1 billion out of a company's stock value (albeit temporarily) in the time it takes to post a tweet?

And, notwithstanding all of the above—how do we steady our hands and our hearts, get past the worry and the “awfulizing” that have set in since the US election results were announced, and start planning to cope with a new reality?

A good first step is to take another look at that extended definition of sustainability: to look at the culture that surrounds us, which we create by our actions, words and attitudes. And, more deliberately, we must start building the saner economy and society that we'll need over the next four years, and that our American cousins will desperately want to emulate by the time those years are done.

What Donald Trump can't do

The first thing to remember is that Donald

The first survival skill: Sustaining what matters in the age of Trump



The first thing to remember is that Donald Trump is only going to be the president of the United States. That gives him a lot of power. But he won't be all-powerful.

Trump is only going to be the president of the United States. That gives him a lot of power. But he won't be all-powerful.

The difference came crashing home to me on the morning of November 9, when I showed up for work on the third day of the United Nations climate conference in Marrakech, Morocco. Looking back, if I had to go through that day, there's nowhere in the world I would rather have been. As I reported a couple of days later on *The Energy Mix*:

“I saw nothing but remarkable courage, professionalism, resolve and determination as friends and colleagues from around the world lifted each other up, and then got on with the job that had brought us here: pushing the Paris Agreement toward implementation; ensuring adequate climate finance for the world's most vulnerable countries and regions; driving rapid, deep decarbonization of the global economy.”

Trump can staff his transition team

with climate deniers, even make good on his threat to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement. In Marrakech, 195 other countries affirmed that the agreement, like climate change itself, is bigger than any one country or head of state. If anything, we may not have seen some countries push their climate commitments farther, faster than they might have, without such an obvious potential threat to global climate action.

I've since realized that the practical solutions we advanced in Marrakech apply far beyond the climate crisis. State and local governments in the US will still try to find ways to do what they have to do—whether it's in climate and energy, agriculture, rural development, or any other area where jobs, communities and livelihoods are at play. The business relationships that existed the day before the vote were still in place the morning after—and they'll be that much more important now as a source of continuity,

stability and sanity for the communities that depend on them.

And we'll all be relying that much more on the local institutions that help us build the texture, flavour and resilience of our cities and towns, that give us a sense of place and connection—wherever we are and whatever we do. In the aftermath of the vote, it's been dawning on me that the civility, honesty, mutuality and—crucially—the verifiable accuracy of those interactions will be the cornerstones of the relationships we'll need in the months and years ahead.

Going to the root of the problem

Through the gruelling, exhausting months of the US election, there was no shortage of commentary on the loss of civil, honest dialogue, and on the gaping, unbridgeable hostility that had overtaken the campaign. We kept hearing that social media had created separate information “bubbles,” where



State and local governments in the US will still try to find ways to do what they have to do—whether it's in climate and energy, agriculture, rural development, or any other area where jobs, communities and livelihoods are at play.

Trump can staff his transition team with climate deniers, even make good on his threat to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement. In Marrakech, 195 other countries affirmed that the agreement, like climate change itself, is bigger than any one country or head of state.

Democratic and Republican voters each received targeted news and messaging that drove them farther apart, ripping away any common ground and making conversation or accommodation next to impossible.

We now know that the information landscape was far more poisonous than most commentators realized. On both sides—but much more on the Republican side, where content producers in places like Macedonia (yes, really) apparently found a richer, more accepting market—social media delivered an endless stream of fake news and conspiracy theories that cast opponents in a ridiculously awful light, making mistrust and paranoia an obvious choice for countless readers.

There's no evidence that fake news swung millions of votes. It didn't have to. Trump won Michigan by fewer than 11,000 votes, and he won the presidency by fewer than 100,000. The steady flow of deep dark paranoia helped set the

tone for the election, and may well have tipped enough votes to make a difference.

And the cascade of fake news doesn't stop after the votes are counted. Look no further than the Pizzagate scam for an example of an Internet hoax that very nearly ended in tragedy, when a would-be hero decided to investigate a set of ridiculously false online accusations by carrying an automatic weapon with real bullets into a family restaurant.

