



Vol. 36, No. 5 – May 2016

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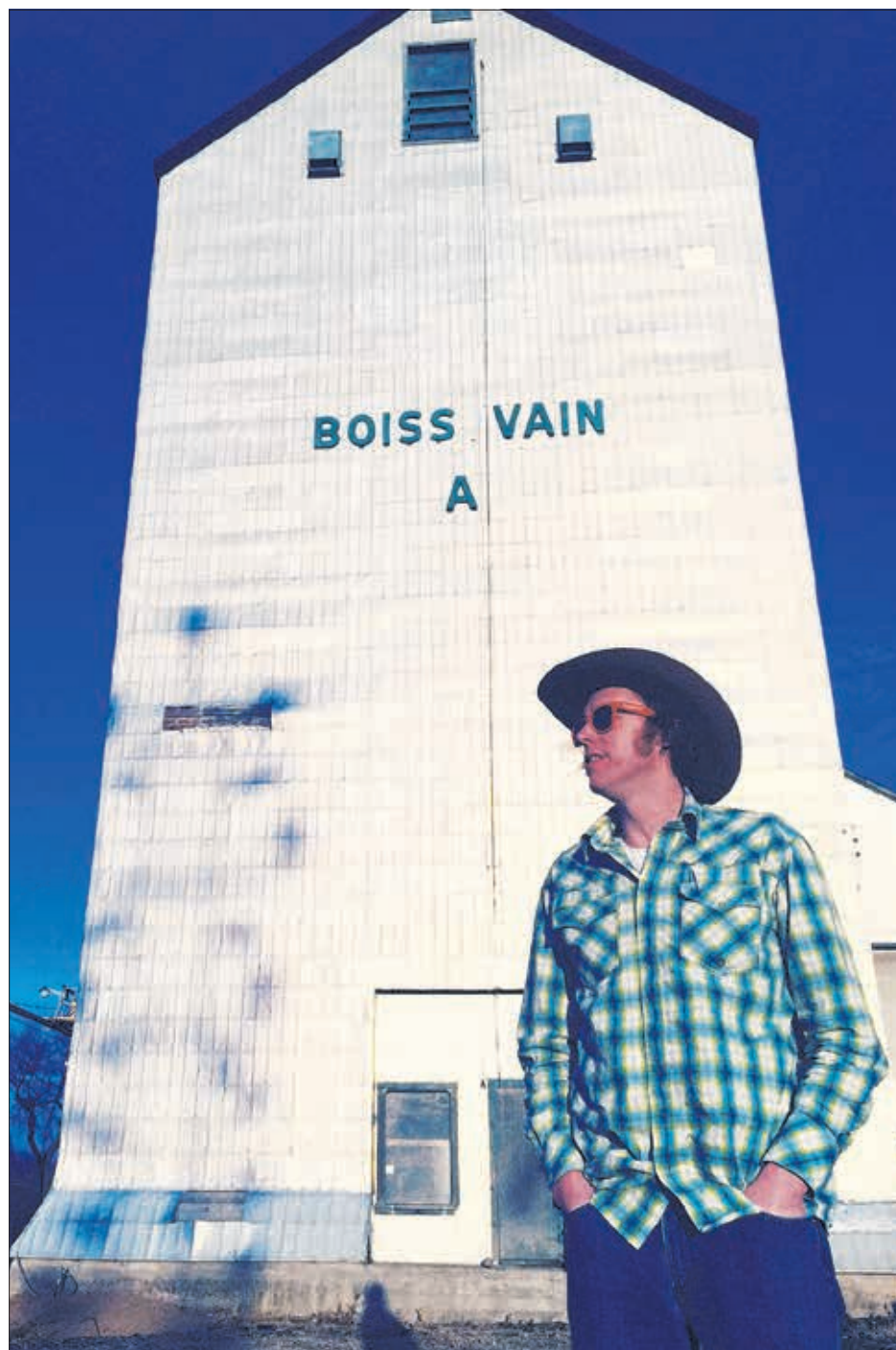
Make a difference!

Donate to the Warren Grapes Fund

Help a young farmer get started on their dream.

See page 14 for details.

Where did our town go?



QFA Director of Communications Andrew McClelland stands before one of the old town grain elevators in Boissevain, MB. McClelland, who fronts a country and western band as "Li'l Andy," spent two weeks performing a tour of house concerts in March.

Andrew McClelland

QFA Director of Communications

As many QFA members know, Director of Communications Andrew McClelland's other part-time job is spent being a musician known as "Li'l Andy." Recently, McClelland took his band on a tour of rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan, performing concerts in small towns and communities off the beaten path of the Trans-Canada Highway, organized by "Home Routes"—a group dedicated to building community through hosting concerts in people's homes. The small towns and dwindling farm base he saw there show that the disappearance of vibrant communities in rural Quebec isn't limited to the Anglophone farm population—it's everywhere.

When you're a country and western band who's just flown in to a small Prairie town from the big city of Montreal, conversations with music fans always start the same way:

"So, you guys are from Montreal? Must be lots of excitement there."

"Oh sure. It's nice to be away from it and see some real country, though. And some real farming."

"Well, there's not much that happens around here. It's hard to get people to come out to anything. In the 70s, the population was bustling. Main street was busy. Now there's more vacant stores than up-and-running ones."

In early March, my band started a two-week tour of concerts in little-known towns in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We'd played in the Prairies before, but this time was different. Instead of performing in only the big cities (say, Winnipeg, Regina

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ANDREW MCCLELLAND

Montmartre has one of Saskatchewan's largest francophone populations—so they put a mini Eiffel Tower at the head of Main Street. Montmartre is something of a retirement community for local farmers—many aging producers have rented out their land to younger farmers and taken up residence in apartments and rest homes in town.

and Calgary and then off to B.C.), we were to play in smaller towns like Dauphin, Fort Qu'appelle, Polonia and Montmartre, to name a few. The big advantage: the drives are shorter, you spend less money on gas and you get to play to real rural folks who love country music.

But an interesting thing happens when you wander away from the Trans-Canada in the Prairies. The towns feel forgotten as little as 20 kilometres away from the mega-highway. Development ceases—there's no new housing projects and big-box stores—and the near-complete absence of young families or college-aged students suggests that few residents have hope of building a life away from the big cities.

No jobs, no town

Of course, an awful lot of this can be traced back to the Alberta oilfields becoming less profitable. In Binscarth, Manitoba, we met up with Tom Stevens, a former oil-drilling consultant who runs a bar-restaurant in town.

"I oversaw drilling projects in Egypt, in Quebec, too, but had settled here—

this is where I'm from," Tom told me as we unloaded guitars into his restaurant. "But then the oil industry tanked. So many people went out of work here. But I wanted to stay. This is where I'm from."

Staying in your community and

hanging on to a sense of place isn't unique to Quebec Anglophone farmers, it seems. It's happening across Canada. Even if that choice is made at a considerable financial sacrifice.

Calving and concerts

In Baldur, Manitoba, there are wheat fields that stretch right down to the US border. In town, there are a few restaurants, a small grocery store and a post office. People here don't have door-to-door delivery, but they still see one another and a few Canada Post employees when they come to pick up their mail in the group boxes.

Brenda Melnyk was a postal worker for decades in Baldur. We played in her house at the end of the tour. Over dinner, conversation turned to the view of six enormous grain elevators outside her kitchen window.

"Well, those belong to the Gustavsons; they own a lot of what you can see of town when you drive in," Melnyk said while serving us a meal of roast chicken before the house concert.

"They work hard, they have anywhere from eight to a dozen trucks that they own hauling grain, and they're some of the nicest people you could meet. But the kids—even the boys—don't seem that interested in taking over the business or the farm. They live in Winnipeg or Toronto."

As we stood around the kitchen drinking beer and eating veggies 'n' dip after the show, two audience members had to leave in a hurry to attend to calving back at the farm. First time that's happened in my singing career!

Canada used to proudly describe itself as a "nation of small towns." Up until the 1940s and 50s, this was true—many people still worked in agriculture or had a close relative on the farm. Communities could thrive and support themselves and the lack of four-lane highways meant that commuting 80 kilometres into work was simply not an option.

But the shape of Canada has changed. We're a nation that hugs the US border and increasingly chooses to live within cities or smaller satellite cities. And now, the face of rural Canada is changing accordingly. All the issues that Quebec's Anglophone rural community is facing—shrinking farms, a dwindling sense of community, the younger generation often choosing to live off-farm—are occurring outside of Quebec too.

If you'd like to learn more about Home Routes—and are interested in attending or hosting a concert yourself—visit www.homeroutes.ca.

If you're interested in hearing music by Li'l Andy, have a listen at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/artist/lil-andy/id372962735>.



ANDREW MCCLELLAND

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum was a highlight of the tour: featuring shed upon shed of steam plows, old International and John Deere tractors, and a pioneer village!



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Disseminating agricultural research: Bridging the gap between idea and adoption

Dougal Rattray
QFA Executive Director

Last month, the QFA attended the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC)'s national conference, AIC 2016 Disseminating Agricultural Research: Bridging the Gap Between Idea and Adoption. Participants had the opportunity to review the updates to AIC's national agricultural research, innovation and development policy, suggested by stakeholders since its release in September 2015. They also had a chance to express their thoughts and concerns about the policy and to offer suggestions.

The AIC said in a statement, "In 2016 AIC seeks to tackle the next biggest challenges in agricultural research policy – how to bring research results to those who need it the most – producers, farmers, industry and consumers – and how to maximize the adoption of new technologies and innovations. This conference is set to bring together stakeholders in the supply chain to help with this challenge."

QFA Executive Director Dougal Rattray, who attended for QFA, commented, "This was a terrific opportunity for QFA to learn more about where research affecting farmers is going, nationally. Technologies are moving fast and do not always trickle down to users. The vast number of evidence-based solutions to problems concerning farmers that help them farm better under today's economic and consumer pressure are not always obvious or accessible. It is reassuring to know that work is being done to try to bridge this gap, to allow the

primary end of the supply chain to take advantage of tools available to them."

The days were packed with speakers, workshops and activities, allowing attendees to capture as much information from the two days as possible. There were many presentations of interest to the farming community – too many to list here. One presentation which may have been of particular interest to beef producers was given remotely by Tracy Herbert, Beef Extension Coordinator for the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC). Herbert offered an insight into what tools and resources the BCRC has available for its constituents. If you are a beef producer and have a computer with access to the internet, you would be well advised to browse the site: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/resources/decisiontools.cfm>

Another resource that would be of interest to any farmer with time to invest was highlighted by Michael Toombs, General Manager of the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO) and Director of the Research and Innovation Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The Research Management System is a searchable online database that acts as a repository for information relating to a plethora of production systems. This deep well of knowledge is available to producers in both official languages. You can access and register for it here: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/research/rms/rms.html>

Other stakeholders attending from Quebec included representatives from the Quebec Grains Federation, the Maple

Syrup Producers, and René Mongeau, President of the l'Ordre des agronomes du Québec, who was a speaker.

AIC is reviewing input and is now compiling content to ensure that the updated version of the policy (to be released in the summer of 2016) is representative of Canadian agricultural research stakeholders. This policy will include concrete steps to pave the way toward Canada regaining its leadership in agricultural research.

About AIC

Created in 1920, the Agricultural Institute of Canada is a centre of knowledge for science in agriculture. Its mandate is to advocate on behalf of agricultural research, disseminate information on agricultural research, promote careers in agricultural research and create international linkages. Visit www.aic.ca for more information. Follow AIC on Twitter: @AgInstitute

Seedling time



QFA President John McCart on the land this spring.

A bright star among us

The Quebec Farmers' Association is proud to announce that one of its editors has been selected as one of three finalists from across Canada for a literary award known for discovering and promoting the brightest up-and-coming young writers in Canada.

Allegra McKenzie is a writer based in the Gatineau Hills of Quebec, and she placed first in the 2014 Quebec Writing Competition for her short fiction. She has been published in *Geist*, *Maisonnette*, and *Salut King Kong: New*

English Writing from Quebec, and has been co-editing the *Advocate* since the fall of 2015. From the jury citation: "[McKenzie's story] 'This Monstrous Heart' is a giant – but packaged in a tiny frame. It deftly balances humour, tragedy, introspection, and suspense, in elegant, seemingly effortless prose."

The RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers rewards writers who are under the age of 35 and unpublished in book form. Alternating each year between

poetry and short fiction, the award is given this year to the author of an exceptional short story. The \$5,000 prize is supported by the RBC Emerging Artists Project, which invests in developing artists to help build their professional careers. The winner will be announced on June 8 at an event at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

We would like to congratulate Allegra on this achievement. Our fingers will be crossed for the gala.



Allegra McKenzie, copy-editor extraordinaire for the *Advocate*.



Marcel Groleau
UPA President

In its 2016–2017 budget speech, the Quebec government announced that it will be carrying out an administrative reform to the farm property tax credit program (PCTFA), and that the management of the program is being transferred to Revenu Québec. The government also announced that, as of January 1, 2017, farmland operated by farmers registered with the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) would be eligible for financial assistance amounting to 78 per cent of their municipal taxes. The government would have us believe that this percentage is more or less the same as the support beneficiaries currently receive under the program. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Under the new program, a single tax rate of 78 per cent will be applied across the board; this will exclude school taxes and do away with the 100 per cent credit on the first \$300 paid in taxes. The 85 per cent credit on taxes for land assessed at over \$1,813 per hectare will also be abolished. When all changes are taken into account, the impact will actually represent an average 30 to 40 per cent increase in the costs borne by farmers.

Farm property tax: Farmers can see through the numbers

I say "average" because the impact of the change will vary by region, since it depends both on the value of land in the different regions and on farm size. Effectively, the portion currently credited at 85 per cent will soon be credited

"It's all well and good for the Quebec government to speak of a "cost-neutral" reform, but farmers can see through the numbers."

at just 78 per cent under the new version of the program; this will have a huge effect on the central regions of the province. And for small businesses, the impact of scrapping school tax credits will be significant, since school taxes on buildings are weighted more heavily in their taxes.

According to our calculations, an average dairy farm (with 65 milking head and 156 hectares, including 116 hectares under cultivation) can expect an average increase of 35 per cent in the remainder of the tax bill payable for 2017 (45 per cent in the Laurentides region). A small vegetable farm (5.11 hectares, including 3.75 hectares under cultivation) can expect an increase of 68 per cent (84 per cent in the Laurentides). The average field cropper (330 hectares, including 323 hectares under cultivation) will see

an increase of 30 per cent (42 per cent in Montérégie-Est). These increases don't even take into account the constant rise in the value of agricultural businesses based on land value (an increase of 30 to 50 per cent for 2016 in municipali-

ties that received new assessments).

There is some bright news, in that the minimum gross revenue criterion of \$5 per \$100 will be discontinued. However, the annual verification of the required minimum gross revenue (\$5,000) and the eco-conditionality requirement are disappearing. The latter change is the most surprising of all, as it runs counter to society's expectations. Does the government also intend to do the same for La Financière agricole du Québec's programs?

The compulsory union dues checkoff is also disappearing, despite the fact that the Rand Formula is well established in Quebec. Other professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, etc.) have their dues collected at the source by the government on behalf of the professional union. Why pick on the farmer's union?

The only criteria kept for 2017 are that farmers must be registered with the MAPAQ and that they must be located in an agricultural zone; this is where the increase in the number of eligible businesses (about 2,500) came from. It's good to hear that about 500 businesses who were excluded from the program in previous years can now benefit. But it's also fair to wonder whether the 2,000 additional beneficiaries really are farmers, and whether this change is not just an invitation to intensify urban sprawl. "Come live in the country, grow a garden, and get your taxes reimbursed!"

It's all well and good for the Quebec government to speak of a "cost-neutral" reform, but farmers can see through the numbers. Lowering the amount of coverage under the program for those who currently benefit? There's nothing neutral about that. A 2015 study by the Institut de recherche en économie contemporaine (research institute for contemporary economics) clearly demonstrates that farmers all around the world receive special rates and/or other accommodations when it comes to municipal taxes. It's even acknowledged as a major factor in keeping them competitive. We agree that Quebec should reform the current program. But what we're being offered is nothing but extra costs being transferred onto the shoulders of farmers.



**Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec**

MAY 2016

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Nombre	kg de MG/jour
Offers to sell		
Total	64	711.7
Eligible for allocation	64	711.7
Successful	64	711.7
Reserve		
Quantity purchased (-)/ sold (+)		+ 1.4
Offers to buy		
Total	1,397	9,534.1
Eligible for allocation	1,396	9,527.2
Successful	1,396	713.1

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 1.6 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
			< 24,000.00	1	6.9
64	711.7	711.7	24,000.00 ceiling price	1,396	9,527.2
					9,527.2

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	2	1.5	0.2
	Reimbursement of startup loans	8	0.8	0.1
	Iteration (0.3 kg of BF/day)	1,394	409.3	57.4
	Prorata (3.31%)	1,207	301.5	42.3
7.48% of the offers have been processed		713.1	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		64	711.7	100
100.00% of the offers have been processed		64	711.7	100.0

183482



More data and more power for egg and poultry farmers

The QFA's friends at La Coop fédérée have developed something that poultry and egg producers should be excited about. La Coop has set up a new analytical tool called Aviscan, which gives producers an overview of all production data and operational variables on their operation so that they can work and perform more efficiently.

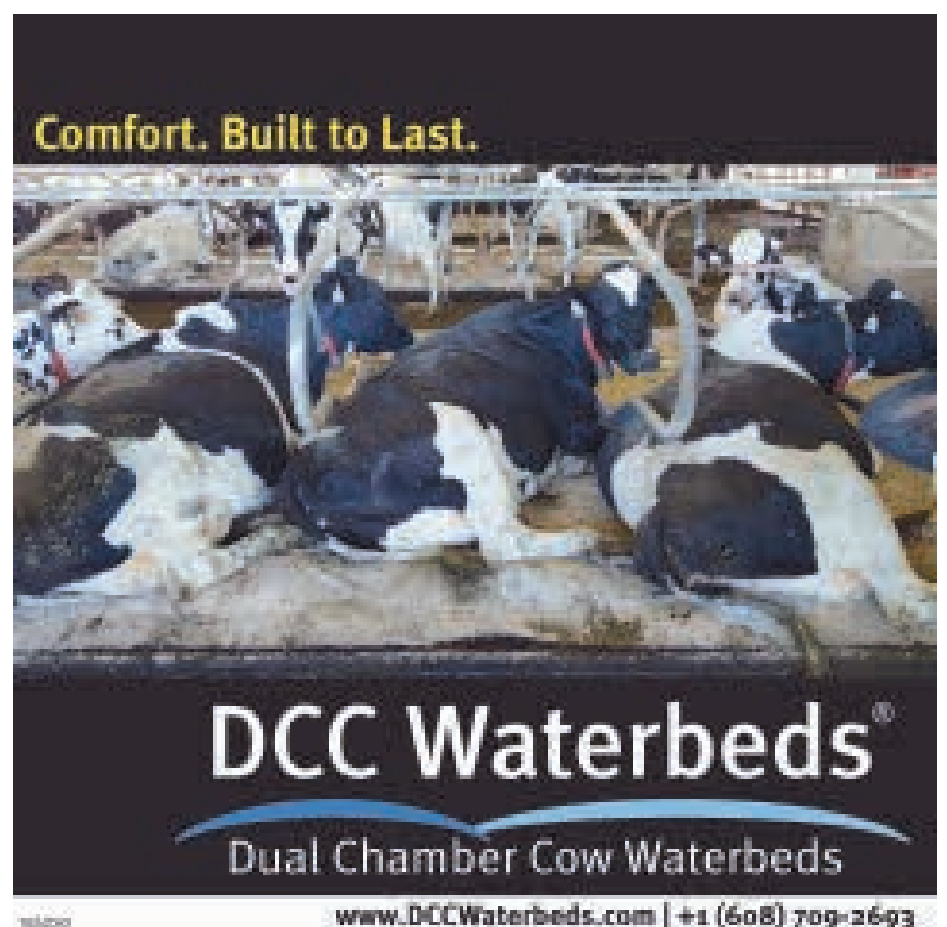
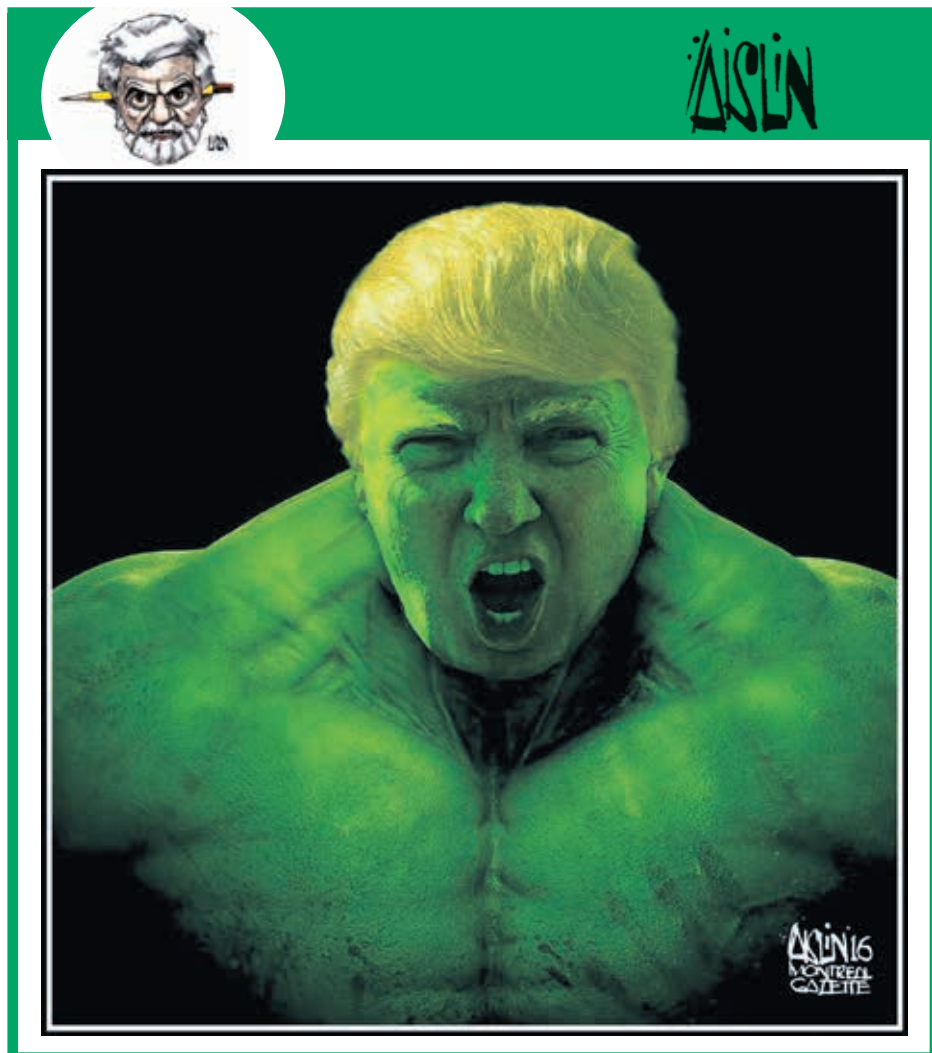
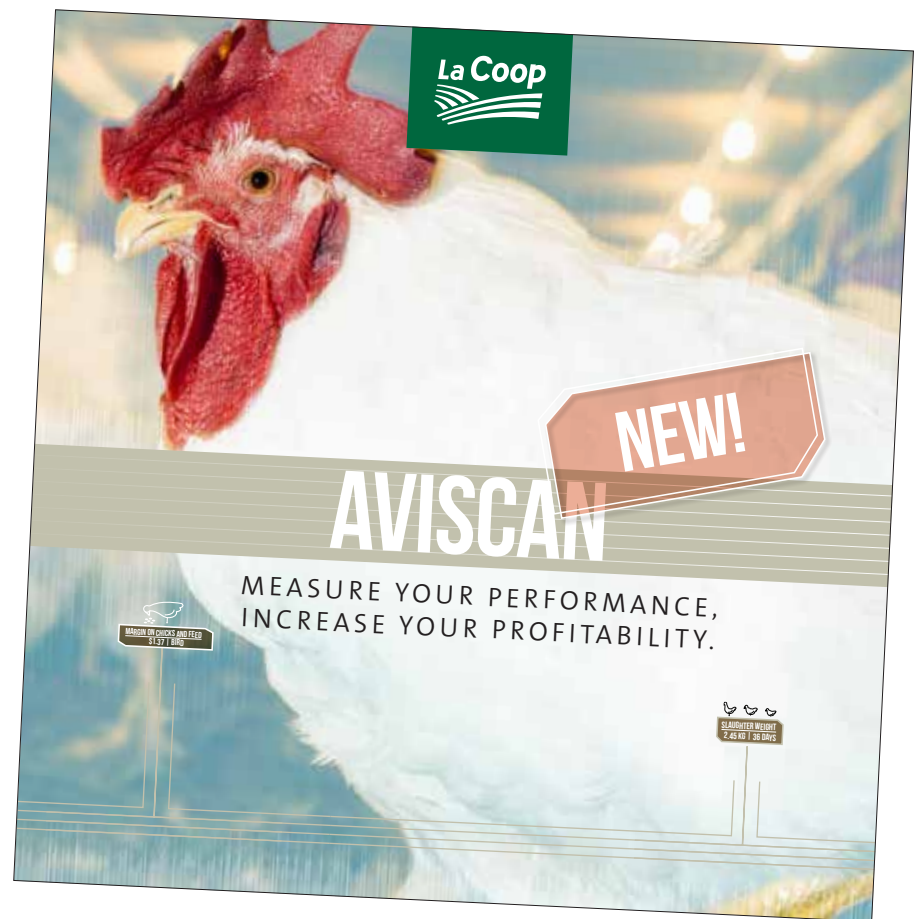
Chick and feed suppliers may offer an overview of certain aspects of production, but Aviscan precisely calculates the cost-effectiveness of a batch by taking into account all costs and then comparing different lots or sites.

By looking at all the data that is specific to their farm, producers on Aviscan can calculate their revenues in relation to quota leasing or by table egg grade, know the impact of mortality rates by taking them into account from the moment they occur in the production cycle, and measure feed efficiency, the cost of feeding programs and even the heating and ventilation costs for their operation.

With all of this information at their fingertips, egg and poultry producers are in a better place to predict the profitability of a lot and to identify problems. Aviscan also helps determine the profitability of a leased quota compared to a scenario without a lease. What's more, the Aviscan tool operates like a network: egg, chicken and turkey producers can compare their performances to those of other producers and to those who achieve the best yields—and all in complete anonymity.

Check the QFA Facebook group by going to Facebook and searching "Quebec Farmers' Association" or by typing <https://www.facebook.com/groups/306871089363565/> into your internet browser when you are logged into Facebook! We'll be posting more updates about it as they become available.

For more info on La Coop fédérée, go to their English website (<http://web.lacoop.coop/en/>) or call (514) 384-6450 or (514) 384-7176.



Growing with the garden



Shaina Hayes
Columnist

A unique garden at the Macdonald Campus

The Macdonald Campus Student-Run Ecological Gardens, commonly referred to as MSEG (pronounced 'em-seg'), began as a student-run club at McGill which served as an avenue for students with a passion for agriculture to simply grow food. In the last five years, however, MSEG has evolved into something far bigger. The group now farms about three acres in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue and Senneville, Quebec, growing nearly 60 different horticultural crops to service two markets and 70 CSA basket members per week for the bulk of the summer and fall, and does so using organic practices. I was recently taken on as an MSEG intern for the 2016 season along with two of my peers and will be keep-

ing the *Advocate* readers updated on my experiences at the farm over the course of the year.

What makes MSEG such a unique and effective learning opportunity for McGill students is the fact that the farm is constantly changing hands. Each growing season, the previous year's interns are upgraded to managers and hire on their own new interns who will replace them the following year. That is, you serve only one year as an intern, during which time you must become fully able to not only run the entire farm the following season, but to immediately pass on your knowledge to the new interns. The experience has been likened to a sort of two-year



MSEG intern Florence Bieler and manager Anna Lyon plant tomato seedlings in one of the group's high tunnels.

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

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!

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.

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.

UPA POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR
L'Union des producteurs agricoles

105457

"farmer boot camp," and after my first two weeks on the farm, this seems fairly accurate!

Seeding began in the Macdonald Campus Raymond Greenhouse in late March/early April, and we hit the field with the full team (four managers and three interns) on May 2. While the cooler temperatures this past month certainly began as a hindrance in terms of planting, we kept busy with bed clearing and raising, fertilization, high-tunnel raising, trellising, mulching and irrigation installation, as well as some seeding and transplanting in both the field and greenhouse. Bed clearing is done by hand and, since preserving soil health is an important goal for MSEG, we limit soil work to rototilling only for new beds or when weed emergence appears to be a big problem, and bed raising once our permanent raised beds have flattened out. This is done with a BCS walk-behind tractor and its various attachments. Sourcing affordable organic fertilizers which meet the nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) requirements of MSEG's various

horticultural crops takes much consideration, particularly when trying to manage the already high P levels in the soil that we are using. We ultimately decided on a compost, chicken manure and blood meal combination, which will vary in composition and/or quantity depending on whether the crops are heavy or light feeders. Three 50-foot high tunnels were raised for 12 of our tomato beds—a rather painstaking task given the fact that only half the crew has done it once before. That said, we approached the task as a sort of mini barn raising, with full enthusiasm in tow, and we were able to get it done in good time. Trellising, plastic mulch and drip-tape irrigation were all installed by hand, though we are very eagerly awaiting the arrival of a mechanical mulch-laying BCS attachment, which we have custom ordered from the United States.

Field preparation, transplanting and seeding will continue into the summer, and harvests begin the last week of June. Stay tuned for more MSEG highlights!

Choosing a career in farming

Lidija Rozitis
Special correspondent

It will come as no surprise to hear that it is rare for young folks to choose a career in farming these days. With rising rates in real estate, high start-up costs and sometimes stringent regulations, farming is often passed over in favour of more predictable careers with stable incomes. With that said, Canada's farming industry is not wholly devoid of a youthful generation. Through formal training provided by agricultural schools, the availability of government grants and an increased interest in trendy topics such as organic farming and local food, some pockets of Canadian agriculture have seen a resurgence of interest among a younger generation. However, despite this, there are still many complex challenges facing young farmers today.

The *Advocate* recently connected with Whitney Hodge, a 21-year-old farmer from Bury, Quebec, about her plans to continue running her family farm. The Hodges have operated their cattle and maple syrup farm north-east of Sherbrooke for the last 70 years. Started by Whitney's grandfather, the farm was established mainly as a dairy operation until about 50 years ago when they switched to raising beef cattle and integrating maple syrup production. A few years ago, Hodge decided she wanted to continue operating her father's beef and syrup business. Having acquired many skills by growing up on the farm, she is supplementing her learning by attending Le Centre de formation professionnelle de Coaticook (CRIFA) for their Animal Production program. When describing why she wants to continue operating the family farm, she said that farm life has "stuck to her." She loves the outdoors, she wants to be her own boss, and it's a culture she is familiar with. And while Hodge sounds excited

about her dream to continue the farm, she doesn't hold back in describing the challenges facing young folks who raise cattle and produce maple syrup.

High start-up costs dissuade young or new farmers

If Hodge was not continuing her family farm, one gets the sense that it might have been a more difficult decision for her to choose the career so decisively. She talks at length about the high start-up costs for farmers and the exorbitant rates of agricultural real estate. She says that with fewer young people continuing in agriculture, there are many farms for sale yet fewer people buying them for farming. Unless a farm is already in the family, the cost of buying one and investing in the equipment to operate it is extremely high.

High costs are one of the reasons why her family switched from dairy to beef over 50 years ago. Hodge says that if her family had decided to keep up with the technology and regulations in dairy farming, it would have been too expensive and complicated to continue as dairy producers. So, they opted for beef cattle and syrup. However, she expressed her frustrations in joining the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ).

Regulations hard for new or small-scale producers

Quebec farmers voted for a cohesive approach to market control when the FPAQ was formed in 2001 to manage the market supply of syrup over the long term. Some small and mid-sized producers, however, find the Federation's regulations stringent and expensive. The Hodges, for example, find the Federation's quota system challenging for a small farm to justify the expenditures related to joining the Federation and therefore have chosen to resist.



A few years ago, Hodge decided she wanted to continue operating her father's beef and syrup business.

Hodge's advice for new or young farmers

When discussing advice for young folks interested in farming, Hodge had a few ideas. For one, there should be greater financial support so that the start-up costs of farming are lower for new entrants, perhaps through government subsidized land. Hodge also recommended that because of the complications of each regulated agriculture industry, you need to diversify product when choosing a career in farming. She says it is not feasible to just raise cattle, or to simply produce maple syrup. If farmers are to make a decent income, they need to produce more than one crop and spread the risks associated with farming.

What's perhaps even more unique about Hodge's career choice is that not only is she actively deciding to continue her family's farm, but she is also a young woman. Yet in a field that's historically male-dominated, she says she has had no difficulties with her career choice due to being a woman. In fact, she suggests that since there is such a need for farmers in today's economy, anyone can consider farming if they have the resources to do so. As Hodge put it, if fewer people continue this tradition, "how will we eat?" Indeed, if young people are to choose a career in farming, there will need to be more incentives so that this essential industry remains sustainable for generations to come.



Mission

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

Vision

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

Shared Values

Members of the QFA believe in:

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

Board Members

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Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

Last Name.....

First Name

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Price	
Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year	\$68.99 (\$60 + \$3 GST (5%) + \$5.99 TVQ (9.975%))
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years	\$137.97 (\$120 + \$6 GST (5%) + \$11.97 TVQ (9.975%))
<input type="checkbox"/> My cheque is enclosed, payable to "Quebec Farmers' Association"	

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

Signature

- | Membership Includes |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a one year subscription to the Quebec Farmers' Advocate• discounts on QFA sponsored events and services• free advertising in the Advocate's classified ads• voting privileges at the QFA Annual General Meeting |

Quebec Farmers' Association
555 boul. Roland Therrien, office 255
Longueuil, Quebec J4H 4E7
Receipts are issued upon request. Memberships are valid for 12 months from month of purchase.

Forage

Managing grasses: It ain't rocket science

Ev Thomas

ethomas@oakpointny.com

Managing grasses isn't difficult, but there are no shortcuts if you want to produce "cow quality" forage. Following are three keys to good yields and high quality:

Apply N fertilizer at green-up

Fertilizer production is an energy-intensive process, and with much lower oil prices the prices of N (nitrogen) fertilizer have been on a decline since last fall. Recent prices of UAN and urea were 12 and 18 per cent lower respectively compared to a year ago. Even with low milk prices, don't skimp on nitrogen: Apply 70-90 lbs of UAN or 200 lbs of urea per acre. Ammonium sulfate is another good option and can be blended with either UAN or urea.

My preference is for UAN or a urea-ammonium sulfate blend because these products supply N in both ammonium and nitrate forms. Whichever you use, the key is to apply nitrogen at green-up. This means at the first signs of spring growth, not when your spouse starts to nag you about mowing the lawn. With a good stand of grass—not a worn-out alfalfa-grass stand—timely N application can double yields and increase the percentage of crude protein by half.

Mow at the mid to late boot stage

"When you see the head the quality is dead." Headed grasses are OK for some non-lactating animals, but you need to be aggressive with harvest management if you want high-quality forage. This is the case regardless of the grass species. Depending on the acreage to be harvested, you may need to start in the



There are no shortcuts if you want to produce "cow quality" forage.

mid-boot stage to be able to harvest all the grass intended for lactating cows. While this will modestly decrease yield, sometimes you need to trade quantity for quality. You'll also discover that the grass regrows faster when it's harvested when the soil is still cool and moist. (That's why they're called "cool season" grasses!)

Mow at 4" stubble height and spread windrows

Grasses need plenty of stubble for

regrowth because unlike alfalfa the nutrients for the next crop are in the bottom of the stems. Stretch those windrows out as far as your mower will allow, and if possible chop the same day you mow. Thirty-five per cent DM is ideal for most silos but I'd rather see grass chopped at 30 per cent DM the day it's mowed rather than leaving it overnight and then chopping the next day at 35 per cent DM. If you chop at 30% DM, slightly shortening chop length

can reduce silage effluent. I get really nervous when chopped grass forage approaches 40 per cent DM, especially for bunker silos and drive-over piles. Trying to pack 40 per cent DM grass is like packing a stack of mattresses.

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

Changing times

A retired economist returned for his university's 50th reunion and asked a professor to see the current final exam for the economics course he used to teach. After looking at it he was stunned and exclaimed: "This is exactly the same final exam I wrote 50 years ago!"

"Yes it is," said the professor, "but now all the answers are different." This rings true for those of us making crop recommendations to farmers. As I've said before — only partly tongue-in-cheek — agronomists have job secu-

rity because while farmers' questions don't change, our answers often do. Examples of "same old question, new answer" include the proper cutting height for alfalfa-grass, harvest timing for alfalfa, and species recommendations for grasses. In defense of this, crop management recommendations are (ideally, at least) based on the best available information, and this is based on the most recent research. Research agronomists are constantly testing and re-testing, and when on occasion they

get a new answer to an old question (such as "What's the best companion grass for alfalfa?") it's only logical that they change their recommendation. A common answer to the grass question used to be timothy, then reed canarygrass, then tall fescue, and most recently meadow fescue.

In all cases the recommendation was based on the best available information at the time.

E.T. from The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute.



Research agronomists are constantly testing and re-testing. In all cases the recommendation was based on the best available information at the time..



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

Research of any kind is only worthwhile when it sets out to answer tomorrow's questions, not yesterday's.

That shouldn't even need to be said. But over the years, I've become nervous when governments—or well-meaning philanthropists—begin throwing lavish research budgets at problems that already have relatively simple, effective and affordable solutions. When we already know what to do, that means it's time to “deploy, deploy, deploy, research and develop, deploy, deploy, deploy,” as climate hawk Joe Romm advocated almost five years ago.

That's not to diminish the importance of research where it can add value. But the next wave of innovation is needed at the inflection point from the old economy to the new, from a culture of resource extraction to an accent on health and sustainability across the supply chain.

As Ottawa begins setting priorities for the next phase of its *Growing Forward* initiative, it will be essential to build a research agenda that takes advantage of what we already know, anticipates the opportunities and issues ahead, and helps producers make practical use of both bodies of knowledge.

Sustainability in all things

Real sustainability—the kind of evidence-driven change that comes out of the lab and the engineering department, not the Photoshop desk and the PR department—is the only pragmatic path for producers who want the next generation to be able to pass a viable operation on to their children. Sustainable beef production is a good place to start.

I have many friends who think the whole notion is a contradiction in terms: the only sustainable meat production, they say, is no meat at all. I respectfully disagree: slashing greenhouse gas

Farm research must look forward, not back



Sustainable beef production makes sense because both the market and the climate demand it.

“As Ottawa begins setting priorities for the next phase of its *Growing Forward* initiative, it will be essential to build a research agenda that takes advantage of what we already know.”

emissions in the next 35 years by shifting the world to a vegan diet is about as realistic as expecting nuclear fusion to deliver the electricity we'll need. (Oh, wait. That's another column.) Be glad, very glad, that neither of those is our best hope, because if they were, we'd have no hope at all.

Sustainable beef production is a different story. It makes sense because both the market and the climate demand it. It's an approach I first heard about from ex-QFA Executive Director Ivan Hale, who'd been involved in early surveys on methods of reducing a herd's carbon footprint. It gained traction last year when the British Columbia government announced \$154,000 over two years to fund a sustainable ranching program at

Thompson Rivers University.

The motivation for the program “has to do with the business climate in B.C.,” said program developer Gillian Watt. “B.C. consumers, especially in the Fraser Valley, are very discerning about wanting a natural protein.”

Carbon offsets and soil

Farm carbon offsetting is an area where deployment is just beginning, and more research may still be needed. In 2012, Alberta introduced a program that it described as “first-of-its-kind legislation in North America that gives agricultural producers new ways to benefit from helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” A provincial website lists

credits for cropping, livestock production and energy systems, noting that improved agricultural management has taken more than 11 million tonnes of CO₂ out of the atmosphere since 2007.

This option points back to carbon sequestration in soil as the research focus that may deliver the biggest payoff of all for farm producers. If proponents are right that improved soil conservation can draw large quantities of carbon out of the atmosphere, it's an essential service agriculture is in a great position to provide, and for which farm producers should be compensated. The *Advocate* explored this topic earlier in the year, and it's something you can expect to hear more about in the months ahead.

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.

Maple Syrup

Maple syrup over quota

This year's maple syrup season has been a prolific one for nearly all regions of Quebec, thanks to cold weather over a period of several weeks. But with a prolific season also comes over-quota syrup production, which is when producers make more syrup than their allocated amount. The good news is that in maple production, there's actually no limit on the quantity of syrup that a producer can produce. Of course, the syrup produced within the quota, known as in-quota syrup, must be sold first. Later, once all the in-quota syrup has been sold, the sales agency sells the over-quota syrup. Read on for some interesting facts about over-quota maple syrup from the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ).

There are a number of advantages to producing and delivering over-quota syrup to an authorized buyer:

- The producer can increase their future quota thanks to the FPAQ's annual "growth" component (which allows an increase up to a maximum of 25 per cent per year).
- The producer can stabilize their revenue during years of lower yield by transferring over-quota maple syrup from previous years to their in-quota amount of the current year (to a maximum of 20 per cent per year).
- The producer can increase their production history, which will benefit their crop insurance coverage from La Financière agricole du Québec.
- If a sugar bush has more quota and greater insurance coverage, this often equates to higher market value.

No penalties for producers who exceed their quota

Quota does not place limits on production, and if producers exceed their quota, they don't pay any monetary penalty. Rather, the quota system dictates the terms of payment for syrup. In-quota syrup is first in line to be paid for by the Federation's sales agency. Once the in-quota syrup is paid for, payment for over-quota syrup commences. As of April 22, 2016, the strategic syrup reserve contained 58 million pounds of maple syrup, 18 million of which were purchased as over-quota syrup.

There are two ways to receive payment for over-quota maple syrup:

- The sales agency can pay for over-quota maple syrup on March 15 of the year following the sale.
- If the producer falls short of their quota during a given production year, they can also transfer their over-quota syrup to the current year. Up to 20 per cent of their in-quota amount in a given year can be made up with over-quota syrup from previous years. This is particularly useful in low-yield years, as it helps to stabilize producers' income.

All maple syrup delivered to an authorized buyer is a mark of quality, since it is classified and inspected by ACER Division Inspection Inc., an external firm specializing in syrup quality control:

The producers must deliver their products to an authorized buyer and ensure that their maple syrup gets classified by ACER Division Inspection Inc. It's important to know that if a producer sells maple syrup outside the sales agency, "liquidated damages" of \$0.80 per pound may apply; the buyer of any such syrup is also subject to a penalty of \$0.80 per pound.

For more details on over-quota maple syrup, producers can contact the FPAQ's producer services at 1-855-679-7021, ext. 8723.



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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. Thanks to the hard work of our maple producers and their 43 million taps, Quebec leads the world in maple syrup with 72 per cent of the world's production.



Fédération des producteurs
acéricoles du Québec

fpaq.ca – @AcericoleQc

New production costs in the grain sector

The Centre d'études sur les coûts de production en agriculture (CECPA) studied production costs in the cereal, corn and oilseed sectors for the 2014 growing season. From this study, the CECPA generated five figures for production costs: corn, soy, oats, barley, two kinds of wheat and canola. These production costs allow us to calculate stabilized incomes that will be used to establish coverage under the ASRA program as of the 2016 insurance year.

Among other things, we note an increase in the size of the model farm. Both yield and stabilized income per tonne increased for wheat and corn, and decreased for soy, oats, barley and canola.

In order to better understand the impacts of these new costs, the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) drew a few comparisons to the year 2014.

VARIATION IN STABILIZED INCOME, 2009–2014			
MODEL	2009	2014	Variation
Corn	183	196	+7%
Soy	396	385	-3%
Oats	329	287	-13%
Barley	258	246	-5%
Feed wheat	267	292	+9%
Food wheat	321	333	+4%
Canola	565	536	-5%

Action-Réglage service: Stop the waste!

The Action-Réglage service encourages you to maintain and calibrate your sprayer so that you can be sure you're applying the correct rate on your crops—both precisely and uniformly.

The Action-Réglage service has two objectives:

- Increase sprayer precision for pest control products, thereby increasing the quality of applications
- Promote the correct usage of pesticides under an agro-environmental pest management approach

When properly calibrated, sprayers are more economical, more effective and safer. The Action-Réglage service largely focuses on mobile sprayer calibration workshops delivered by accredited individuals.

To view the document and/or the list of individuals accredited to calibrate boom sprayers by region, visit www.agrireseau.qc.ca.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON COMPENSATION*	
COMPENSATION (\$/ha)	\$/ha
Oats	-70
Soy	-45
Barley	-35
Canola	-30
Food wheat	+45
Feed wheat	+80
Corn	+125

*Without taking into account consolidation.

USDA May report

Ramzy Yelda
Senior Market Analyst, Producteurs de grains du Québec

The USDA May report is the first one giving supply and demand figures for 2016-17. The report is bullish for soybeans but rather bearish for corn.

Starting with soybeans, production estimates are lowered by 1 million tons (MT) for Brazil and by 2.5 MT for Argentina. With regard to 2016-17, US soybean production is projected at 3.8 billion bu, which is 129 million bu (Mbu) lower than last year. Exports are forecast to rise by 145 Mbu, and ending stocks are projected to fall to 305 Mbu in 2017 versus 400 Mbu in 2016. The average price is forecast at US \$9.10/bu FOB farm versus US \$8.85/bu this year. Worldwide, Chinese soybean imports are forecast to reach a record level of 87 MT next year, and world stocks are projected to decline by 8 per cent.

As for corn, US production is forecast at 14.43 billion bu versus 13.6 billion bu last year. Corn demand is up for ethanol and animal consumption, and exports are forecast to rise by 175 Mbu. Still, ending stocks are projected to rise to 2.15 billion bu in 2017 versus 1.8 billion bu this year. The average price is forecast to fall to US \$3.35/bu FOB farm versus US \$3.60/bu this year.



With regard to 2016-17, US soybean production is projected at 3.8 billion bu, which is 129 million bu (Mbu) lower than last year.



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.

EGG PRODUCERS

Livestock housing options: Should farmers, retailers or consumers decide?

Paulin Bouchard

President of the Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec

For many months, the major fast-food chains and food retailers have been announcing that they will soon begin sourcing their products only from farmers whose animals live in housing systems that give them more freedom. This trend has been gathering steam recently following added pressure from vegan groups threatening to retaliate against major purchasers if they fail to opt for free-range products—nominally in the name of animal welfare. But in the fray of it all, who actually gets to decide which production methods are used?

At the Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec, we are working with our partners at the National Farm Animal Care Council to renew the Code of Practice that governs all egg farmers in Canada. In all likelihood, the next version of the Code,

which is a science-based document, will place emphasis on transitioning to alternative housing systems that give birds greater freedom while continuing to ensure excellent conditions for their welfare.

All members of our organization are also in the process of being certified by the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) to ensure that all animal welfare specifications are respected and rigorously applied on farms. The day-to-day management practices of farmers are the determining factor in animal welfare; housing is just one of many tools that farmers can use to meet their objectives.

Our Federation works tirelessly to show what consumers want: they seek a variety of eggs, which includes both free-range ones as well as more economical options. The decision over which housing systems to use shouldn't just be up to farmers and retailers—but it must absolutely respect the Code of Practice and, ultimately, the desire of consumers.



Our Federation works tirelessly to show what consumers want: they seek a variety of eggs, which includes both free-range ones as well as more economical options.



Fédération des
producteurs d'œufs
du Québec

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

Be stationary, my heart

Audrey Desrochers

Regional correspondent

SAINT-SULPICE — In 1992, Bertin Leblanc's brother bought a *dépanneur*.

Next to the convenience store, in the neighbour's garage, Leblanc came across an ancient stationary engine—and fell in love. The farmer's-son-turned-mechanic began acquiring antique stationary

engines and fixing them up.

His collection has grown over the last 20 years. "At one point, my garage was full," he remembers. He has kept five, all of them in working order—including that first love, a two-stroke Empire.

His favourite model, he says, is an "extremely rare" Julien brand engine made in 1918 in Pont-Rouge, near Quebec City. Leblanc shows it at antique machinery exhibitions, which he attends several times a year with his wife to meet other collectors. His wife, who also collects antiques, is in charge of repainting her husband's stationary engines.

These two junk junkies aren't about to retire. "Unfortunately, there's no one to take our place," Bertin explains. Other collectors have the same problem. "We're just a bunch of old stationary-engine geeks. Young people aren't interested in this stuff." In the meantime, Leblanc travels across Quebec with his collection, promoting agricultural heritage.



Bertin Leblanc has rebuilt numerous stationary engines, including this made-in-Quebec Julien model.

A short history of the stationary engine

The stationary engine was invented in the mid-1800s. "Just as horses were replaced by tractors, hand tools were replaced by stationary engines," says Gilles Marcil, vice-president of the Association Provinciale du Patrimoine Agricole du Québec, and himself a collector.

Prior to the electrification of rural areas, stationary engines were used to power equipment such as water pumps, threshers and table saws.

"Not everyone was able to afford a stationary engine. There was one on the line, and farmers would lend it back and forth," Bertin Leblanc explains. "That's what you call community spirit!" After farms across Quebec came on-grid in the 1940s and 50s, stationary engines became obsolete, though they remain sought-after by collectors.

Farm safety key to effective business risk management

Dougal Rattray
Forum Reporter

Farmers gathered via videoconference at the QFA’s final Forum for the 2016 season to learn about and exchange information regarding farm safety. Glen Blahey, Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) gave a very insightful and professional delivery on the subject, citing facts and figures to support reasons why farmers should view safety planning as an integral part of their broader business risk management.

“The figures speak for themselves: integrating farm safety into business risk-management plans not only saves lives and limbs, but also is a strong feature of best practice management (regardless of size or production) which can ultimately lead to cost savings.” Starting with some group work, participants were asked to share their own stories about close shaves or near misses with many commenting that they were “lucky.” Blahey responded to these comments, stating, “no one is lucky; for those of you who have come

through a career unscathed, I put it to you that you are demonstrating good management practices, and it is also often those characteristics that set you apart.” Blahey went on to introduce a real-life case study that illustrated some of the many factors that, when combined, contribute to accidents. “There is no single factor that determines whether there is an accident or not; it’s always a combination of factors. The thing to remember is that most of these factors are controllable.” The group then went on to explore and discuss the guts of a farm safety plan and how having one can contrib-

ute to business profitability through controlling losses due to work-related injuries and illnesses. Canada’s occupational health and safety regulators define what should be contained in an occupational health and safety document to manage and track the ongoing health and safety activities of a workplace. *The QFA wishes to acknowledge the financial support it has received from its partners, the Réseau Agriconseils and the UPA Federation, in coordinating and running the Forum events. We look forward to developing further relationships for the 2016/2017 season.*

CONTROLLABLE FACTORS AFFECTING INJURY RATES
Lack of sleep/physical and mental exhaustion
Lack of food/nutrition
Lack of water/hydration
Lack of operator training with machinery
Lack of maintenance/poor equipment repair
Poor job preparation and planning
Lack of time/rushing jobs
Poor communications
No first-aid training/

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TOOL: WHAT IT DOES
Defines operating procedures
Provides operational and worker performance evaluation tools
Documents emergency protocols
Demonstrates due diligence to regulators
Can integrate effectively with other on-farm management tools
No first-aid training

Develop your own farm safety plan

If you are intent on developing your own farm plan, you can expect to budget for 80-120 hours of your time and your employees’ time. Allocating 15 minutes every day to talk about getting jobs done efficiently and safely can be a part of your planning mechanism. If you are considering hiring a consultant to write your plan, expect to pay between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The consultant will need your time and your employees’ time to understand what and how things are done, and you will need to make a commitment to continue the work once the consultant is finished. You may have to invest in infrastructure changes and maintenance, and these will be determined by your current maintenance and safety practices. Considering that for every day lost due to injury it costs your business \$700 in lost revenue, implementing a plan should be seen as an investment as opposed to a cost. Research has found that for a hospitalization, the cost is \$10,000; for a permanent disability, the cost is \$143,000; and for death, the cost is \$250,000.

To receive a template of a farm safety plan, get in touch with the QFA office: 450-679-0540 Ext. 8536 or qfa@upa.qc.ca. For more information on farm safety, visit the CASA website: <http://casa-acsa.ca/>.

KEY THINGS TO BE INCLUDED IN A PLAN THAT WILL KEEP THE REGULATORS HAPPY (IF THEY COME BY) AND SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE RISK-MANAGEMENT TOOL
A general policy statement (and a series of operational statements)
A process for risk assessment and prioritization
A strategy to control hazards
A process for communicating information (in both directions), responsibilities and ongoing learning
A process for reviewing and managing the dynamic nature of this management tool



QFA is recruiting

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION: Memberships and Events

Communications Assistant

DURATION: 6 weeks

WAGE: \$11 per hour, 30 hours per week

START AND END DATES:

July 18 - August 27, 2016

Applicants must be eligible for Service Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program.

Self-motivated, discrete, enthusiastic and confident, candidates must be intuitive communicators with a pleasant, respectful and polite manner, be experienced with Microsoft Office Word and Excel and have a positive, professional attitude.

Demonstrating strong reading, writing, listening and speaking abilities, the successful applicant will have good team skills, but also have the aptitude for working on his/her own. Capacity in English and French language is sought. Ideally, you will work from the QFA office in the Maison UPA in Longueuil.

THE MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS ASSISTANT WILL HAVE FOUR PRINCIPAL DUTIES:

1. Communicate, conduct and analyze questionnaire phone surveys with QFA's con-

stituency to research and develop a strategic plan for improving services to the linguistic minority of the rural and agricultural community of Quebec;

2. Collaborate with QFA's Executive Director and team to produce promotional and resource materials for its pioneering video-conferencing Forums program, identifying partners and building target groups;
3. Collaborate with QFA's Executive Director and team to plan QFA's Information Day and Annual General Meeting;
4. Research the needs of the official linguistic minority community and recommend ways for QFA and its partners to meet those needs.

This opportunity offers an insight into the mechanics and internal organs of Quebec's rich agricultural-politics landscape.

Please send a CV with covering letter explaining why you would be a good candidate for this position to: qfa@upa.qc.ca with QFA Summer Employment in the subject line.

For further enquiry please call:
450-679-0540 Ext. 8536



GIVE. TO A YOUNG FARMER.



QFA Board member Mark Boyd (right) presents Macdonald Campus student Philippe Beauregard with his 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

Demonstration against property-tax increases for farmers

Thierry Larivière

Approximately 60 farmers from the town of Saint-Césaire occupied municipal council offices a few months ago to protest new tax hikes they say target agricultural landowners.

"The municipality is downloading property taxes on the producers," according to UPA- Rouville President Yvon Boucher. He estimates that farmers currently pay 25 per cent of property taxes. Although varying tax rates are permitted by law, if these are not applied, the new assessment means that farmers will soon be paying 28 per cent. Land assessments increase more quickly (four per cent to five per cent per year) than residential assessments, which have been stable for two years. "It will be even worse next time," Boucher predicts, noting that municipal tax assessments are always approximately 18 months behind the market. The portion of property tax that falls to agricultural land could reach 35 per cent.

Yvon Boucher was once mayor, and he applied distinct tax rates for agricultural land. That system has since been eliminated. Boucher would be happy to explain the principle behind varied agricultural land tax rates to his successors. "If nothing is done, we will need to meet with the ministers involved," says Boucher, who is not sure that goodwill alone will solve the problem.

A recent property assessment in Farnham showed a 27 per cent increase



The rapid increase in agricultural land evaluations is not only an issue for the next generation, it also affects municipal taxes.

**"The municipality is downloading property taxes on the producers."
— UPA- Rouville President Yvon Boucher**

in agricultural land value. Farmers in many other municipalities may also be in for a nasty surprise when they get their next tax bill.

Program under review

The agricultural property-tax credit program allows municipalities to grant

100 per cent credit on the first \$300 of property taxes and 70 per cent on the remainder, directly applied to eligible landowners. Because of the increas-

ing cost of land, however, the cost of this program has increased rapidly over the past few years. If nothing changes, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) will be forced to spend ever-increasing portions of its budget to reimburse municipalities. MAPAQ recently faced budget cuts of 14.5 per cent.

In the lead-up to the October Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations in Atlanta, Minister of Agriculture Pierre Paradis told *La Terre de chez nous* that the tax-credit program would be revised. The ministry has not provided further comments or clarifications.

Last September, the Robillard commission, charged with permanent government program revisions, mentioned the abolition of the property-tax credit program.

"The situation is unsustainable. The Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) is therefore calling for land to be assessed according to agronomic potential, and for the application of a varied tax rate," head UPA economist Charles-Félix Ross has stated. According to Ross, increasing agricultural property taxes makes Quebec farmers less competitive than their Ontario or American counterparts. The provincial tax-credit program was initially implemented to maintain the competitiveness of Quebec producers.

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.

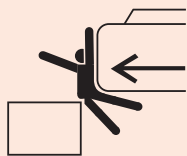
Below, we've reprinted some of the warning signs you might find on farm machinery and equipment. Take a quick look at them and remember what they stand for. It could save your life.

WARNING:
Severing of fingers
or hand - Impeller
blade



WARNING:
Vehicle implement -
loss of control

WARNING:
Crush of whole
body - Excavator or
turret - Pinned



Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.



Forestry

Impact of Quebec budget on forest producers

The latest budget from Minister of Finance Carlos Leitaó contains four measures that specifically target forest producers. They are the product of several years of discussions and lobbying with the government and ministers concerned. Here are a few explanations from the Quebec Federation of forest owners on two major issues.

Improvements to property tax refund program for forest producers

Since 1986, the Quebec government has been offering tax credits to woodlot owners through its Programme de remboursement des taxes foncières aux producteurs forestiers (property tax refund program for forest producers), to encourage and support investments in silviculture and forest development on private land.

Under the program, forest producers can request a refund of part of their forest management expenses depending on the type of work done and its value, which is established in advance by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. To do this, woodlot owners must fill out Schedule E and attach it to their income tax return. The refund must not exceed 85 per cent of the municipal (and school) taxes paid on a forest property, excluding buildings. In addition, forest development expenses can be carried forward to

subsequent years. In 2013, the government expanded the list of forest management work eligible for a refund and increased the associated costs. The current 2016–2017 budget contains provisions for the annual indexing of eligible development costs, to take account of the increase in the cost of forest management work over the years.

Although all Quebec forest producers are eligible for refunds, only around 7,500 producers take advantage of the program, to obtain over \$12 million in refunds.

For more information (in French), see the page “Je cherche du financement” on the Quebec Federation of forest owners website www.foretprivee.ca.

Income averaging for forest producers

Most woodlot owners only harvest their wood occasionally and do not obtain an annual income from timber sales. During harvest years, the extra income is added to their regular income and, consequently, their total income increases greatly and is taxed accordingly.

In addition, this creates a gap in producers' incomes between years with timber sales and years in which forest management expenditures are incurred, which are not necessarily during harvest years. Consequently, at the beginning of the production cycle, their income

is not sufficient for forest management costs to be offset in their income taxes while, at the end of the production cycle, deductible expenses are low compared to the additional income derived from the sale of the timber.

The 2016–2017 budget introduces a measure allowing producers to defer a portion of their taxable income from the sale of timber to a Quebec mill for up to seven years. This measure also applies to the calculation of a producer's contribution to the Health Services Fund. Income averaging only pertains to the provincial tax return and is handled in the following way:

In the year of the timber sale, the producer must include at least 15 per cent of the income from the sale in his or her taxable income.

In each of the following six taxation years, the producer must include at least 10 per cent of the remaining amount in his or her taxable income.

In the seventh year, any remaining amount present must be included in the producer's taxable income.

The measure applies to income from timber sales not exceeding \$200,000 in a given taxation year. To be eligible, forest producers must be individuals or corporations with no more than \$15 million in consolidated paid-up capital.



The Tree Doctor



Leilak Anderson
Certified Arborist
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

The exotic emerald ash borer is a metallic blue-green beetle that has been devastating forests and killing millions of ash trees in North America since 2002, starting in Michigan and spreading like wildfire. The insect was spotted in the Montérégie region of Quebec in 2008. Because the insect had few natural predators in North America, it seemed unstoppable—until now. Researchers have developed a biological control mechanism to fight emerald ash borer adults. Starting in summer 2016, municipalities across Quebec and Ontario can participate in pilot projects that will install special traps to lure and infect the insects in an attempt to save trees and public funds.

Claude Guertin, a professor from Institut national de la recherche scientifique, and Robert Lavallée, a Natural

New biological control agent to fight the emerald ash borer

Resources Canada researcher, have created a trap containing spores from a pathogenic fungus. The fungus specifically targets the borer, and has been researched and grown in labs to find the most virulent strain. When the borer is attracted to the lure, it lands on a cushion containing millions of white spores and becomes contaminated. The spores penetrate the insect's body and begin to produce enzymes, eventually killing the emerald ash borer by feeding on it. Laboratory tests have found that 80 per cent of the insects die within four days of contamination, but that window of time after leaving the trap will allow the adult to breed with partners and spread the lethal spores.

Yes, this all sounds like a Stephen King movie, but it's very good news for urban and rural Quebec alike. Dying ash trees in public spaces have placed a serious liability and financial burden on municipalities. And if the insect can be controlled in densely populated areas, it will proactively protect privately owned trees outside of urban centres. One thing



The emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees, but now researchers have found a fungus that can stop the insect's deadly spread.

to note: the fungus has no impact on bees.

Mid-June to July is the crucial season to lay the traps, so any interested



S-shaped galleries are a tell-tale sign of the emerald ash borer larvae.

municipalities should contact Gregory Roy with GDG Environnement at 1-877-227-0552 or 819-692-5769.

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



Bringing the research to the farm

Daniel Lefebvre, Ph.D., agr.
General Manager and R&D Manager,
Valacta

Valacta's role with regard to research is clearly defined in its mission to contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the dairy sector through knowledge transfer and its analytical and information management services. So, transferring research results to the farm is part of our DNA. The important thing to keep in mind is that, ultimately, the knowledge transfer needs to produce concrete results.

Indeed, research is essentially the development of new knowledge, hence an upstream activity in the innovation chain. Researchers are looking for answers—sometimes to fundamental questions, sometimes to applied problems. Fortunately, they often find answers! And what they find can then be applied on the farm to the benefit of producers and the dairy industry as a whole.

The ultimate goal of the innovation chain is implementation. Beyond the knowledge it generates, research attains its full value only when the findings of the work are implemented by end users, who are motivated to modify their practices based on the results. Valacta is involved in the innovation chain at different levels, but its role intensifies the closer we get to the farm.

A team devoted to knowledge transfer

The main role of Valacta's R&D team is to initiate the chain through which research results will eventually find their way to application on the farm. Depending on the type of knowledge



In Upton, Quebec, producers attend the 2016 Valacta Workshop: A Step Ahead...

services) and external partners. They must take the current issues into consideration when planning these projects while also being proactive and looking to the future trends and social preoccupations.

Training for improvement

Practical training courses and workshops are among Valacta's most visible transfer activities. Every year, throughout Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, we offer approximately 100 training sessions and 75 workshops, which

their level of awareness of opportunities for improvement and setting them to thinking about changing their practices to capture those opportunities. Often, these sessions are only the beginning of a thinking process for them, one that continues in discussions with their technicians, advisors or other partners, like their veterinarian, well after they have returned home. Ultimately, they apply some of this newly acquired knowledge to improve their herd performance and profitability.

The ongoing training of our advisors and technicians is another essential activity that enables us to affect change. We invest thousands of training hours into our employees to ensure that they become catalysts of change and innovation directly at the farm. This is facilitated by the close relationships they have with their producers and the fact that they are familiar with the specific needs of their clients. Change and innovation is much easier when a client is well guided and trust has been established with the advisor or technician.

Support for development

With the growing demand for organic food comes the need for producers to be well informed about the certification requirements and best management practices of this segment of the industry. Organic dairy production is

therefore a topic of choice that has been addressed by the Valacta R&D team. While the demand for organic foods is on the rise, the supply is still catching up, and there is a need to grow the rank of certified producers. Producers interested in this type of production need to be well informed and guided before they commit to this transition. Valacta has developed a training session to that effect and has a team of organic dairy advisors that offers a unique expertise in Canada. This expertise, offered in collaboration with organic dairy production clubs, is available in the majority of agricultural regions in Quebec. Our organic advisors will support both certified farms as well as farms in transition in attaining their objectives, whether it be through personalized consultations or workshops targeting the needs of organic farms.

Knowledge transfer is key to sustainable development

Valacta's mission has always been to contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the dairy sector through knowledge transfer and its analytical and information management services. When knowledge is shared with producers and implemented successfully at the farm, everyone wins!

“Beyond the knowledge it generates, research attains its full value only when the findings of the work are implemented by end users, who are motivated to modify their practices based on the results.”

generated, this transfer can take multiple forms: training for advisors, technicians, producers, industry partners, tools, software, technical guides, laboratory analyses, reports, conferences, workshops, etc. The R&D team most often acts as a catalyst for these types of projects but carries them through in synergy with both internal (laboratories, information technology, regional

sometimes draw over 2,000 producers yearly. Valacta's strategic advisors, all experienced instructors, use these sessions to deliver the content developed in large part by the research and development team for the producers who attend. They work hand in hand with local partners such as veterinarians. The true value of attending a practical training course for producers is raising

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada

The science of cow behaviour: An interview with Dr. Trevor DeVries

Trevor DeVries specializes in the behaviour of dairy cows and is now applying his expertise to organic dairies.

DeVries was born in British Columbia, a province that is perhaps better known for its fruit production than its dairies. Nonetheless, B.C. is home to around 500 dairy farms, mostly found in the Fraser Valley, as well as in the B.C. Interior and on Vancouver Island. With a family connection to the dairy industry - the dairy farm owned by his grandfather is still operated by his extended family - it should come as no surprise that DeVries developed a keen interest in animal science that was complemented by University of British Columbia's (UBC) active dairy research program. There, his PhD thesis examined the effect of bunk feed management and design on the feeding and social behaviour of dairy cows.

These days, DeVries focuses his research on the feeding behaviour of dairy cattle, examining the effects of housing and nutrition management on cow behaviour. To do so, he observes cows as they feed, noting things like the size of their meals, how fast they eat and what they sort out of their food, and then explores how it all relates back to the cows' health, welfare and productivity. As an associate professor at the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus, he also has other research projects that explore topics such as the interaction between housing, cow behaviour and mastitis, or the "modern" topic of robotic milking.

DeVries is also involved in a research project that is a part of the Organic Science Cluster. When he became involved in the project "Assessment of health, welfare and milk composition on organic and conventional dairy farms," it was his first foray into research on dairy farms under organic management. The project involves measurements of animal welfare, milk quality and mastitis rates in both conventional and organic dairy farms.

"There are not as many differences as people think there are," comments DeVries when invited to point out the differences between organic and conventional management systems. "We visited many farms for our project, and one of the biggest differences that I noted is the feeding practices. You have much more forage and use of pasture in organic systems, which can translate into lower production in those herds. There is also greater variability in the approaches to production under organic management.



These days, DeVries focuses his research on the feeding behaviour of dairy cattle, examining the effects of housing and nutrition management on cow behaviour.

This might be related to limited options available to treat cows, and thus the greater need to prevent certain illnesses from happening," he adds.

DeVries also considers that lower productivity may be linked to genetics.

"Proper handling of dairy cattle is a trained skill that a lot of people could improve" — Trevor DeVries

"In conventional systems, the majority of producers utilize Holstein cows, which have been bred for higher production and intake capacity, but do not graze as well. They may be genetically geared to produce more than what they can actually consume on a ration higher in forage. In organic production, there tends to be a wider variety of breeds utilized. More research is needed with these other breeds to optimize production in these systems."

The observations made over the course of DeVries' Organic Science Cluster study suggest that in the spring, after the winter feeding period, conventionally raised cows exhibit better body condition scores than their organically

raised counterparts. However, body condition scores under both management systems were equivalent after the summer.

"In larger herds, cows are not tied up in stalls. They are housed in free stalls

where they can exercise and walk around. I was surprised with the percentage of cows kept in tie stalls in organic systems," comments DeVries. He goes on to confirm that the dairy cattle Code of Practice for Care and Handling recommends providing opportunities for daily exercise. "This is definitely a good recommendation, but you need the appropriate environment," observes DeVries.

DeVries also recognizes that gentle handling matters in both systems. "Proper handling of dairy cattle is a trained skill that a lot of people could improve - it is an art and skill to know how the cattle react to your behaviour, how to position your body so that you

can effectively move and handle them without having to be forceful at all or aggressive."

While DeVries' animal welfare research under the umbrella of the Organic Science Cluster will soon be completed, data that will be used to assess the impact of management systems on milk quality are still being compiled. "There is a variability in the incidence rate of mastitis in both systems, and we need to do further analysis to look at what might be specific in those systems that influence those incidence rates. The rates are similar, but are influenced by different factors," adds DeVries.

This livestock scientist, who appreciates drinking a cold glass of milk and likes trying different types of cheeses, feels that he can rest assured when he knows that the cows producing these tasty and nutritious products are happy, and is working to ensure that this is the case.

This article was written by Nicole Boudreau, Organic Federation of Canada, on behalf of the OACC with funding provided by Canada's Organic Science Cluster (a part of the Canadian Agri-Science Clusters Initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward Policy Framework).

Macdonald

Reports



The sustainable life of dairy cattle

Animal agriculture plays a critical role in meeting the food requirements of a growing global population. With millions experiencing hunger and malnutrition, it is essential that agricultural research focus on providing quality nutrition in an environmentally friendly, safe and sustainable manner, respectful of animal health and welfare.

The structure of the Canadian dairy industry has seen enormous changes over the last 20 years, resulting in a significant drop in the number of dairy farms and number of cows, but with an increase in individual cow production. With a current average productive life of just under three years, cows are not remaining in herds long enough.

It is true that the dairy industry faces the challenge of producing the highest quality products under a system that must maximize production, not simply through judicious use of inputs, but through an understanding of the dairy cow's nutritional and physiological needs, while respecting the public's expectations of environmentally friendly systems, animal welfare and quality of life, and economic accessibility.

In a proactive move, industry, university and research partners have come together to establish McGill's new Industrial Research Chair in Sustainable Life of Dairy Cattle. This five-year, \$1.8 million joint venture is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Novalait, Dairy Farmers of Canada and Valacta. The Chairholder is Dr. Elsa Vasseur, a newly hired professor in the Department of Animal Science.

Vasseur's background in rural development, animal behaviour and on-farm dairy-cattle welfare provides her with the ideal background for this initiative. Her well-established relationships with industry partners have already helped to produce on-farm standards for welfare at the national level (Dairy Farmers of Canada), and her work with local producers has been key to investigating risk factors in cow longevity and understanding barriers to the adoption of best practices (Novalait and Valacta).

Vasseur's research program falls into three themes, all centred around the animal within the dairy production system: i) cow comfort and management, ii) cow longevity, and iii) environment and society. The multidisciplinary program



Elsa Vasseur holds the Industrial Chair in Sustainable Life of Dairy Cattle.

will involve researchers within McGill as well as collaborators from across Canada and internationally. Continued teamwork with industry will ensure knowledge transfer to producers and other stakeholders.

"We are putting the animal at the centre of sustainability," says Vasseur. "Our aim is to look at the impact of all

the management choices made on the farm and to suggest solutions that will not only extend the cow's productive life, but that will be acceptable to both producers and consumers."

"There is a need to prove, with concrete data, that a better understanding of and respect for animals' requirements, including behavioural needs, can result

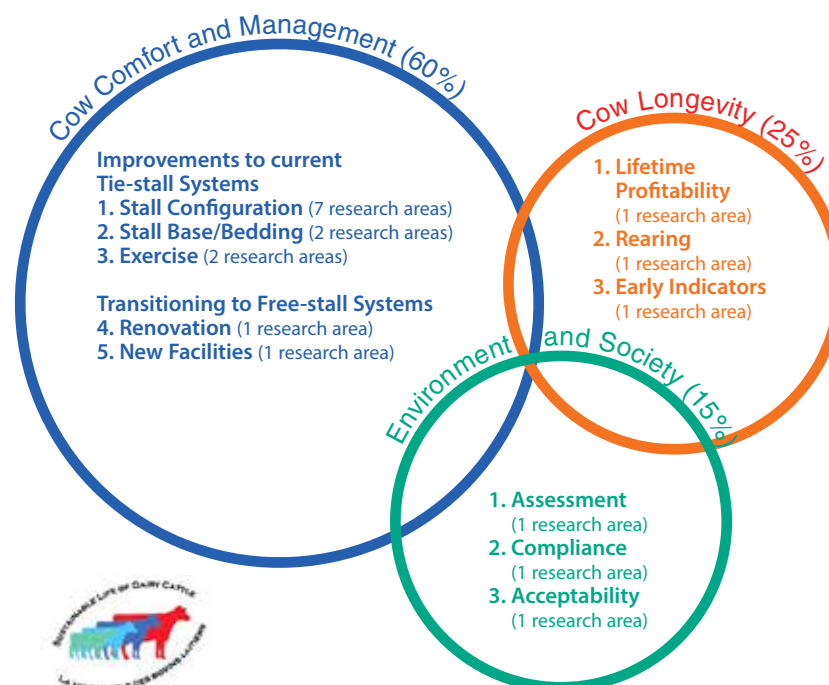
in longer-living animals that not only experience a better quality of life, but are also healthier, less stressed and consequently more productive."

With modifications already underway, much of the research will be carried out using the facilities and resources of the Macdonald Campus Dairy Farm. The Macdonald Campus has been contributing to the improvement of agriculture provincially, nationally and internationally for more than 100 years.

Professor Kevin Wade, Chair of the Animal Science Department, was instrumental in creating the Industrial Chair and in bringing Vasseur in as chairholder. Said Wade, "We were delighted that both the provincial and national dairy industries had the confidence in our department and our resources to embark on this far-reaching initiative. Animal Science at McGill has long led the way in health and reproductive biotechnologies. This position demonstrates our equal commitment to the sustainable production of food for an ever-increasing global population."

The impact and benefits of this research program will provide dairy producers with truly sustainable options that promote business profitability, while assuring consumers that the animals will be managed in a sustainable manner that provides comfort and a better quality of life.

Vasseur's research program falls into three themes, all centred around the animal within the dairy production system.



Separating sense from nonsense



Dr. Joe Schwarcz
Scientist and author

PETA's "science" is for wing nuts

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 Dr. Joe Schwarcz. We hope you enjoy this thought-provoking read.

Gentlemen, don't look now, but if you are coming up short in your shorts, it may be because your mother ate too many chicken wings while she was pregnant. At least that was the message delivered to the organizers of the National Buffalo Wing Festival by the extremist animal rights activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). PETA claims, "Findings published by the Study for Future Families showed that eating poultry during pregnancy may lead to smaller penis size in male infants." Actually the study showed no such thing. There is no mention of poultry at all. PETA is guilty of spreading junk science.

The study referred to by PETA investigated the effects of pre-natal exposure to chemicals called phthalates on the development of the male reproductive tract. Why should this be of any interest to researchers? Two reasons. First, we all have detectable levels of phthalates in our blood and urine, which is no great surprise since these chemicals find wide application in food packaging, medical devices, automobile interiors, adhesives, gloves, textiles, toys, flooring, wall coverings, paints and personal care products. Second, some phthalates exhibit hormone-like properties, which is always a concern given that minute changes in hormonal activity can have major health effects.

And how do chicken wings enter into this picture? Via a spurious scheme hatched by PETA's publicity machinery. Chickens, like virtually everything else we eat, do contain some phthalates. These may originate from packaging, butchers' plastic gloves, water pipes in henhouses or a myriad of other sources. So, here is PETA's specious argument: phthalates are associated with a smaller penis, chickens contain phthalates, therefore eating chicken wings during pregnancy leads to a smaller penis. What's wrong with this picture? For one, there is no study that has examined chicken-wing consumption and penis size! Suggesting that indulging in chicken wings leads to smaller penises is not backed by evidence and is simply junk science.

PETA's venture into junk science of course does not mean that there are no real issues with phthalates. Various



PETA claims, "Findings published by the Study for Future Families showed that eating poultry during pregnancy may lead to smaller penis size in male infants." Actually the study showed no such thing. There is no mention of poultry at all. PETA is guilty of spreading junk science.

studies have linked phthalates with respiratory issues, allergies, insulin resistance, sperm damage, decrease in sperm count, reduced levels of testosterone and thyroid hormones and increased waist circumference. These are mostly laboratory and animal studies the relevance of which to humans is questionable. That's just why researchers are following the health status of people in Taiwan with keen interest, hoping to learn something from the revelation in 2011 that some unscrupulous food producers had replaced palm oil with DEHP in the formulation of "clouding agents" used to impart a cloudiness to fruit drinks in order to make them resemble natural fruit juice as closely as possible. Such artificially

coloured and flavoured beverages are of questionable nutritional value in the first place, but adulterate them with phthalates, and you may have a real issue. Especially when such products are used to make jams, jellies, pop-sicles, flavored teas, yogurt and dietary supplements. And why the adulteration? Money. Phthalates are cheap and allow for longer shelf life.

So far no adverse effects have been linked to the scandal, but when it comes to hormone-like chemicals the effects may be subtle and not immediately apparent.

The extensive food adulteration in Taiwan was a real issue, not like PETA's silly clucking about pregnant women being advised "to think twice before

Suggesting that indulging in chicken wings leads to smaller penises is not backed by evidence and is simply junk science.

chomping on chicken wings, or their sons could come up short." The only thing that comes up short is PETA's junk science-based argument.

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.



Grazing for greens

Cynthia Gunn
QFA Food Writer

I feel like a cow. Gazing out my window at the grazing cattle across the street, I notice the cows seem glued to the new green grass. At this time of year, I feel a bit urgent to graze on greens, too, after a winter of root vegetables and tinned tomatoes. Problem is, I've nothing in my garden bigger than the first sprigs of parsley poking through. Once again, I turn to my farmer neighbours who have fully formed greens in their greenhouses.

Kale, to me, is sheep fodder. When I feel guilty about not eating the kale I've grown, I feed it to the sheep—that way, I'll eventually be eating it, sort of, albeit in a much transformed way. "Try this then," said my farmer friend at the market, "you might like this." It looks like a cross between kale and sprouting broccoli, but it is actually leaf cabbage, a variety called Groninger Blue. "I don't call it that, though, to most people; it doesn't sound too enticing." No, it doesn't.

Here's what the catalogue says about Groninger Blue: "Otherwise known as Old Blue Leaf Cabbage, this heirloom hails from Holland. A lesser known green, it has been cooked like Kale or Collards for centuries. Groninger Blue has attractive wide leaves with purple mid-ribs. When braised lightly, it has a sweet spinach-like flavour. It can be used as a baby green, micro green, or bunched."

OK. So here's what happened, like kitchen serendipity. Two nights before I bought the sprouting cabbage, we had gone for "an Indian," as my husband calls it, with our two young daughters, who are keener on the crispy, fluffy, freshly grilled naan bread than they are on curry. So, there are leftovers. Leftovers get an unfair bad rap. Seen through a different lens, they hold great potential for low-labour future meals.

It is now the day after buying the sprouting cabbage. I should eat it. Suddenly, I envision curry, rice and stir-fried greens, with just a little garlic—I'm down to my last two bulbs, which have stayed amazingly firm—and maybe ginger. The greens would be a welcome counterpoint to the rich meat curries. And a bonus was that dinner would take five minutes to prepare.

Oh, and did I mention that it was Mother's Day? I didn't mind that most of the meal was already prepared before my husband stepped into the kitchen. The main point was that I enjoyed a delicious, steaming-hot healthful meal that I didn't make or serve myself.

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.

Stir-fried Greens



CYNTHIA GUNN

Ingredients

A decent-sized bunch of greens
1 TBSP olive oil
2 TBSP butter
2 cloves garlic, crushed
½ tsp grated ginger (optional)
Freshly ground pepper

Preparation

Rinse greens. Holding the bunch together, cut stem end in one-inch lengths. Set these aside. Continue with rest of greens in one-inch sections. Heat oil and butter on medium-high in a large fry-pan, and when hot, add stems, stir gently and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add garlic (and ginger, if using) and stir for 30 seconds. