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"Summertime is always the best of what might be."

— Charles Bowden

Make a difference!

Help a young farmer!

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See page 23 for details.

GM salmon could cause another labelling dispute



AQUABOUNTY TECHNOLOGIES

Canada has declared a GM salmon safe for human and animal consumption, marking the first time a GM animal has been deemed safe for such purposes.

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Policy Reporter

There are plenty of fish in the sea, or so the saying goes. But a particular type of fish is causing controversy this month in the Canadian food and fisheries industries and pitting consumer watchdogs against scientists.

On May 19, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that the AquAdvantage Salmon—genetically modified salmon developed by AquaBounty Technologies Inc. in Massachusetts—was deemed safe for food and livestock feed use within Canada. This marks the first time a genetically modified animal has been licensed for sale for human and animal consumption in the country.

The decision comes after years of scientific review by Canadian scientists, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada and Health Canada. AquaBounty began the process of seeking approval for their AquAdvantage Salmon in 2010.

Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay said that the studies showed that the GM fish was safe and that he "would eat it."

In all cases, reviews found the salmon to be "as safe and nutritious as conventional salmon." And since the GM salmon does not contain any health risks to consumers—or any known allergens—there are no immediate plans to require AquaBounty to use any special label-

ling for its salmon. Health Canada only requires special labelling for food products, including genetically modified foods, when scientifically established health risks or significant changes to the nutritional qualities of the food have been identified. In this case, given that

no health and safety concerns were identified, there are no special labelling requirements for AquAdvantage Salmon.



On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COOL for fish?

The historic decision caused quite a shockwave in the House of Commons and the Canadian media. Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay said that the studies showed that the GM fish was safe and that he "would eat it." Yet he also pointed out that he asked the House of Commons agriculture committee to look into Canadian regulations on GM animals.

MacAulay said that it wasn't "proper to exclude" the possibility of labelling, adding that "it has nothing to do with the science-based research"—suggesting that the Canadian government might make GM labelling mandatory on animals sold for human or animal consumption if consumers demanded it.

However, critics were not accepting the issue so easily, leaving many wondering if Canada's fishing industry would soon see its own labelling issue explode as the beef industry has experienced with the issue of Country-of-Origin Labelling (COOL) in the United States.

"I fear that Health Canada and the ministry have put the needs of the



Given that no health and safety concerns were identified by Health Canada, there are no special labelling requirements for AquaAdvantage Salmon.

industry above the rights of consumers to know what they're ingesting," said Don Davies, health critic for the New Democratic Party.

The Conservative Party's agriculture critic, Chris Warkentin, has publicly criticized MacAulay for giving into consumer fears that are not scientifically founded.

"If he is not in support of what his department has done, then the minister should come out and say that,"

Warkentin said. "He has the responsibility to come out to Canadians and explain what he believes is the problem."

Consumer fears founded?

In the United States, AquaAdvantage Salmon was approved in January of this year, after a nearly 20-year wait for approval. In the wake of consumer fears, wholesale food dealers and supermarket chains—including Kroger, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, declared

that they would not carry the salmon in their stores.

Consumer watchdog agencies say that, despite what the scientific studies say, companies like AquaBounty cannot be trusted with the safety of the consumer or the environment.

Speaking of the decision to allow the GM salmon in the United States, industry watchdog Food and Water Watch said that the US Food and Drug Administration's decision "disregards AquaBounty's disastrous environmental record, which greatly raises the stakes for an environmentally damaging escape of GMO salmon."

The advocacy group's executive director, Wenonah Hauter, added that "...in recent years, AquaBounty facilities outside the United States have dealt with an accidental disease outbreak, an accident that led to 'lost' salmon, and a \$9,500 fine from Panamanian regulators who found the company in breach of that country's environmental laws."

The House of Commons agricultural committee is now obliged to study regulations on GM animals. The committee is also looking into studies on agricultural policy frameworks and bee health.



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.

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John McCart
QFA President

At a recent session of the general council of the UPA in Longueuil, President Marcel Groleau remarked to all of us sitting there that farmers needed to become more involved in their municipal councils.

I understood this completely as my own municipality was trying to pass a bylaw limiting tree cutting in a region that is 80 per cent covered in forest. The purpose of this new law, they said, was not to restrict the rights of the landowners, but to show responsible management of woodlots by owners.

This bylaw proposed the need of a permit, which was free, and a visit by the inspector to verify that the cutting down of at least one tree met all the regulations according to Quebec guidelines. Any cutting of over 20 firewood cords was going to be deemed commercial, meaning a permit issued by the MRC would also be required. One can imagine the backlash from residents and from the local UPA syndicate. In an area of such forest cover, many residents use firewood for heat. A lot of property owners also cut logs for build-

It's time to become more involved

ing materials and cedar for fence posts. Can you imagine having to go to the municipality to get a permit to fix some broken fence posts? I heard rumours that the fine for the contravention of the bylaw would be \$100 per tree and \$200 per tree in the case of a commercial cut.

Start going to public council meetings or show up at your local UPA syndicate Annual General Meeting. We must know what we producers are up against.

As I am also the president of my local UPA syndicat, I brought this problematic issue to the board, where a letter was drafted stating that all farmers and woodlot owners are responsible custodians of their land. We would not be foolish enough to mistreat our natural resources, and we understand the value of a sustainable forest. This resolution was presented to the municipal council, and with public pressure from farmers and woodlot owners, the bylaw was amended. Now, a permit is good for one year, a cut is considered commercial only if it is over 100 cords of wood or log equivalent, and there is no need for the site to be inspected if at least 40 per cent cover remains. This change

shows the power of becoming involved. We are all citizens and we must voice our concerns before it is too late.

There are numerous other restrictions that farmers must be aware of. In certain areas of Quebec, there are laws (REAs) that prohibit the clearing

of land that is close to a degraded river drainage basin with excess levels of phosphorous. There can be fines from the Ministry of the Environment and in some cases the land cleared must be reforested.

There are also other restrictions to agricultural land and to future woodlot owners. Wet zones (milieux humides) are areas that may be deemed protected to preserve wildlife, ecosystems and natural surface water filters. At a meeting of the local syndicate on May 30, there was a presentation on the establishment of ecological corridors that would stretch from the Ottawa River to Mont-Tremblant. With the aim of allowing natural habitat to flourish, these

corridors would encompass agricultural land, where use would be limited, and woodlots, where no activity would take place. Finally, last week there was another study presented to allow water courses to return to their natural state before the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) intervened in the 1940s and 1950s to straighten the courses for drainage purposes. This study also showed what could be done to reduce erosion and runoff.

When all of these measures taken at the local, regional and provincial level start to add up, we can see the amount of land available to producers decline. Most of these rules, existing and proposed, are set in place by those who have become disconnected from the rural community but see themselves as saviours of the environment.

We must all become more involved in our local councils, our regional MRCs and our local UPA syndicates. Start going to public council meetings or show up at your local UPA syndicate Annual General Meeting—the invitations are always there. We must know what we producers are up against. Those of us who do not stay informed may be in for a nasty surprise.

Board nominations are open!

All QFA members in good standing (those who have paid membership fees) can nominate a fellow farmer for QFA's board of directors.

If you think there is a leader within your own community who would make a good representative of the English-speaking farming and rural community, you can obtain a nomination form by emailing qfa@upa.qc.ca by Friday, September 16, 2016

Member Survey 2016

Calling all farmers!

QFA is conducting a short survey to gather thoughts about the organization. This is an opportunity for you to voice suggestions and let us know what we could be doing better. Your comments will help us make sure QFA is as effective and beneficial as it can be.

Surveys are being conducted by phone **between July 18 and August 26** and should not take any longer than 5 or 10 minutes, depending on responses.

We know you're all busy with summer work activities, so we thank you in advance for your participation!

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.



Abygail in the meadow: A spring scene in Ulverton, Quebec.



Marcel Groleau
UPA President

On May 31, I spoke at a conference hosted by the newspaper *Les Affaires* entitled Solutions Alimentation (Food Solutions). The conference brought together a number of agri-food sector leaders.

The demand for food is growing. This is common knowledge all over the world. Experts predict that in order to feed the world's population, we'll need to grow food production by 70 per cent by 2050. Annual cereal production will have to increase by an estimated 50 per cent, while meat production will have to double. This makes agri-food an interesting development opportunity for all countries, including Canada.

In 2014, agriculture (the leading primary sector) and food processing (the leading manufacturing sector) generated \$8 billion and \$24 billion in sales, respectively. Combined, the two sectors account for 200,000 direct and indirect jobs in Quebec (5.1 per cent of jobs) and \$11 billion in GDP (5.9 per cent of the province's GDP). Each year, farming and food processing provide tax revenues of \$4.5 billion to the different levels of government.

However, when we stop to compare Quebec's agri-food sector to that of the

Worrisome data on Quebec's agri-food sector

rest of Canada (especially Ontario), we see cause for concern. Of the various economic indicators and statistics we could use, capital expenditures are among the most useful in determining how a given sector stacks up. Capital expenditures play a key role in maintaining and increasing a sector's competitiveness.

According to Statistics Canada, capital expenditures in Quebec's agriculture sector, excluding purchases of land and quota, grew from \$496 million in 2006 to \$609 million in 2015, reaching its highest levels at \$710 million in 2009 and \$720 million in 2010. But then,

At a time when our neighbours seem to have wind in their sails, the comparison of data on capital expenditures and R&D spending clearly indicates that Quebec is lagging behind.

starting in 2011, capital expenditures on Quebec farms began to fall, eventually stabilizing around \$600 million.

During this same period, capital expenditures in Canada (Quebec included) went from \$1.6 billion to \$4.2 billion—a change of 260 per cent. Ontario saw its level of investment double, from \$722 million to \$1.4 billion. Had Quebec farmers been spending proportionately as much as their

Ontario counterparts, they would have invested an extra \$1 billion during this period. Had they been in line with Canadian farmers as a whole, they would have spent an extra \$2.4 billion.

There are other worrisome statistics too: business spending on research and development (R&D) in Quebec's agri-food sector fell by 30 per cent between 2008 and 2015, from \$199 million to \$139 million in food processing and from \$105 million to \$73 million in agricultural production.

Finally, as Pierre Lemieux mentioned in an editorial last week, agriculture is facing a unique labour challenge.

According to a study by the Conference Board of Canada, 1 out of every 12 jobs in the sector was left unfilled in 2014—as compared to 1 out of 36 jobs in all other sectors. Nearly 10 per cent of farmers decided to postpone or cancel an investment project due to lack of labour. By 2025, this problem will have exacerbated, since the gap between labour supply and demand will continue to widen.

Observations like these are what's behind the initiative jointly undertaken by the UPA and the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec (CTAQ), which began last December with support from La Coop fédérée, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at Laval University and Desjardins Group. The aim of the initiative is to persuade the Quebec government to create a bio-food strategy.

Minister Pierre Paradis announced a series of gatherings and summits on the topic of bio-food. We are still awaiting details on the outcome. At a time when our neighbours seem to have wind in their sails, the comparison of data on capital expenditures and R&D spending clearly indicates that Quebec is lagging behind.

As Dimitri Fraeys, vice-president of innovation and economic affairs at the CTAQ, pointed out, no less than eight consultations on all kinds of topics have been held with the agri-food sector since 2008. We've had the Pronovost Report, the St-Pierre Report, the Morisset Report, etc.: we've been polled more than any other sector. Do we really need yet another series of consultations when we already know what the issues are? Isn't it time to take action instead?

Published in June 8 edition of TCN, p.6



**Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec**

JUNE 2016

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Nombre	kg de MG/jour
Offers to sell		
Total	41	476.2
Eligible for allocation	41	476.2
Successful	41	476.2
Reserve		
Quantity purchased (-)/ sold (+)		- 2.4
Offers to buy		
Total	1,360	9,424.3
Eligible for allocation	1,359	9,417.4
Successful	1,359	473.8

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 2.3 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
1	3.0		< 24,000.00	1	6.9
40	473.2	476.2	24,000.00 ceiling price	1,359	9,417.4

ALLOCATION TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

Buyers			Number	kg of BF/day	%
PRIORITY	Startup Assistance Program		0	0.0	0.0
	Holding of less than 12 kg of BF/day		0	0.0	0.0
	Reimbursement of startup loans		10	1	0.2
	Iteration (0.2 kg of BF/day)		1,359	268.3	56.6
	Prorata (2.24%)		1,110	204.5	43.2
5.03% of the offers have been processed			473.8	100.0	
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			41	476.2	100
100.00% of the offers have been processed			41	476.2	100.0

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:
Machine runover with cutting or severing, blade





WARNING:
Falling from edge



WARNING:
Battery explosion

Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

Special visitors from New Zealand




QFA Executive Director Dougal Rattray and QFA President John McCart with New Zealand High Commissioner Daniel Mello and his assistant Charlotte Hunter.

On Monday, June 6, QFA President John McCart and Executive Director Dougal Rattray, along with UPA President Marcel Groleau and UPA Director of Research into Agriculture and Political Economy Isabelle Bouffard, met with New Zealand High Commissioner Daniel Mellso and his executive assistant. The meeting, which was initiated when the New Zealand High Commission sent an email request to the QFA, was light hearted and congenial. Information regarding each other's respective industries was freely exchanged and good wishes were expressed.

Subsequent to the meeting, a group of 26 New Zealand farmers touring Eastern Canada and the USA for three weeks starting June 18 are to be hosted by the QFA and the UPA on June 22 and 23, respectively.



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Celebrating the family farm

A passion for family and farming

Emily Southwood
Freelance writer

Stanley Christensen of Ferme Sage in Lac-Sainte-Marie, Quebec, never gripes about getting up at dawn and toiling until dusk; he doesn't keep those hours. He, his wife, Cheryl, and their two sons, Ian and Eric, have long organized their purebred Red Angus beef farm in a way that prioritizes quality family time and a superior existence for their animals. "We don't want to be complaining," he says. "That's why we do things the way we do."

In 1969 Stan left his home of New Denmark, New Brunswick, to study computer science at Algonquin College. He came to ski at Mont Ste. Marie and, shortly after, met and married Cheryl Sage. While she was completing her nursing degree, they moved into and renovated her grandmother's farmhouse. The Sage family of Irish descendants had been working the land since the 1840s. Over the years it supported forestry, horses, dairy cows and short-horn cattle. When Cheryl's father tragically passed away in a car accident, they made a three-way partnership with Cheryl's mother in order to keep the farm running.

In 1991, Ferme Sage converted to raising purebred Red Angus beef exclusively. With a background in analyzing data, Stan examined the opportunities available in the area and decided on the kind of operation he wanted to have. He explains that their philosophy is to let cattle do what they do best, which is to walk, eat grass and fertilize that



Stanley, Cheryl, Ian and Eric Christensen of Ferme Sage on Open House Day, 2012.

grass behind them—the ideal set-up for their animals and their family life. Raising purebred Red Angus cows has allowed the family to enjoy skiing on the weekends, golfing, adventure races and yearly trips.

"Their philosophy is to let cattle do what they do best, which is to walk, eat grass and fertilize that grass behind them—the ideal set-up for their animals and their family life."

Today, Ferme Sage operates as a four-way partnership between Stan, Cheryl and their two sons, Ian and Eric. Ian, the eldest, studied Environmental Biology at McGill and now works on the farm, as well as for the municipality of Lac-Sainte-Marie as a part-time water services inspector. He married his wife, Erin, in 2014 and they live

on an adjoining property. Eric holds a Bachelor of Physics from Université de Sherbrooke and a Masters in Micrometeorology from McGill, and currently works for an environmental company in Vancouver. Stan and Ian

run the farm's daily operations with Cheryl, and Erin steps in to help out as needed.

The farm is entirely organized around the concept that cattle should be mobile. Stan explains: "Plants have roots and grow in one place. Animals have four feet and were meant to move. In today's world, we commonly

plant cows in feedlots and put wheels under the feed to get it to them, and then we transport manure back out onto the fields. It's a strange situation." Not so at Ferme Sage. Here, cattle live six months of the year on unsupplemented pasture. During this time, Stan and Ian venture out to check on the cattle and see that the mineral feeder and the water are good and determine whether the cattle need to be moved to the next paddock—a routine that takes about five hours, once a week. They lease property in three municipalities and rotate their animals between six other farms throughout the grazing season, using low-stress management techniques.

Being adaptable is vital to the way the family operates the farm. "We always have certain things we plan to do tomorrow," Stan chuckles. "But life always changes. Being flexible and enjoying the challenges that come up is part of the fun of it." Stan's philosophy of having a plan but adapting it as need be extends to his views on maintaining a family business. When asked if he hopes future generations will continue to run Ferme Sage, he doesn't care to speculate. "I have absolutely no idea," he says. "The worst possible thing we can do is to create expectations for the next generation. Plato once said that the next generation was doomed, and we all know what happened with that assumption."

What is certain is that this family's passion for what they do, and the fulfilling life they've created together, shows no sign of tapering out.

Growing with the garden



Shaina Hayes
Columnist

This year's temperamental spring weather has allowed the MSEG crew to fully appreciate the complexities of caring for such a wide variety of horticultural crops, each with its own specific climatic needs and preferences. The hot spell of late May had the *Cucurbitaceae* (cucumbers, melons, squash, etc.) auspiciously fruiting

weeks earlier than expected, while at the same time sending certain lettuce varieties straight to seed, rendering them too bitter for market. The cooler temperatures that followed leading into June required placing row covers on the *Solanaceae* crops (tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, etc.) to keep them thriving, and gave the *Brassicaceae* (broccoli, cabbage, kale, etc.) a much-needed break from the heat.

June also saw the arrival of many new critters on the farm. We were happy to welcome our small flock of laying hens and a new hive of honeybees, but the same cannot be said for the arrival of the unrelenting cucumber beetle (*Acalymma vittatum*).

Since MSEG uses organic practices, many steps were taken to prevent damage from the beetles to our summer squash, cucumber and melon crops without the use of pesticides. Such efforts included using straw mulch in the allies between the beds in order to create a suitable environment for wolf spiders (known predators of the cucumber beetle), applying a detergent to the foliage of the plants to inhibit beetle reproduction, applying insect nets and, finally, using sacrificial squash plants to lure the beetles away from the actual crop.

MSEG markets and CSA baskets begin soon! You can find us at the downtown McGill Campus on Thursdays beginning



MSEG manager Erlend Bjorklund inspects a row of melons for the cucumber beetle.

on June 30, and at the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Market on Saturdays beginning July 2. Stop by for fresh veggies and a chat!

So much to do in the garden!



Farewell to official language commissioner

Under the theme of "Working together for Quebec's English-speaking communities," more than 100 members and stakeholders gathered in Montreal for the 21st Annual Meeting of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) on June 3, 2016. The QCGN was pleased to welcome Canadian Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly, who addressed participants, encouraging them to participate in consultation on the federal government's new action plan for official languages.

The meeting was kicked off by a panel discussion called Governments Working for Quebec's English-Speaking Communities, which included Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser, and his counterparts from Ontario and New Brunswick, François Boileau and Katherine d'Entremont. Also on the

agenda were workshops aimed at developing the organizational skills of our member groups.

Members bid farewell to President Dan Lamoureux, who stepped down after four years at the helm, and to Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser, whose extended three-year mandate ends in the fall.

"For Quebec's English-speaking community, the best testament to Fraser's time in office is the careful attention he always gave to English-speaking Quebec as a minority," said former QCGN President Martin Murphy, who chaired the QCGN when Fraser was appointed almost a decade ago. "Commissioner Fraser understood us and he often dared to tell Canadians and majority Quebecers what they did not want to hear."

On that theme, Commissioner Fraser repeated his suggestion that Quebec should have an office dealing with the concerns of the English-speaking community. "I continue to believe it would be useful for Quebec's government to have some sort of reference point, preferably in the bureaucratic structure, to monitor and understand the needs of Quebec's English-speaking minority," Fraser said as he participated in the panel of language commissioners.

Fraser, who has spent years battling myths about Quebec's English-speaking minority, said this community is "misconceived by some as a threat, and misunderstood by the majority community." He noted that "your average English-speaking Quebecer is older, less educated, less employed and less affluent than their francophone neighbours."

With reference to the upcoming consultations on Canada's Action Plan to support official languages, newly elected QCGN President Jim Shea commented, "We will fully engage in the process and encourage our members and the community to get involved."

The Quebec Community Groups Network is a not-for-profit member-based organization that brings together 48 English language community language organizations across Quebec. A centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action, QCGN identifies, explores and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English community of Quebec. It also encourages dialogue and collaboration among its organizations, individuals, community groups, institutes and leaders.

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Summer fairs

The 191st Expo Lachute Fair focuses on farm safety

Article courtesy of **Tara Kirkpatrick**
TheReview.ca

LACHUTE – A five-year-old boy died in Sainte-Marguerite, Quebec, on June 15, during an accident involving a tractor. The exact circumstances of his death are still unclear, and provincial police are investigating. What is clear is that a farming family has been devastated by a tragedy that rocked an entire community. His death resonated with farming families across the country.

Too many people are killed each year in farm-related accidents, including about 14 per cent of fatal farm accidents that involve children. Farming organizations and unions across the country are trying to reverse the trend.

Quebec Farmers' Association President John McCart recently spoke with *The Review* about how the QFA is working to change farming practices to reduce fatalities and farm accidents.

This year the QFA has partnered with the Argenteuil Agricultural Society to present a new farm-safety campaign at the



Emily McQuat is seen here with her dairy calf during the 4-H dairy show at the 2015 Expo Lachute Fair.

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Expo Lachute Fair, which runs from July 7-10. The campaign will specifically target children. "The death of this five-year-old child made it clear why farm-safety education is so important. Everyone calls it an accident when something like this happens, but there's always a reason behind the accident," said McCart.

As part of its farm-safety campaign, the QFA will be hosting a scavenger hunt at the Expo Lachute Fair. The hunt is open to all participants. Children between the ages of 4 and 12 who successfully complete the course will also receive a prize. The scavenger hunt is broken into five parts. It is intended to teach kids (and adults, too) how to safely conduct themselves around farm machinery, all-terrain vehicles, cows, horses and chemicals.

"We tailored it to kids and made the text child-friendly," said McCart. As both a farmer and a parent, he says that he wanted to create a course that made it clear how risky it is to live on a farm, and how easy it can be to avoid becoming a victim. "Most of the people who are killed on four-wheelers die because they aren't wearing a helmet. They might only be going five kilometres per hour, but they can still flip over and be killed," said McCart.

The Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) was established by the Canadian Agricultural Surveillance Program (CAISP) in 1995 to find out how many people are hurt and how many people die each year due to farm accidents. The results of a 19-year study, which compiled statistics taken between 1990

and 2008, found that 1,975 Canadians died because of agricultural accidents during that time frame. That's an average of 104 people dying each year in what were determined to be largely preventable accidents. In about 70 per cent of cases, agricultural fatalities were related to farm machinery. Rollovers accounted for 46 per cent of these deaths.

Independent farmers accounted for nearly half of the deaths. Children were not exempt. Farm children accounted for 14 per cent of the death toll. "The most tragic event is losing someone. The repercussions are profound. A family that loses a child because he wasn't wearing a helmet can lose everything," said McCart.

An injury can have a similarly debilitating effect. A farmer who owns his own operation and who gets hurt on the job can't work. McCart said that this can put the entire venture at risk. It means you might lose your family farm and jobs might be lost.

"Something's got to change to make sure that things are being produced in a safer manner. This might mean paying more for your food to ensure that farmers are complying with safety standards. A farm is a good place to grow up, but it can be a dangerous place," said McCart.

The QFA scavenger hunt will take place on Friday, July 8, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and on Saturday, July 9, between noon and 3 p.m. The QFA will have an information kiosk at the fair all weekend. For a full schedule of events, visit www.expolachutefair.com.

Foreign investors take an interest in the Témiscamingue region

Martin Ménard

La Terre de chez nous

Chinese investors looking to buy 10,000 acres wound through the Témiscamingue region in a Mercedes, stopping to ask local farmers if they were selling. This sounds like something out of a Hollywood movie, but the scene was very real: according to reports from the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) local syndicate, four farmers have already signed agreements to sell close to 3,300 acres to Chinese buyers.

One of the farmers confirmed to *La Terre de chez nous* that he sold 950 acres to Chinese interests; the agreement will soon be notarized (see related article). The Chinese buyers plan to use the

land partly to farm grain, but mainly to farm alfalfa, which will be cubed and exported to China.

Michel Ten Have, a dairy and grain farmer from Lorrainville, says that on July 17, 2015, he was approached by two Asian men who stepped out of a black Mercedes. "The driver and an interpreter complimented me on my land," he says. "Their boss, who was in the car, wanted to know how much I was asking and what I farmed." Ten Have was polite but firm: "I'm not selling!" Nevertheless, according to Ten Have, several other farmers in the area have been approached.

A similar situation played out a bit further away, in Fugèreville, where the only difference was that the farmer approached, Peter Job, didn't say no.



According to Patrick Lafond, the government's lack of vision for farming, which deeply concerns him, is driving farmers to sell land to Chinese interests.

At least not yet. "Chinese investors came by," says Job. "One of them spoke French and English really well. They asked me if my farm was for sale.

I said, 'Maybe. It depends on the price.' They told me they'd come by again this spring to make me an offer." M.M.

LTCN 2016-02-03

"Selling my land to the Chinese is a plus"

Éric Dubuque just sold 950 acres to Chinese buyers. His decision has sent a shockwave through the region, but he agreed to share the details of the sale with *La Terre de chez nous*. "I first met them in the spring of last year. I had been trying to sell for two years, and they were interested in buying. But they didn't want the buildings. They came back again later to check out the land, take measurements, etc. Finally, in the fall, they came and offered me pretty much the price I had been asking, without negotiating much," says Dubuque, a former dairy farmer who

lives in the municipality of Moffet, in the Témiscamingue region.

The sale of almost 1,000 acres seems impressive, but Dubuque makes clear that only 160 acres are cultivated. "The rest is land that was cut over about ten years ago," he says. "The Chinese plan to clear it for farming."

Dubuque says his notary made sure the sale was legal under the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities. The Chinese export company, which has an office in Montreal, also provided proof of a bank account with sufficient funds. The sale

will soon be formalized by a notarial act. The Chinese buyers told Dubuque that they plan to buy between 10,000 and 20,000 acres.

"A benefit for the region"

The Témiscamingue region is big, but news travels fast. "I don't know why people are flying off the handle," Dubuque says. "The Chinese are buying farms, but they're not leaving with the land. They want to farm it. There is so much wild land here that if they can work the land and give farming a boost, that's a good thing. Personally, I think selling my land to the Chinese is a benefit for the region."

Dubuque, also the mayor of Moffet, believes that having the Chinese farm the land will increase land values, which will bring more tax income to his municipality.

He is, however, disappointed with the current situation in which the longevity of family farms is threatened. "Ideally, it would be families, not the Chinese, who would buy the farms and settle down here, but that's not what's happening. Today, on a small farm, you work for the love of it. It's not profitable. You need lots of land or lots of livestock to make a profit," he says.

However, according to Dubuque, in the Témiscamingue region, investing in farming to build your business is hard. "Banks say our region is risky for loans.



Éric Dubuque sold 950 acres to Chinese buyers. "There is so much wild land here that if they can work the land and give farming a boost, that's a good thing," he says.

For example, to drain one piece of land, I'd need to have three as collateral. How can you get ahead that way?"

Sylvain Vachon, president of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA), is imploring politicians to act fast. "The inaction has gone on long enough. We need to send the right signals and rebuild opportunities for farmers." M.M.

LTCN 2016-02-03

Our young people will want to know why

Farming is still fairly new to the Témiscamingue region, and some farmers can even recall previous generations of their families working to clear the land. As a result, the purchase by foreign investors hits a nerve for many. "Where will it stop? We'll be boxed in within our own country," says a farmer who wished to remain anonymous.

Many believe the new buyers will farm their land remotely, instead of settling in the area. Residents feel this could further devitalize the municipalities, where schools are already having

a hard time keeping their doors open.

There are also concerns about losing invaluable food sovereignty. "Foreigners are buying up a part of our food supply, and that will cut off our access," says Patrick Lafond, a dairy and field-crop farmer. "In the short term, things will be fine, but if we let the situation continue, in 30 years, our young people will be asking us why we gave up on our farmers." He continues, philosophically, "If we let this happen, it will be because people in Quebec weren't hungry or thirsty enough." M.M.



Shawville 4-H club adds hosting Provincial Rally to its busy schedule

Cora Dean

*Office and Communications Assistant
4-H Quebec*

Throughout the year, Shawville 4-H club demonstrates that it is made up of active youth engaged in their community. Member projects include beef heifers and steer, dairy, goats, poultry, rabbits and square dancing. Club demonstrations of show tricks helped members at last year's Provincial Rally, Cobden, Renfrew, Carp, Metcalf, and, of course, Shawville Fair, where members also took turns serving in the hamburger booth. Anyone encountering the fun, bright young people who make Shawville a successful 4-H club sees their dedication and aptitude for success.

Eleven-year-old Alex Mayhew says, "I really enjoy Shawville 4-H because we show animals. I really like the Shawville Fair, Rally, and being in parades with the club. I also enjoy seeing friends that I don't go to school with and who I have met through 4-H."

Throughout 2015, the club gave back to community by supporting the Dr. S. W. McDowell Spring Fair in May, where they square danced and ran a cow patty bingo, as well as assisting at the Mill Dam Revitalization Party. On Canada Day, the club entered a parade float and sold ice cream. Members participated in



4-H Shawville celebrates Canada Day with a float in 2015.

the Santa Claus Parade and dancers performed at the Farmers' Christmas Party.

An October outing to the Canadian Agriculture and Food Museum is remembered fondly by Kathleen Hickey: "To celebrate the success of another 4-H year, our club goes on an end-of-year trip. This past year, we set off to the experimental farm where we did a scavenger hunt throughout the cattle, horse and horticulture exhibits. We also went to Saunders Farm where our club got to tour the corn mazes, go on a haunted hay ride and enjoy the day off. Doing this with our club is a great bonding experience and a different way to learn about agriculture. I look forward to our end-of-year trip after our show season is over!"

In March 2016, members travelled to the Montérégie for Innovative Ag Tour, where they learned about new agricultural technologies and enjoyed honey and maple syrup. Shawville 4-H President Nicholas Tubman says, "The bus tour was very interesting this year. I was able to find out new ways of running some large operations and businesses, and also meet some new people."

Spring 2016 saw dancers compete at

Orms town and Vankleek events and perform at McDowell Spring Fair. Community service is important to Shawville 4-H club, which has also entertained at area senior homes. Club service extends beyond local communi-

Rally from July 21 to 24. Nicholas Tubman is looking forward to it: "I would have to say I think the best event that will be happening this year in 4-H will be that rally being held in my hometown. I am happy to be the president

Anyone encountering the fun, bright young people who make Shawville a successful 4-H club sees their dedication and aptitude for success.

ty, including recent assistance with care packages destined for Fort McMurray.

4-H members form strong bonds of friendship and learn from one another. Thomas Beck has fond memories of a past rally in Richmond: "As a young member I was kind of new to all the events and I didn't really know what to expect. I went with my calf, met new people and learned a thing or two from show day that really helped me later on in other shows, and it was a really good time."

Shawville 4-H club will welcome everyone to their community when they host the 2016 4-H Quebec Provincial

this year to take some responsibility for my club and help get stuff figured out and planned."

The event includes competitions in livestock, showmanship, life skills, public speaking and judging, as well as Farmers' Olympics and a banquet. This year's theme of "Hollywood" will make for a glamorous costume class and barn decorating. Meet the brilliant young 4-H members from Shawville who have worked hard and had fun serving their community throughout the year. Come to Provincial Rally and walk down the red carpet with 4-H!



Shawville wins first-place junior couple at the Vankleek Square Dance Competition in 2016.



QFA scholarship winner goes after her dream

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

Each year, the Quebec Farmers' Association awards scholarships to students enrolled in post-secondary agricultural education through the Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund—the association's very own charity established in the memory of long-time QFA president Warren Grapes.

Over the years, the Fund has supported dozens and dozens of young farmers get started in agriculture—through helping them pay off student debt and pursuing their studies. And it helps the legacy of Quebec's English-speaking agricultural heritage, both through celebrating the spirit of Warren Grapes himself and through encouraging agricultural education amongst rural Anglophones.

You can participate by donating to the Fund. The QFA will issue tax-deductible receipts for all donations of \$25 or more. Help out by making out your cheque to "Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund" and mailing it to the QFA at 555 Roland-Therrien, Office 255, Longueuil, QC, J4H 4E7

"What I really like about farming, and the reason why I chose to study in farming, is the quality of life."

— **Stephanie Bélanger-Naud**

Stephanie Bélanger-Naud was one of the winners of the Warren Grapes scholarships at the QFA's annual meeting and information day in 2012. At that time, she was in her second year of Macdonald Campus' Farm Management and Technology (FMT) program. Now she's moved on to another degree in Agricultural Economics, also at Mac.

If that wasn't enough of a busy schedule, this energetic young farmer has been working with La Chèvrerière de Monnoir in Marieville, about 30 kilometres east of Montreal.

"What I really like about farming, and the reason why I chose to study in farming, is the quality of life," says Bélanger-Naud. "I would never go back on my decision to study agriculture, since I wouldn't want



Stephanie Bélanger-Naud receives her Warren Grapes award from QFA President John McCart at the QFA's annual meeting at Macdonald Campus. At the time, Stephanie was in her second year of the FMT program.

to have to work for someone else. I prefer working for myself; doing something I like for myself is a lot better than working for someone else in exchange of some money. And I wouldn't want to be stuck working inside in an office either. I really love what I do!"

Bélanger-Naud hails from Brigham—a small town 25 kilometres south of Granby. Her parents have operated a dairy goat farm there for over 20 years, which Stephanie is a crucial part of, from milking to taking care of livestock.

"Waking up every morning and going to work manually, outside, breathing fresh air, this is what inspires me the most, adding to the fact that I love animals," Bélanger-Naud says. "I really like working with animals and taking care of them."

Her parents also ran a cheese factory called Fromagerie Le Chevre-Naud in Farnham, where they processed up to 1,000 litres per week, but the premises tragically burnt down in 2010 due to a faulty fridge. While getting that operation up-and-running is still a priority, Bélanger-Naud has lots of plans for the future.

"Part of pursuing my studies is to have a back-up plan from farming," says Bélanger-Naud. "I don't just want to farm, stay inside the barn and never

see anyone! With farming full time, you don't get as much free time to go out and see friends. A big part of taking Agricultural Economics was because it sets me up to, say, work as an agromone part time."

For this young farmer, keeping her options open is part and parcel of

navigating everything the agricultural world has to offer. Stephanie Bélanger-Naud is very much interested in keeping her career in farming, and the QFA, along with its members and groups who donate to the Warren Grapes Fund, has helped along the way.



Today, Stephanie helps with the herd of over 60 dairy goats on her parents' operation in Brigham, QC.

JAMIE ROSEN

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE BELANGER-NAUD

Separating sense from nonsense



Dr. Joe Schwarcz
Scientist and author

There's coprolites in them thar hills

Editorial note: 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 has begun publishing extracts from scientist and educator Dr. Joe Schwarcz. We hope you enjoy this thought-provoking read.

You've undoubtedly heard of the California gold rush that started in 1848. But any mention of the "coprolite rush" in southern England that took place around the same time is likely to draw blank stares.

first professor of geology and mineralogy at the University of Oxford. Buckland had identified some mysterious stones he discovered on a geological excursion as fossilized animal droppings. Before long it became clear that this was not an isolated

the empty spaces within a buried organism fill with water rich in minerals that then combine with the organism's natural chemicals to form a solid deposit. In the case of coprolites, that deposit is calcium phosphate. And that is one important chemical. Indeed, when it comes to feeding the world, it is essential!

Phosphorus is a vital element for all living organisms. It is a component of biomolecules such as DNA, the classic "blueprint" for life, as well as of ATP, the molecule that transports chemical energy in cells. Where does all the phosphorus we need come from? Basically, from plants that we either eat directly or indirectly through meat. And where do plants get their phosphorus? From the soil.

The connection between the composition of soil and a plant's nutrient needs was first formulated in a systematic fashion by the noted German chemist Justus von Liebig early in the nineteenth century. Liebig was concerned that farm production could not keep pace with the growth of the population unless crop yields could be increased.

In his classic 1840 work entitled *Organic Chemistry and Its Applications to Agriculture and Physiology*, Liebig provided a formula for the combination of minerals he believed should be added to soil to replenish its nutrients, emphasizing the importance of "rock phosphate," a naturally occurring form of calcium phosphate. This was really the beginning of what might be called scientific farming, a concept that appealed to John Bennet Lawes, a Hertfordshire landowner who decided to test Liebig's theory.

Even before he heard of Liebig's work, Lawes was aware of the possibility of fortifying the soil with calcium phosphate. He knew that some time in the early 1800s, farmers had discovered that waste bone shavings dumped by Sheffield knife manufacturers made the soil more fertile. Lawes knew that bones were essentially a source of calcium phosphate, so this meshed with Liebig's theory of fertilization. But when he tested "rock phosphate," he found it to be relatively insoluble, making the absorption of phosphorus by a plant's roots inefficient. He wondered whether the solubility of calcium phosphate could somehow be increased and eventually discovered that treating



In 1840, German chemist Justus von Liebig provided a formula for the combination of minerals he believed should be added to soil to replenish its nutrients.

the bones with sulfuric acid did exactly that. "Super phosphate of lime," as the novel substance was christened, turned out to be amazing, making Lawes's turnips grow at an unprecedented rate!

The boon and the coprolite industry itself skittered to a halt at the end of the century as Europe became flooded with cheap fertilizer made from phosphate deposits that had been discovered in America. Today, there is concern that these deposits will soon run out and that the world will face a fertilizer crisis.

Since humans excrete a lot of phosphorus, there are major efforts being made to recover phosphorus compounds through sewage treatment. Under the right conditions, magnesium ammonium phosphate, or struvite, an effective fertilizer, can be extracted from waste water. Struvite may be this century's coprolite!

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. Excerpted from *Monkeys, Myths, and Molecules* © 2015 by Dr. Joe Schwarcz. All rights reserved. Published by ECW Press Ltd. www.ecwpress.com ISBN: 9781770411913 The book can be ordered by sending a check for \$22 to the following address: Joe Schwarcz PhD, Director, McGill University Office for Science and Society, 801 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC, Canada. H3A 0B8. 514-398-6238

"Liebig was concerned that farm production could not keep pace with the growth of the population unless crop yields could be increased."

So, what are coprolites? The term, from the Greek "kopros" for "dung," and "lithos," for "stone," was coined in 1829 by the Reverend William Buckland,

find: the land was full of thick seams of the fossilized remains of animals that had succumbed to a major rise in sea level millennia earlier. Fossilization occurs when

CREDIT FOR UPA DUES FOR MULTIPLE-OWNER FARMS WITH GROSS REVENUES OF \$20,000 or less

To be eligible for the program applicants:

- Must be agricultural producer registered as double-dues paying farm for the current year (2016), (\$662);
- Must be in compliance with the regulation concerning dues, having paid all UPA dues, including the current year;
- Must show that gross farm revenues for the year 2015 were less than \$20,000;
- Must complete the appropriate forms and send them to the UPA before **October 31, 2016**;
- For **new producers**, we invite you to visit the UPA website (www.upa.qc.ca/fr/programme-credit-de-cotisation-nouveaux-producteurs), some conditions apply.

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

Find out more!
This credit could be for you!

If you meet all the criteria, you may be able to obtain a credit of a single due fees. Please obtain the necessary form from your regional federation or from the UPA website (www.upa.qc.ca/fr/programme-credit-de-cotisation) or by calling 450 679-0540, extension 8213.



Land stewardship and farm records go hand in hand

Phil Lavoie, agr.
Club Argenteuil Agri-Environmental

As I write this article, we are in the peak time for herbicide applications in the Laurentians. Many times over I will collect information on the fields that I visit in order to provide producers with a recommendation for optimum control. This task is at times difficult as farm records are not always accurate, and sometimes they depend on our memories alone. Add to this the constant pressure on agriculture from the market to reduce herbicides or insecticides, and it becomes difficult to demonstrate that our farms are committed to upholding the highest levels of stewardship. This is not only seen in the use of herbicides and pesticides but also in the area of animal welfare and environmental issues such as water and air quality.

So what are we to do?

The use of accurate farm records goes a long way to providing the undeniable proof that you are excellent stewards of the land. Your records allow you to document your actions and the results of these actions. The records can then be used not only as proof of stewardship, but, most importantly, as a management tool to assist us in making precise changes to your operations that will improve your performance and reduce your costs. How is this possible?

Let us use a field example to demonstrate the advantages. In a recent visit to a soybean field for an issue with red clover coming on strong, I was asked to evaluate the situation and recommend the next steps. In this case, I collected information on what has been done to date (see table).

Looking at the responses to these questions gives us some important information. We know what has been used to date and we know the dose. However,



A soybean field with red clover coming on strong has to be addressed with accurate information.

not knowing the actual date can be troublesome, as roundup can take up to 14 days to react in cool weather. This might mean that there is still time to see the red clover get knocked back. Not knowing for sure what crops are to come limits the options to obtain a clean field. The uncertain seeding date makes it hard to know when the crop will be at a certain stage of growth. This stage of growth may be used to determine the correct time to apply an herbicide for maximum control. The uncertainty as to what weed species are a problem in the field makes

it difficult to ensure maximum control. The resulting recommendation was yet another application of roundup at a large rate. With a little good luck it will take the red clover down.

If we had had accurate records, we would have removed the uncertainty in the evaluation process. This might have prevented a second application of roundup, thus reducing costs. As the consultant, I spent more time in my analysis of the situation to recommend a strategy. Again, good records would have reduced my time and the farm's cost.

Crop records compiled regularly and accurately demonstrate our commitment to stewardship and provide a means for better planning in the future. This example is now being recorded and will allow for a better plan of action to be developed for the next season so that situations like this do not reoccur.

So, what can you do? You can do your very best to record your actions and observations to better manage your farming operations, and your continued excellence in farm stewardship will be just one of the positive results!

Should you need additional information, do not hesitate to call your local soil club or me. We are here to assist you in your efforts.

Phil Lavoie is the agronome who works for the Club Argenteuil, a non-profit organization founded in 1998 by a core group of 60 Anglophone producers that offers clients neutral advisory services specializing in environmental regulations, sustainable agricultural principles and the cow-calf sector. To contact Phil, call: 450-562-8574 (ext. 229).

THE COLLECTED INFORMATION IS :	
Question	Response
Herbicides used to date, application rate and date of application?	Roundup (540) full dose about 2 or 3 weeks ago
Seeding date?	Did not know the exact date
Cultivar of soybean?	Roundup ready beans
How was the soil worked?	No-till
Crop rotation history and next year?	Winter wheat the year before, corn or maybe cabbage or Brussels sprouts
Soil pH and organic matter level?	Could not find the analysis but believed it was good
Problem weeds in the field?	Not sure of all weeds present. Dandelion and grasses

Grains

Income security: Grain farmers opt for Agri programs



61 per cent of soy producers and 55 per cent of corn producers indicated a preference for the Agri programs.

The results are in: this spring's province-wide consultation with 6,610 grain farmers who fall under the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (ASRA) saw both corn and soy growers elect to leave ASRA in order to access the risk self-management programs Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus. The decision comes with many ramifications and must be ratified in July by the board of directors of the Financière agricole du Québec, which has the final say on the matter.

Over 4,600 ballots were counted. Nevertheless, it was a close race: 61 per cent of soy producers and 55 per cent of corn producers indicated a preference for the Agri programs.

In total, over 2,600 grain farmers participated in the consultation, with a turnout of 41 per cent.

The Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) maintains its position that grain producers must be able to fall back on both an income security program based on the true costs of production and an investment program, with no consolidation.

SRDI project: By and for Quebec grain farmers

Delegates representing Quebec's 11,000 grain farmers came together for their Annual General Meeting last spring, where they voted in favour of creating a new financial incentive, based on a supplementary contribution of \$0.50/tonne. The incentive is designed to encourage participation in the information collection and dissemination system (SRDI), thereby encouraging the optimization of grain production and marketing conditions in the province.

The entirety of the money received as part of the new project will be distributed among SRDI participants; producers who send their information in accordance with the terms of the regulations governing the transmission of information will receive an amount that matches the supplementary contribution—and potentially more because all surplus accumulated in the special fund will be distributed annually among producers who have followed the terms of the regulations for over 60 per cent of their marketed volume.

As with all regulatory tools, the proposal was submitted to the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec (RMAAQ) for approval, and a decision is expected in the coming months. If the RMAAQ supports the project, the implementation of the financial incentive will take place shortly thereafter.

For any question on this matter, don't hesitate to contact the SRDI team at 450-679-0540, ext. 8300.

The USDA June report



For next year, the export estimates for corn and soybeans are up.

USDA's June report was, as expected, bullish for soybeans and, to a lesser extent, corn. But it did not contain any major surprises and the market was a bit disappointed.

The US corn supply-and-demand situation shows exports up 100 million bushels (MBU) in 2015-16, reaching 1.825 billion bushels (BBU). Stocks in 2016 are down 95 MBU at 1.708 BBU. For next year, the export estimate is up 50 MBU at 1.95 BBU, and stocks are down 145 MBU at 2 BBU. The midpoint farm price forecast is up 10 ¢ this year at \$3.70/bu and up 15 ¢ next year at \$3.50/bu. For soybeans, exports are up 20 MBU this year at 1.76 BBU, and stocks are down 30 MBU at 370 MBU. In 2016-17, exports are up 15 MBU at 1.9 BBU and stocks are down 45 MBU at 260 MBU. The midpoint farm price forecast is up 20 ¢ this year at \$9.05/bu and up 40 ¢ next year at \$9.50/bu.

Overseas, production estimates were lowered for Brazil, both for soybeans at 97 million tons (MT), down 2 MT, and for corn at 77.5 MT, down 3.5 MT.

As for wheat, the outlook is even more bearish than last month. US production is up 79 MBU at 2.077 BBU and the world crop is up 3.8 MT. Feed wheat usage will rise in 2016-17 as wheat will compete with corn for animal feeding.



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.

RMAAQ renders decision: 5,000,000 more taps for maple syrup producers

One June 8, after 14 months of pushing and waiting, the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ) received the decision from the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec (RMAAQ) concerning its request for more quota to be issued. As of 2017, up to 5 million taps may be added to the 43 million already in place. The request was approved almost in its entirety. This year, the FPAQ will be able to decide how to issue the new quota, depending on the needs of local and international markets.

FPAQ President Serge Beaulieu spoke to us about this significant development: "This decision will have a tremendous impact throughout Quebec's maple syrup industry. To begin with, it will generate a minimum of \$100 million in investment across Quebec's syrup-producing regions. Equipment manufacturers and regional workers will definitely be the first to benefit. Also, once the new taps are in production, they will bolster Quebec's position as a maple syrup leader by increasing its global market share. In the long run, hundreds of businesses will grow, and new ones will even be created, which will help create wealth and prosperity in the regions and increase GDP by up to \$70 million, year after year."

To encourage new producers to get into the game, 40,000 taps will be reserved for young entrepreneurs, with 1,339,200 set aside for start-ups. The remaining 3,620,800 taps will go to producers who already have quota and wish to expand their operations.


The young entrepreneur component will be renewed annually; 40,000 new taps will be issued to producers aged 18 to 39 years on a recurrent basis. Young entrepreneurs will be able to participate in this component only once. The deadline to apply is July 15, 2016. This date will be June 15 in subsequent years.

This year, young entrepreneurs who do not receive quota will automatically be transferred to the start-up or expansion components, as their circumstances dictate. It is now possible for producers to start a business by renting privately owned land (for example, land owned by Domtar) on the condition that they hold a notarized rental lease that is registered for a minimum period of 15 years. The deadline to apply for these projects is August 15.

New producers have until September 15 to apply for the start-up component. Deadlines have been selected based on the time needed to plant new maple trees. It takes between one and two years for a new maple tree to establish and six months to undergo expansion—by issuing taps more quickly, we can allow the greatest possible number of businesses to produce maple syrup starting in 2017.

Information guides and application forms are already available on the FPAQ website. You can also read the decision

The mission of the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ) is to defend and promote the economic, social and moral interests of the province's 7,300 maple syrup businesses, as well as to put forth initiatives to collectively market their products.



Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec

fpaq.ca – @AcericoleQc



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FOR WHO?

Young entrepreneurs (under age 40)

Startups (new maple syrup producers without a quota)

Expansions (maple syrup producers that already have a quota)

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Young entrepreneurs – **July 15, 2016**

Startups – **August 15, 2016**

Expansions – **September 15, 2016**

INTERESTED? GOT QUESTIONS?

Attend one of the four information sessions:

July 11, 2016 – 7:30 pm
Joliette, Hôtel Château Joliette, 450, rue Saint-Thomas

July 13, 2016 – 7:30 pm
Sherbrooke, Hôtel Le Président, 3535, rue King Ouest

July 19, 2016 – 7:30 pm
Sainte-Marie, Centre Castel 905, route Saint-Martin

July 20, 2016 – 7:30 pm
Rivière-du-Loup, Hôtel Universel, 311, boul. de l'Hôtel-de-ville Ouest



Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec

180320



Climate of change



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

The first duty of a steward must certainly be to do no harm. So, alongside all the other items on the to-do list for farm producers intent on being the best possible stewards of the land, here's an urgent item for the to-stop list.

It's time for animal agriculture to drastically reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock. The change is actually long enough overdue that, even if producers don't get ready for it, it seems pretty certain to happen, ready or not.

Antibiotic resistance (also known as multi-drug resistance, or microbial resistance) is a crisis that has been intensifying since the mid-1990s, pitting the research acumen of multinational drug companies against the evolutionary grit of deadly, microscopic organisms.

It's fascinating, astonishing and terrifying that the bugs are winning hands down.

Late last month, the CBC carried the news that a 49-year-old woman in Ottawa had shown resistance to colistin, the latest in a series of last-ditch antibiotics developed in a multi-billion-dollar effort to outrun (very) simple evolution. The patient caught a break. Her infection responded to older drugs. But the case was a wake-up call that reached all the way to the G7 meeting in Japan that week.

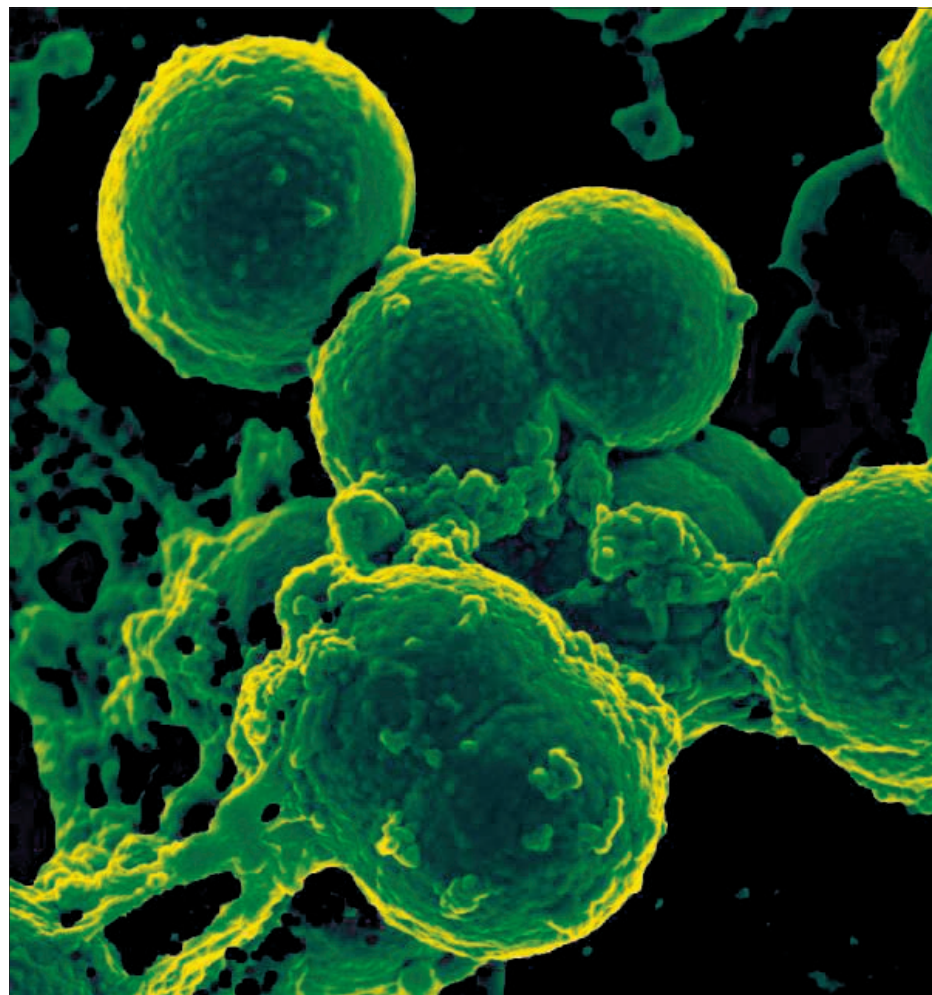
"In too many cases antibiotics have stopped working," said British Prime Minister David Cameron, who called on companies to curb misuse of antibiotics and boost incentives for new drug development.

Survivor: Bacteria island

The best explanation of antibiotic resistance is that, in evolutionary terms, bacteria are small, fast and nimble. They reproduce in hours or minutes, and in a scenario that would make Charles Darwin proud, the strongest get to pass on their genes. Which means that, if a new antibiotic wipes out 99 per cent, 99.9 per cent, or 99.999999 per cent of the bugs in an infection, it's just a matter of time before the survivors assert themselves (well, about as assertively as bacteria can assert) and defeat the new drug.

That's why the lifespan of new antibiotics is shortening, even as the

Stewardship means curtailing antibiotics in animal feed



Antibiotic resistance is a crisis that has been intensifying since the mid-1990s.

drugs get more expensive. When I first began learning about antibiotic resistance in the mid-1990s, Dr. Stuart B. Levy of Tufts University had just published the first edition of his exposé, *The Antibiotic Paradox*, and infectious disease specialists were urging cautious use of the great, new, last-chance drug, vancomycin.

Two decades later, we've largely burned through vancomycin and cipro, and now we're seeing resistance to colistin. That's why the World Health Organization and national authorities are alarmed. Less than a century after penicillin was first used to treat civilians, our generation faces the serious risk that antibiotics will be ineffective for anything from routine conditions to preventing post-surgery infections.

The agriculture connection

Despite doctors' warnings and best efforts, the root of the problem is that humanity is overusing antibiotics. And nowhere is that overuse more obvious than in agriculture.

In 2013, "about 1.4 times more anti-microbials were distributed for use in

animals than in humans in Canada," the CBC reported in May, quoting the Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Report. And the drugs are often used to promote optimal growth, not even to fight disease.



The drugs are often used to promote optimal growth, not even to fight disease.

In May, citing a report in the journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, the national broadcaster cited superbug samples going back five years as "a wake-up call to stop adding antibiotics to animal feed and to boost surveillance."

It really is as simple as this: Overuse and misuse of antibiotics has to stop. The science of drug resistance will mean operating differently, or stewarding differently, for almost anyone involved in animal agriculture. And it doesn't mean farm producers are being victimized or singled out. If you ever expect to need an antibiotic for yourself or a loved one—and if you want that antibiotic to work—this is a crisis that has to go to the top of your to-stop list.

In fact, when you consider the cuts, scrapes, and minor abrasions that farmers and their employees receive on the job—injuries that could have led to fatal infections before penicillin and its various successors came on the scene—you might even make the case that agriculture benefits disproportionately from curtailing antibiotic misuse.

If the change increases costs, there's a conversation to be had about how producers can be compensated. But whatever the final bill, the costs of not taking action on antibiotic resistance will be catastrophically higher.

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.

Get off to a good start with the right floor

Gervais Bisson

Dairy Production Expert – Milking Robots, agr.

Steve Adam

Dairy Production Expert – Animal Comfort, Behaviour and Well-Being, Valacta, agr.

Once the dream of moving from a tie-stall facility to free-stall housing has become a reality, there are a number of decisions that need to be made. Here are a few factors to consider when choosing the type of floor your cows will be walking on.

Concrete surface

If concrete is the floor surface of choice, it is important to ensure that it is neither too rough nor completely smooth. Textured concrete can be too abrasive (Figure 1) while smooth concrete can be slippery. During the first few days in a new barn, cows are generally more agitated, and power struggles occur to establish the social standing of each cow. Increased walking on a rough surface can affect hoof health and cause lameness in the first weeks following the start of robotic milking.

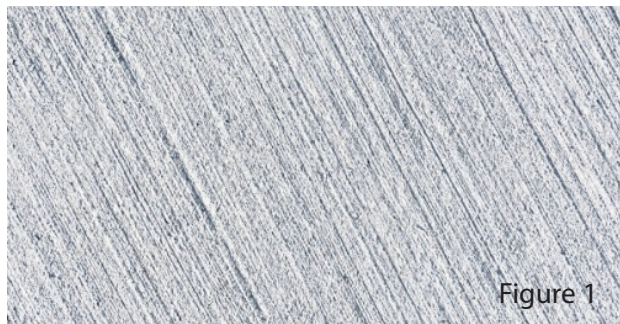


Figure 1

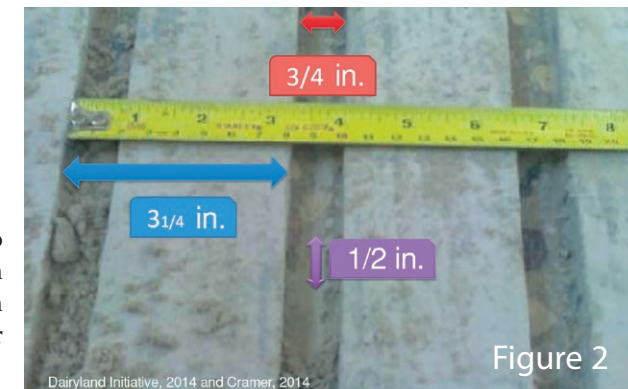


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

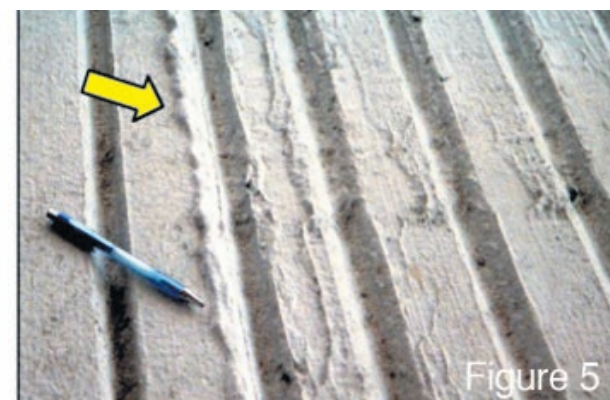


Figure 5

edges that could damage the animals' soles. Different techniques can be used to level the floor surface and eliminate any unevenness that could cause hoof damage; for example, you can use a tractor with weight on the shovel or concrete blocks dragged over the surface with an ATV or tractor. The new surface is ready for the animals' arrival when walking on it barefoot causes no pain.

What about grooves?

Grooving provides increased traction for cows as they move around. Ideally, all the alleys should be grooved; feed alleys and alleys between the rows of free stalls should be grooved in at least one direction, and right-angle passages should be grooved in both directions.

Dairyland Initiative makes the following recommendations:

- Longitudinal grooving: 3/4 inch width and 1/2 inch depth, with 3 1/4 inch spacing in the centre (Figure 2).
- Two-way grooving: the diamond pattern is popular (Figure 3). An Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) document (House, 2015) recommends grooves measuring 1/2 inch wide and 1/2 inch deep, with 4 inches and 6 inches of spacing in the centre. The area between the grooves must be flat.

Forms can be used to groove concrete floors as they cure. Although less costly, this method is riskier and requires some skill, since the optimal period for the operation is relatively short. If the concrete is too wet, some sliding may occur, partly filling in the grooves and making the floor surface uneven (Figure 4). On the other hand, if the concrete is too dry (Figure 5), ridges will form on the edges of the grooves, making the surface more abrasive and the floor no longer flat.

The new surface should be inspected carefully before the herd is transferred to ensure that there are no sharp

Does the concrete surface need to be treated before the animals arrive?

The pH of fresh concrete is extremely alkaline, which may irritate the cows' claw horns and skin. A 28-day curing period is thus recommended, after which the entire concrete surface should be cleaned with a power washer before moving the animals into the facility. If the animals must be moved into the new barn sooner, the concrete must be allowed to cure for at least seven days and then be cleaned with an acidic solution to neutralize its alkalinity. Check with the builder to see what type of solution is recommended.

Rubber surface

Although some studies show that there is little difference in production or animal behaviour whether the feed alleys are grooved or covered with rubber flooring, there is increasing evidence that rubber flooring presents some advantages in preventing lameness. The focus should be on areas where cows are standing and stationary: feed alleys, right-angle passages with water bowls, and in front of the robotic milker (if possible).

Here are some other points to consider with regard to rubber flooring in alleys:

- If the stalls are uncomfortable, some cows may prefer to lie down on the rubber flooring in the alley, which is likely to increase the somatic cell count.

- A recent Canadian study (Solano, 2016) showed that rest time was 29 minutes shorter in herds that used rubber flooring in the alleys as opposed to bare concrete. Note that the percentage of herds that had comfortable stall surfaces was low in this study, which confirms the need for a comfortable resting surface in the free stalls when using rubber flooring in alleys.
- If only half of the feed alley is covered with rubber flooring (near the feed bunk) and the other half is grooved concrete, dominant cows will favour the rubber surface and disturb other cows that are feeding. It is therefore preferable to cover the entire width of the alley with rubber flooring.
- Some types of rubber flooring can become slippery when wet. Discuss this with your supplier before purchasing flooring.

A clean surface

How manure is managed has a significant impact on foot health. The scraper must be adjusted properly to ensure the alleys are kept as clean as possible. Scraping should be done regularly, eight times per day. In very long buildings, this means scraping is practically a continuous process. Scraping more often means it is less likely for the manure to flow over the scraper as it is pushed forward.

As a rule, the manure should not touch the cow's dewclaw and, ideally, should not touch the coronary band. By keeping the floor as dry as possible and removing manure frequently, your cows are less likely to suffer from infectious lesions, such as digital dermatitis.

Get off to a good start

With healthy feet and a suitable floor surface, you increase your chances of a successful transfer to the new free-stall barn.

Macdonald

Reports



Long-time Mac staffer retires

It is with regret that we announce the retirement of Serge Lussier from the Farm Management and Technology (FMT) Program after a close to 45-year relationship with Macdonald College.



FMT Director Peter Enright (at right) presenting Serge at the Macdonald Staff Relations Reception held in late May.

Kathy MacLean
Faculty Planning & Communications
Macdonald Campus

Serge, like many, both studied and worked at Macdonald. He completed his BSc (Agr) in 1974, and started to work as a senior technician in the Agronomy department. He became the superintendent of the Emile Lods Agronomy Research Centre; in 1980, he moved on to the Diploma Program, where he served until his retirement.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Serge served as associate director under several different directors, and was part of the team that oversaw the transition from the Diploma Program to what is now the Farm Management and Technology Program. He is a person of loyalty and devotion and has played an enormous supportive role to each program director.

Never a person to take the limelight or the credit, Serge played his role behind the scenes. Over 200 Diploma/FMT students owe their success to Serge. Some might never have completed the program had it not been for the deep personal interest he took in every single student. He was a mentor, confidant and perhaps

even a father figure to them. Serge went beyond the boundaries of the campus to represent Macdonald. He was deeply involved in the agricultural community and an active member of the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec (OAQ), ensuring that Mac had a voice at the OAQ table. He also supported Macdonald's interests in rural communities through his presence at various agricultural fairs.

Some might never have completed the program had it not been for the deep personal interest he took in every single student.

What makes Serge stand out is his quiet and unassuming manner and his tireless devotion to all things Macdonald. Outside Macdonald, Serge is devoted to his family, children and grandchildren. He is a kind, considerate, gentle person who is well-liked by all who know him. We take this opportunity to thank Serge for his service to Macdonald, and wish him all the best in his retirement. And we look forward to seeing him at future events!

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In addition, the Salon de l'Agriculture will graciously give participants 1 ticket for admission to Expo-Champs to be held on August 30, 31st and September 1st, 2016.

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Macdonald

Reports



FMT students at Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

Caitlin MacDougall

Liaison Officer, Farm Management and Technology Program, Macdonald Campus

Four third-year Farm Management and Technology (FMT) students travelled to Syracuse, NY, to represent McGill at the 2016 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge this past April 7 to 9. Participants were: Matthew Burns (Cookshire, QC), Thomas Kuipers (Martintown, ON), Sébastien Latraverse (Montreal, QC) and Lucas Senn (St-Bernardin, ON). Their coach was FMT faculty lecturer Christian Molgat.

Thirty-two university and college teams from across the United States and Canada competed for top honours for their analysis of one of four different area farms and their presentation of recommendations to improve the management of the farm operation. Most competitors are degree students specializing in dairy science, and the competition is very tough, with prestigious universities such as Cornell, Penn State and the University of Wisconsin-Madison present.

At the assigned farm, owners, herd managers, nutritionists, veterinarians and other industry experts are on hand to answer questions. Students also have access to considerable data to look for strengths and weaknesses in the management of the farm.

Our students prepared for the event by participating in the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge last October in Pennsylvania. Because the market and conditions around dairy production in the US are very different from Canada, with its supply-management system, students need to be able to adapt and view the enterprises from a different business angle, with different constraints and concerns.

The best part for Thomas Kuipers was "visiting the farms and learning how they manage their businesses. Each farm that we visit has the same end goal of milking cows; however, every farm has a completely different way of achieving that...even though the scale of their operations is much larger, I can still take away a lot from the experience."

For Lucas Senn, it was the "chance to



The FMT Team: Lucas Senn, Sébastien Latraverse, Christian Molgat, Matthew Burns and Thomas Kuipers.

visit some very innovative dairy farms that are finding new and uncommon ways of diversifying to ensure they can survive the fluctuating milk price."

everyone might have different approaches to problem solving, none of these solutions is necessarily wrong; you just have to be able to justify your position.

tants and industry people." He added that "the advantages [of the quota system in Canada] compared to our friends south of the border jumps

"The advantages [of the quota system in Canada] compared to our friends south of the border jumps out at you, once you compare both systems!" — Christian Molgat

Kuipers also "learned how to better analyze a farming operation. I learned that communicating with the farmer is the best way to see what is going on in the herd because numbers on a piece of paper can only say so much."

For Senn, the takeaways were that "there are always different approaches to the same issue and it has given me a lot of insight on how the dairy industry functions differently than our system." Matthew Burns agreed, saying that while

The opportunity to network with peers was a highlight. Matthew Burns thought that it was "really impressive to be in a room with a couple hundred young people who are all passionate about dairy farming. There is definitely a competitive atmosphere, but everyone also has a huge sense of belonging and of all being part of one future."

Coach Molgat expressed that he learned the "importance of being surrounded by good, dedicated consul-

out at you, once you compare both systems!"

The team would like to thank MacEwen Agricentre in Maxville, ON, for their sponsorship and valuable advice.

All four students graduated in the spring convocation ceremony held on June 3. Matthew Burns and Thomas Kuipers were on the Dean's Honour List and Sébastien Latraverse and Lucas Senn graduated with Distinction.

Consumers views

Is going dairy-free nutritionally safe?

Dairy-free products have been gaining popularity and more dairy alternatives are becoming available in the marketplace.

Kayla Hultquist
hultquist@whminer.com

The market for dairy-free products was originally targeted at consumers who were lactose intolerant or had a milk allergy but this has shifted to include consumers who are concerned about animal rights and the environmental impact of animal agriculture. While these are valid concerns that producers strive to improve upon on a daily basis, dairy products are an important part of "MyPlate" as the USDA recommends daily consumption of 2 cups of dairy for children 2-3 years of age, 2 ½ cups for children 4-8 years of age, and 3 cups for everyone else. Removing dairy products from the diet may be more harmful than some consumers expect.

Some common alternatives to drinking cow's milk include soy, almond, rice, coconut, and hemp milk, all of which have been said to have a smaller carbon footprint. These products may have a smaller total carbon footprint but on a nutrient basis they actually have a larger one. For example, the "Nutrient Density to Climate Impact" index (calculated by dividing the nutrient density by greenhouse gas emissions) is much higher for cow's milk at 0.54 compared to soy milk at 0.25. This means that cow's milk provides more nutrients per unit of greenhouse gas emission.

While animal agriculture continues to have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions, great progress has been made to reduce these emissions and to become more efficient. The carbon footprint per pound of milk was reduced by 2/3 from 1944 to 2007, with continued further advancements.

A critical question that consumers should ask before consuming dairy-free products is "Am I actually getting the nutrients I need from these dairy alternatives?" Cow's milk is naturally rich in protein, calcium, potassium, phosphorus, riboflavin, and vitamin B12. Cow's milk is usually fortified with vitamin D, which aids in calcium and vitamin A



A critical question that consumers should ask before consuming dairy-free products is "Am I actually getting the nutrients I need from these dairy alternatives?"

absorption. Dairy alternatives are lacking in key nutrients when compared to cow's milk, and are often fortified with these nutrients to make them more similar to cow's milk.

- Soy milk – The most similar to cow's milk as it contains a large amount of protein (8 to 10 grams per serving) and has been fortified with calcium, vitamin A, vitamin D, and riboflavin. Although soy milk has been fortified with calcium, *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* reported that the cal-

watery, which makes it less than ideal for cooking.

- Coconut milk – Similar in texture to cow's milk as it is high in fat (about 5 grams saturated fat per serving) but lacking in protein. It's fortified with vitamin A, vitamin B12, vitamin D, and calcium and is also free of soy and gluten.

- Hemp milk – Another dairy alternative for consumers with allergies to soy, nuts, and gluten. Hemp milk contains a high amount of protein, vitamin A,

due to insufficient quantities of lactase production, which breaks down lactose. Fortunately there are lactose-free dairy products where the lactose has already been broken down by adding lactase, but nutritionally the milk compares to regular cow's milk. In addition, these people can also take lactase tablets before consuming dairy products to help aid them in breaking down the lactose. Consumers with a milk allergy could benefit from the various types of dairy-free products as they are unable to consume cow's milk.

If done properly, consumers can choose to go dairy-free and find other products that will provide them with the nutrients they are lacking with a dairy-free diet, but people need to be informed on the nutrient profiles of dairy alternatives and that dairy alternatives are actually producing more greenhouse gases on a per unit of nutrient basis.

People need to be informed on the nutrient profiles of dairy alternatives and that dairy alternatives are actually producing more greenhouse gases on a per unit of nutrient basis.

cium in cow's milk is absorbed 25 per cent better than the calcium in soy milk.

- Almond milk – Also fortified with nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, and vitamin E but contains a very small amount of protein, about 1 gram per serving compared to the 8 grams found in cow's milk.

- Rice milk – Very hypoallergenic as it is free of soy, gluten, and nuts and is fortified with vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin B12, and calcium. Rice milk is also low in protein and is thin and

vitamin E, vitamin B12, and folic acid but unless fortified is low in calcium.

Nutrient profiles of various dairy alternatives may differ as each product is fortified with varying levels of nutrients, so consumers should check the nutrition facts before purchasing the product.

Some people may ask, "What about consumers who are lactose intolerant or have a milk allergy?" Consumers that are lactose intolerant are unable to digest the lactose (sugar) in cow's milk

This text comes from the April 2016 Farm Report published by The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute.



The humble yet mighty pulse

Cynthia Gunn
QFA's Food Writer

Perhaps you knew, being farmers, but I didn't. Canadian growers make up 35 per cent of the global production of pulse, those edible seeds harvested from the pod of annual leguminous plants (in other words, lentils, chickpeas, dried beans and peas).

Could this possibly be true? What about...India, where they eat a lot of pulses? Let's be honest, I don't see a lot of pulses on the average Canadian's dinner plate. It looks as if most of them are exported.

The industry has grown in recent decades in leaps and bounds, and according to Statistics Canada, this is largely due to the development of new varieties. Statistics Canada notes that the "majority of pulse variety registrations in Canada have been developed in public breeding programs, funded through private-public-producer check offs in exchange for royalty-free access to the new varieties developed. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and both the University of Saskatchewan (the Crop Development Centre) and the University of Guelph developed the majority of new pulse varieties."

The United Nations (UN) declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses (IYP). Much is being made of this, and the year began with fancy galas in Toronto and elsewhere to kick-off the yearlong promotion and highlight this humble but mighty group of seeds.

As part of the IYP initiative, four main themes are being promoted, including productivity and environmental sustainability. As land stewards, you are likely aware that they are an important component of crop rotations, they require less fertilizer than other crops, and they are a low carbon source of protein. "Ensuring farmers and consumers understand the sustainability benefit of pulses is a key element to the year," states the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, a key player in the industry. OK, so now we know. What are we going to do about it?

Let's face it, 99 per cent of us are not going to stuff navy beans into crabcakes or make lentil crepes (sorry for even mentioning such a thing in Quebec), which they reportedly did at the Year of the Pulse gala event in Toronto. What the bulk of us can do is eat them a little more often, prepared in a simpler, more traditional way. In my student days, a travelling friend kept me from near starvation and malnutrition by teaching me one simple lentil dish called dahl that, in various permutations, became a staple dinner for years.

Because, did I mention how very inexpensive pulses are, especially if you buy a big dried bag of them with an almost infinite shelf life?

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.

Chickpea Salad



Ingredients

- ½ lb dry chickpeas (about 2 cups)
- 1 TBSP flour
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2-4 TBSP olive oil
- 1-2 cloves crushed garlic
- 1 TBSP red or white wine vinegar
- 1 TBSP lemon juice
- ¼ cup or more chopped parsley

Preparation

Place chickpeas in a bowl and cover with at least one inch of cold water, as they will absorb a lot of liquid. Stir in flour and let soak overnight. The next day, put peas and remaining liquid in a pot and stir in baking soda. Simmer for one hour, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface. Strain. Rinse pot and bring 2 litres of fresh water to a boil. Add salt and chickpeas. Simmer another 1-1 ½ hours, or until very tender. Strain the chickpeas, put in a bowl, and stir in rest of ingredients while they are still hot. The salad will keep in the fridge for up to 4 or 5 days. It is best, however, served at room temperature, so if possible remove from the fridge at least an hour before serving. This is a great salad served alongside barbecued meats, rice and a green salad.

Recipe adapted from Elizabeth David, Vogue, January 1960.

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HEALTH INSURANCE – There is strength in numbers and the QFA has negotiated a competitively priced comprehensive group insurance plan for its members. Call the plan administrator toll free for further information: 1-800-268-6195

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

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

10% DISCOUNT ON MARK'S WORK WEARHOUSE SELECT ITEMS – The discount card is sent with your welcome pack on receipt of your membership payment. Items eligible for discount include:- Dakota work shirts and pants, coveralls, overalls and coats; All Carhartt merchandise; DH Merchandise – jeans, shirts, knits and polar fleece wear and coats; All WR coats – winter underwear and all CSA-approved footwear.

DO YOU NEED SOMETHING TRANSLATED? Translate English to French or French to English. No job is too big or too small! QFA members automatically get a 10% discount with additional rebates available to return customers. Call us at 450-679-0540, Ext. 8536 or e-mail us: qfa_translation@upa.qc.ca

QFA ACCOUNTING BOOKS, bilingual, easy to use, \$25 for QFA members. \$30 for non-members. Call the QFA office to order your copy. 450-679-0540, extension 8536.

QFA MERCHANDISE

QFA Sign and pin combo: \$7
QFA Pins: \$3 each
Dessert Cookbooks: \$12
Vests: \$40
Caps: \$15
While supplies last!
For more information or to order contact the QFA office – qfa@upa.qc.ca



Rural Community Better Together

REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Eastern Townships:

Richmond 4-H annual Ice Cream and Strawberry Social
When: Friday, July 1, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Where: Richmond Fairgrounds
Everyone is welcome!

Richmond 4-H Achievement Day
When: Sunday, June 5, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Richmond Fairgrounds

Hatley 4-H Achievement Day
When: Sunday, July 3, 9:00 a.m.
Where: Ayer's Cliff Fairgrounds

Sawyerville 4-H Achievement Day
When: Sunday, July 17, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Cookshire Fairgrounds

Brome 4-H Achievement Day
When: Sunday, July 17
Where: Brome Fairgrounds

Montréal:

Ormstown 4-H Achievement Day
When: Thursday, August 11
Where: TBD

Pontiac:

Shawville 4-H Achievement Day
When: Friday, September 2, 11:30 a.m.
Where: Shawville Fairgrounds

4-H Quebec Provincial Rally
Theme: Hollywood
Open to: Participation is open to 4-H members aged 12-25 and juniors from the host club.

General public is welcome to spectate.
Date: July 21-24, 2016; show day is Saturday, July 23

Location: Hosted by Shawville 4-H Club at the Shawville Fairgrounds

Cost: \$60 includes one project; \$20 for additional project entries
Register by: June 1, 2016

4-H members will demonstrate various livestock and life skills projects, competing as individuals and teams. An awards banquet on Saturday evening will recognize achievements. Community volunteers and sponsors are welcome to contribute. Info: quebec4-h.com/rally or office@quebec4-h.com

QUEBEC 4-H ASSOCIATION

Summer Junior Camp

Theme: First Nations

- Open to: 4-H members aged 9-12
- When: August 14-17
- Where: Dunn Memorial Scout Camp, Elgin

Intermediate Leadership Camp

- Open to: 4-H members aged 13-15
- When: September 23-25
- Where: Camp d'action biblique, Richmond

Journey 2050

4-H Quebec and its clubs will be exploring the topic of sustainable agriculture and are looking for farms to visit and guest speakers. Please contact the provincial office if you have ideas or something to share.

Kids Helping Kids

Collect aluminum drink can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House; ask a 4-H'er in

your community to pass them along to a 4-H Quebec staff member any time on or before the Annual General Meeting on November 26, 2016. Tabs will go to Ronald McDonald House to sell aluminum to recyclers, helping to fund their facilities where families can stay nearby their children while they are in the hospital.

4-H CANADA

4-H Canada National Members Forum

Apply to 4-H Quebec by July 26, 2016. Forum takes place in Toronto, November 2-6, 2016. Open to ages 16-21. The cost is \$300/member. There will be informative workshops, leadership development opportunities and a visit to the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair. This year's theme will focus on the Environment & Healthy Living Leadership Development Pillar.

For more information about 4-H programming and events, contact 4-H Quebec (office@quebec4-h.com or 514-398-8738).



Warren Grapes award presented at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School

Dougal Rattray
QFA Executive Director

It was with great pleasure that the QFA was able to announce the presentation of an agricultural education award to student Matthew Elliot, 17, as part of its Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund commitment. In a new arrangement, the QFA has committed to presenting a student from the Chateauguay Valley Regional High School with an award at the school's annual graduation ceremony.

The QFA received four strong submissions from students attending the school, which made it all the more difficult for the trustees to make a definitive selection. At the meeting of trustees held in May, there was great debate over who should receive the financial award, but it was Elliot's passion and commitment that struck a chord with all on the board.

The Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Award was created in September of 1998 in honour of the

late Warren Grapes, who served for many years as the president of the QFA and who was an inspiration to all within the agricultural community. The award seeks to recognize young agricultural talent and helps promote agricultural and silvicultural education among the English-speaking farm and rural community of Quebec through the provision of bursaries.

To present the award, QFA was seeking someone from within the community who is recognized as a community supporter in the same spirit as the man whose name is attached to the award. This year, QFA was proud to have Mario Dumas, community activist, agricultural supporter and farm transfer accounting guru present on its behalf.

Elliot hopes to attend Macdonald Campus of McGill University in the fall to study in the Farm Management and Technology Program. Beside is an extract from his winning submission. The trustees thank all those who applied and encourage them to try again in the fall. The deadline for fall submissions is October 14, 2016.

Ever since I was a young boy, I've always loved to play outdoors. A day that I don't go outside and take a deep breath of fresh air is a day wasted to me. Growing up on a poultry and cash-crop farm, I could never imagine myself doing anything else; so, this is my chance to put those imaginings into action. Throughout life, some tasks may seem straightforward, but that is not always the case. In tougher times, communication and taking responsibility are the best solutions. If we each take a swing at the problem, we can all get through it together. I have the dedication and the vision to make my dream a reality.

Matthew Elliot

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.



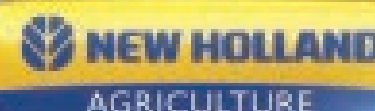
The QFA's Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund helps to promote agricultural and silvicultural education and learning among the English-speaking farm community of Quebec. Bursaries are distributed to post-secondary students of agriculture each fall.

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

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