So maybe our first response in the age of Trump is to think of our own minds and thought patterns as an environment under attack. If that's right, the first sustainability skill is to learn how to distinguish fake news from real.

Fortunately, it isn't that hard.

If you aren't already familiar with Snopes.com, you might want to bookmark the site. Snopes has been operating since 1995, and I'm guessing they've had a busy time of it lately.

And if you'd rather not be wilfully misled by your own Internet feed, there are other steps you can take. A couple of weeks ago, media advisor Tim O'Reilly published a simple set of measures (medium.com says it's just a seven-minute read) for testing the accuracy of any piece of content that crosses your desk.

No technique is foolproof. But it's easy and incredibly important to develop the mental habit of pausing, pondering and second-guessing where necessary (ideally, before you hit 'send' or 'share'). Our democracy, our business relationships and our ability to trust those around us all depend on it.



In the age of Trump, this is the first survival skill.

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.

COP22

Window on Marrakech

2016



المملكة المغربية
ROYAUME DU MAROC
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

I've since realized that the practical solutions we advanced in Marrakech apply far beyond the climate crisis.

Macdonald

Reports



Update on the Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre

Since its opening as Macdonald College in 1907, McGill's Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has been at the forefront of education and research in agricultural and life sciences as well as engineering and environmental disciplines.

The old stone dairy barn situated on the Macdonald Campus Farm is a symbol of this history of inspired teaching and world-changing research. It is an integral part of what is today the only operating dairy farm remaining

on the island of Montreal. As home to the new Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre, it will introduce new generations to the past, the present and the future of sustainable food production and environmental stewardship.

Where does our food come from?

We have a responsibility to educate people on how their food is produced, and over the last decade our campus outreach programs have engaged approximately 6,000 elementary and secondary school students annually. Due to ever-increasing demand, we require a dedicated space in order to host more visitors and develop our programs further. The new \$3.5 million Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre will multiply the farm's capacity to receive visitors by providing a suitable venue for flexible use, available all year round, and will offer hands-on educational activities and programs to inspire young minds.

The Community Engagement Centre, with the 3,000 square foot Lorna K. and J. William Ritchie Educational Hall and the Alton and Murray McEwen Visitor Hub, will serve as home base for educational tours of the farm, including the dairy barn, the new calf barn, and the mini-farm, offering visitors an experience that is both fun and informative.

The Centre will host 4-H groups and summer camps for youth, and it is a unique and engaging venue for speaker series and events, special weekend events for the general public, continu-



The interior perspective rendition of the Lorna K. and J. William Ritchie Educational Hall.

ing education workshops and seminars, and industry meetings, conferences and receptions. It will also serve as a resource for students across McGill as well as other universities and CEGEPS.

Educating the public about agriculture

Working with educational consultants and on-campus partners such as McGill's Faculty of Education, the Morgan Arboretum and the Lyman Entomological Museum, the Community Engagement Centre team is developing a suite of workshops and labs which connect to the elementary and secondary school curriculum and align with Ministry of Education criteria for science education. These will introduce students to some of today's complex global issues and challenges, encouraging them to develop an interest in careers in agricultural and environmental sciences.

Nadia Wendowsky, Associate Director of Development, describes the project with enthusiasm: "With urbanization continuing to separate families from the farm, the Macdonald Farm Community Engagement Centre will become a resource to reconnect the community with sustainable food production and environmental stewardship. The activities of the Centre will focus on tangible and informative hands-on demonstrations, welcoming an estimated 20,000 visitors each year for farm educational tours and special events." It will also feature exhibits, designed in collabo-

ration with our colleagues at McGill and with industry partners such as the Canada Food and Agriculture Museum, on everything from animal welfare to water resource management to contemporary cheese production.

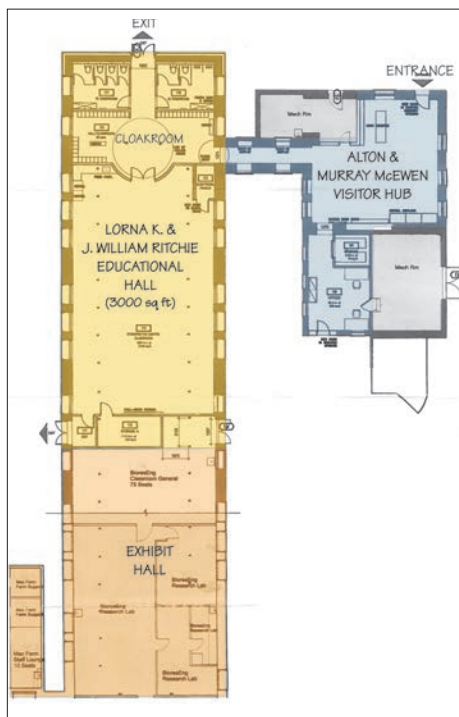
"The goal," says Wendowsky, "is to create an extraordinary space that will inspire children and adults alike, all while engaging the general public in a broad dialogue about the importance of agriculture in everyday life."

Be part of this exciting venture

With support from the community, we can help both students and the public discover the importance of education and research in agricultural and environmental sciences. We are inviting friends and alumni to support the project and give generously to build on the legacy of the Farm for generations to come.

"It's huge for us," says Paul Meldrum, Macdonald Farm General Manager. "We will have the space to bring in big groups of people who will get to know what Mac has to offer [...] there is really no limit to what we can achieve with this facility!"

For more information on how you can get involved in this project, contact Nadia Wendowsky (nadia.wendowsky@mcgill.ca, 514-398-7593) or Paul Meldrum (paul.meldrum@mcgill.ca, 514-398-8663). For more information on the project, you can also visit: <http://www.mcgill.ca/macdonald/alumni/giving/cec>.



The floor plan of the Community Engagement Centre.



The Macdonald Farm today – during the UPA Portes Ouvertes, view from the silo.

VALACTA – Dairy Production Centre of Expertise



Milk recording: Still relevant in 2016?

Mario Séguin, Agr.

Dairy Production Expert – Milk Recording and Data Management, Valacta

A half a century after the first herd enrolled with the PATLQ, is milk recording still relevant? Has it kept pace with changes in the dairy industry, and can it continue to do so? How does milk recording benefit dairy producers, now and in the future? These questions – and the answers – are important, for both milk producers and Valacta.

The year marking the 50th anniversary of the PATLQ (Programme d'analyse des troupeaux laitiers du Québec), which, in 2006, became Valacta, the Quebec dairy production centre of expertise, is drawing to an end. Founded by Dr. John Moxley of McGill University, the organization continues to pursue its initial mandate of providing milk recording services to Quebec dairy producers to improve dairy herd management and genetics in Quebec. Nearly 80 per cent of Quebec's dairy herds are now enrolled in the program.

"You can't improve results unless you measure them."

Although milk recording is often presented as a tool

for genetic improvement, its primary purpose is to improve herd management by evaluating the performance of individual cows in a herd. Without such accurate and comprehensive data, it is difficult to manage herd productivity and profitability efficiently.

Over the past few years, other data collection systems have been introduced on farms, and it is now possible to get data on each individual cow at every milking. Milk recording continues to be valued for its capacity to analyze and summarize this data, converting it into useful and meaningful information for producers. With easy-to-interpret tables and graphs, producers can see where their herds stand and monitor their progress toward specific goals, based on their herd's data history. As a management tool, milk recording can be used to achieve a range of improvement goals, in areas such as milk and component production, reproduction, udder health (reducing the SCC), drying off, improving margins (feed costs) and monitoring of breeding stock.

Developments during the last decade

Since Valacta became a centre of expertise,

its research and development team has reinvented milk recording by developing new herd management tools. Thanks to innovations like Ketolab, UreaLab, GestaLab, Transition Cow Index™ and Potential Gains, thousands of dairy producers are now able to work more effectively toward their goals.

An era of new technologies

Going Mobile

Valacta began the transition to mobile technology a little over a year ago, launching a new application that enables producers to access their milk recording data anywhere, anytime! Simple, practical, and easy to use, the application is available to both producers and the experts they work with. Whether for herd data or individual cow data, it provides all the basic milk test information in addition to the results of the past 15 months, and new functions are offered with each update.

Another example of the industry's transition toward mobile technology is the new Lac-T mobile application, which allows simple entry of health and reproduction events. With easy, real-time data entry, producers can stay connected to their herd at all times!

Data transfer from milking software

Equipped with robots or automated milking systems, a growing number of dairy farms are able to collect valuable data during milking, and it is important to make the most of that information. Ten years ago, Valacta introduced its Trans-D software, the first of its kind in America, to ensure the transfer of

electronic data from milking systems to Valacta databases and the Canadian dairy industry. Now used on more than 150 farms, Trans-D enables producers to enter their management and production data faster and at lower cost.

Trans-D becomes Ori-Automate

This fall, Trans-D will gradually be replaced by the new Ori-Automate interface, which is designed to work with the wide array of commercially available milking software. In addition to "importing" electronic data from milking software, Ori-Automate "exports" electronic milk recording data, such as milk components and SCC, into the producer's milking software. Ori-Automate is the result of many years of collaboration between Valacta and France's Conseil Élevage. Following a series of conclusive tests, Ori-Automate will be installed on the farms of interested clients in Quebec, at no additional cost.

In robotic mode

Robotic milking is a strong trend in dairy production, and Valacta is working to adapt its services to bet-

ter respond to this new reality. One recent improvement is a procedure that reduces the time required to label milk samples collected by robotic samplers. Valacta teams are also working on projects aimed at maximizing the volume of information generated by milking systems and exported to national data centres. Three projects have received funding from the joint provincial-federal Sectoral Development Program, Growing Forward 2:

- 1) Characterization and evaluation of milk composition data generated by milking robots
- 2) Retrieval and analysis of massive amounts of data from automated milking systems to develop performance indicators
- 3) A large-scale project aimed at setting up an analytical platform for the interactive visualisation of herd management data in a self-serve format (PDF reports will thus gradually give way to a more interactive and personalized system for consulting milk recording data.)

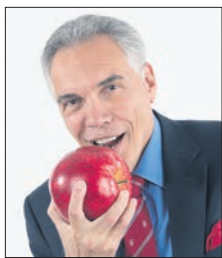
Think tanks are also being held across Canada to review how lactations are published in order to adapt to the diverse needs of dairy operations and industry partners, in tandem with the automation of data transfer from computerized systems on the farm to national databases.



All things considered, is milk recording still relevant today?

Absolutely! The world has changed a great deal since the organization came to be in 1966, and Valacta has had to evolve to remain relevant. Today we continue to work toward addressing current needs; new tools and services are continually being developed to maximize the return on your investment and contribute to the prosperity of the dairy industry. This is what our founder intended, and this is how we will continue to do things for producers – For You and With You!

Separating sense from nonsense



Dr. Joe Schwarcz
Scientist and author

Advice about food is sometimes half-baked

With the torrent of information now flooding popular media channels and the turbulence in contemporary traditional media, sometimes it can be hard to discern fact from fiction. In an effort to provide science-based, balanced content that values a healthy public discourse, the Advocate is publishing extracts from scientist and educator Dr. Joe Schwarcz. We hope you enjoy this thought-provoking read.

Back in the early 1970s, just as I was developing an interest in the chemistry of food, I came across a witty quote by Mark Twain: "Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside." Twain was likely reacting to the plethora of health fads that were rippling through America at the time. As evidenced by a passage in his classic work *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, he didn't approve:

"[Aunt Polly] was a subscriber for all the 'Health' periodicals and phrenological frauds; and the solemn ignorance they were inflated with was breath to her nostrils. All the 'rot' they contained about . . . what to eat, and what to drink, and how much exercise to take, and what frame of mind to keep one's self in . . . was all gospel to her, and she never observed that her health-journals of the current month customarily upset everything they had recommended the month before."

Indeed, there was health advice galore in the nineteenth century. Sylvester Graham urged people to eschew white flour, cooked vegetables and meat. Drinking water during a meal was verboten. If a vegetarian and a meat eater were shot and killed, Graham maintained, the body of the vegetable eater would take two to three times as long to become intolerably offensive from the process of putrefaction. There is no record of Graham ever putting this to a test. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg followed in Graham's footsteps, curing the rich and famous of diseases they never had with a regimen of vegetables, fruits, over-baked bread and yogurt.

Little wonder that Mark Twain poked fun at these half-baked, contradictory fragments of advice with his suggestion to let the food fight it out once inside. That, of course, was pure whimsy, but foods really do duke it out, though not inside our bodies. Rather, it is in the scientific literature that dietary components vie for infamy or honour. And the biggest battles take place when the stakes are high, such as in the struggle against heart disease.

I've now been watching that battlefield for more than four decades. My bookshelves sag with dozens of books about the relationship between diet and heart disease. My filing cabinets swell with the



I still can't come to a firm conclusion, but evidence is mounting that sugar is a greater villain than saturated fat.

studies referenced in these books plus numerous others. One would think that a definitive conclusion about the relationship between diet and heart disease

Given that in low-fat foods the fat ends up being replaced by various carbohydrates, often simple sugar, we may have gone from the frying pan into the fire.

could be arrived at by digging through all this material. Alas, it is possible to find reputable studies to either support or oppose the obsession with cholesterol. When it comes to dueling studies, there rarely is a clear-cut winner.

Although the evidence for reducing the risk of heart disease by manipulating the fat content of the diet is less compelling than is generally assumed, "fat phobia" has resulted in numerous

non-fat and low-fat products in the marketplace. This in spite of the fact that there is no good data to show that people diagnosed with coronary disease have

consumed more fat than healthy people and that more than half of all heart attack victims have normal or low blood cholesterol. Given that in low-fat foods the fat ends up being replaced by various carbohydrates, often simple sugar, we may have gone from the frying pan into the fire.

That's just what Dr. John Yudkin suggested in his book *Sweet and Dangerous* (originally published in the UK as *Pure,*

White and Deadly), which is adorned with a sugar bowl sporting a skull and crossbones. Yudkin pointed out that the correlation between sugar consumption and heart disease was stronger than that between fat and heart disease. His view was almost universally dismissed but is now being resuscitated with further evidence from Dr. Robert Lustig, who links sugar not only to heart disease but to obesity as well. Having followed the "cholesterol hypothesis" for more than four decades, I still can't come to a firm conclusion, but evidence is mounting that sugar is a greater villain than saturated fat. As Mark Twain said, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

Award-winning chemist Dr. Joe Schwarcz is famous for debunking many of the myths about science and is director of McGill University's Office for Science and Society.



Natural and whole foods are not to be feared

Cynthia Gunn
QFA's Food Writer

It should be no surprise to you that I am a frequent and ardent consumer of butter, whole milk and cheese. And when people have asked me, a small caterer, about my take on the issue of fat, I explain as best I can, as a non-expert, but one that, like Joe Schwarcz, has read many of the studies about nutrition and fats, that it seems evident to me that these natural and whole foods are not to be feared, but rather enjoyed. And to enjoy them also means not to abuse them by overindulgence. What is overindulgence? I am of the fairly firm belief that if you listen to your body, it will tell you. Eat a meal that is very rich, or maybe too big? When you are next hungry—this also implies not eating *until* you are hungry again—eat something lighter, focussing on foods that you didn't have in your last meal.

The food scientist Mozaffarian puts it this way: There is consensus among scientists that saturated fat turns out to be neutral from a heart health perspective—which means that campaigns that prioritize reducing saturated fat consumption, rather than focussing on foods and overall diet quality, are a “misplaced and misleading public health strategy.”

The demonizing of saturated fat—which is fat found in dairy and animal products as well as in coconut and palm oil—was based on Ancel Keys's landmark Seven Countries Study that found an association between coronary heart disease and total cholesterol levels. The evidence was weak and preliminary, but that didn't stop the American Heart Association from pushing the idea in 1961 that saturated fat and dietary cho-



My kids recently asked me: “What's is your favourite food?” “Crispy French baguette with cheese and butter,” I replied with little hesitation. Now, I don't eat this everyday, but when I do, I thoroughly enjoy every bite.

lesterol caused heart disease.

The result in Canada and the US, beginning in the early 1960s and ramping up throughout the 1980s and 1990s, was that a spotlight shone on the need to reduce total fat—period—despite little or no evidence that this simplistic advice would prevent disease.

Unfortunately, the nuances of the research have been lost for decades. The result has been that the complicated message—that some fats are good for you and others are bad—didn't reach the general public. “Instead, doctors and scientists running the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's National Cholesterol Education Program in the mid-1980s decided to simplify it,” explains Lilian Cheung, director of health promotion and communication in the

Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) Department of Nutrition. “They thought of a shortcut: Just cut down fat.”

Social marketing campaigns, like the one spearheaded in 1987 by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation encouraged Americans to reduce total fat intake to 30 per cent of their diet, and spread the message through advertising and supermarket promotions. “The public ate it up, so to speak.” The food industry jumped on board, removing fat from food and replacing it with sugar and carbohydrates. I always think a perfect example of this is low-fat sweetened yogurt, where a lot of sugar is added to counteract the increased bitterness and loss of flavour when the fat is removed.

“It was one big, happy, fat-free feeding frenzy—and a public health disas-

ter,” Cheung explained in *Harvard Public Health* in the fall of 2014. “Our bodies digest these refined carbohydrates and starches very quickly, causing an insulin spike.” Insulin tells the body to store fat and causes our blood sugar to drop, which makes us feel hungry. These relentless sugar highs and lows lead to overeating and weight gain, raising the risk for heart disease and diabetes.

There have been many rigorous, government-funded clinical trials involving tens of thousands of participants and meta-analyses that have since failed to find an association between saturated fat and heart disease. Teicholz, an American science journalist and one of dozens of witnesses who testified in Ottawa last year at a Senate committee hearing on finding ways to curb Canada's rising obesity rates stated, “All those reviews clearly imply that saturated fat has been unfairly condemned.” The results of the hearing? The need to overhaul the Canada Food Guide.

“What's is your favourite food?” “Crispy French baguette with cheese and butter,” I replied with little hesitation. Now, I don't eat this everyday, but when I do, I thoroughly enjoy every bite. I hope you enjoy your Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, and we'll see you back here in 2017 when we go searching for great butter—and the recipe for a classic butter sauce for that special occasion.

Cynthia is a researcher and writer, covering issues related to environment, heritage, tourism and food. She runs a small catering business and lives in Western Quebec with her two daughters and husband. She holds a MA in Geography.

Crack-ups

All the best deals

A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm. She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her.

“If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it.”

Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about 45 minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. She explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snowstorm, to follow a plow.

The driver nodded and said, “Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?”



The three firemen

In a small town in the Deep South there was a “Nativity Scene” that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets.

Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a “Quick Stop” on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, “You Yankees never do read the Bible!” I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said, “See, it says right here, ‘The three wise man came from afar.’”



The Tree Doctor

Advocate columnist takes North American tree climbing title

Chrissy Shannon

Leilak Anderson, our very own Tree Doctor columnist, won the title of North American Tree Climbing Champion at the event held at the Niagara Botanical Gardens October 1 and 2, 2016.

The North American Tree Climbing Championship is run by the International Society of Arboriculture and is held each year in different major cities all over the continent. The purpose of the event is to invite the top tree climbing arborists from all over North America to come together, share knowledge and innovation using the latest technical and safety advances in the industry, and, of course, to show off the premium level of skill these arborists require to perform their daily work at great heights. The competition's preliminary events include Aerial Rescue



Leilak Anderson and Marilou Dessault are the winners of the 2016 North American Tree Climbing Championships. For the first time ever, both male and female champions represent Canada and, even better, hail from Quebec!

(five minutes to ascend a tree, assess the victim in a given scenario, and rescue a 200-lbs dummy); Work Climb (an exercise simulating everyday arborist pruning techniques using ropes, with minimum impact on the tree); Throwline (throwing weighted balls at targets 100 feet in the air, a technique used to place access ropes in a tree); Footlock (vertical race up a rope using only feet and a Prusik); and Belayed Speed Climb (a fast scramble up the tree by any means necessary).

Leilak advanced to the finals for the Master's challenge with three other male competitors, and came out on top. Because of his win, he is now invited to the World Tree Climbing Competition that will be held in Washington, DC, in August 2017, where he will represent not only Quebec but North America in the international arborist scene.

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Grain storage essential for profit and safety

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

Grain going into a bin is much like cash going into a bank. It's a deposit being made for the future—the future of your farm and your family. Unlike hard, cold cash, grain can spoil if it isn't properly stored or maintained. Not only does spoiled grain cost you money, but it is also a serious hazard. Problems with stored grain commonly occur during a bad harvest year (as much of the Prairies is facing this fall), but it can also result from poor management.

Grain that is stored at lower temperatures and moisture content can be kept in storage longer before it starts to deteriorate. When storing grain, make sure that the maximum moisture content levels are not exceeded for the type of grain you are storing. You can find this information from your agricultural ministry or department if you're not sure what those levels are. If the maximum moisture content levels are higher than the recommended levels, there are some options in the way to condition the grain.

No matter what method you use to condition your grain, it's important to follow manufactures' guidelines with any equipment you may be using. If you're moving grain, it's also important to remember lockout-tagout procedures so no one accidentally gets caught in moving equipment or grain.

According to Purdue Extension, grain goes out of



When storing grain, make sure that the maximum moisture content levels are not exceeded for the type of grain you are storing.

condition because grain temperatures are not controlled. Improper control of temperature can cause moisture to move from one part of the stored grain to another, and this moisture accumulation can result in grain spoilage. Modern grain management to control temperatures means using aeration. Moving grain from bin to bin can also be used to equalize temperatures, but this means having an empty bin, and having the time to do this. Once again, no matter the technique or equipment you use to achieve acceptable grain storage temperatures, make sure to follow the


manufactures' guidelines and use all safety precautions.

The best place to store grain is in facilities that are weatherproof and provide good ventilation. It's important that the place where you store your grain cannot be accessed by pests or be directly impacted by the weather. And, of course, avoid storing new grain on top of old grain that may have spoiled or be infested by insects.

Throughout the storage of any grain, check often for signs of moisture migrating through the grain. Purdue Extension recommends checking weekly during fall and spring months and every two weeks during the winter. Setting a regular day of the week as part of your routine will help you remember to check on your stored grain.

Properly stored grain has far less of a chance of becoming spoiled and becoming a major hazard on your farm. Spoiled grain can bridge and create grain walls that mean having to enter to clean up the mess it has left behind. Entrapments often happen because people enter grain bins to knock down a wall of spoiled grain and end up trapped underneath the grain as it avalanches down. Good storage and management could mean the difference between life and death.

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



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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

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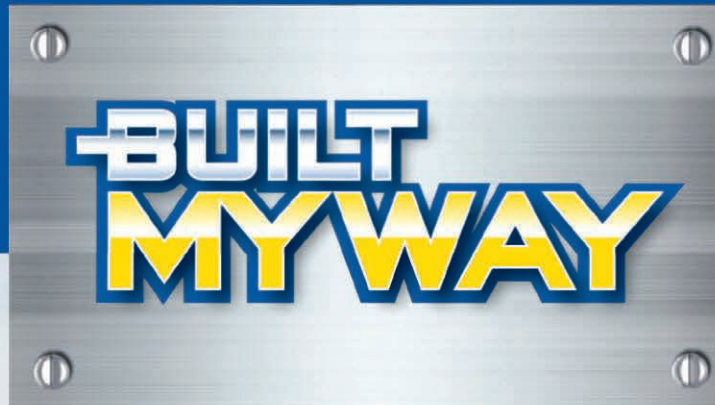
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SAINTE-MARTINE
Machinerie CH

WOTTON
Machinerie CH

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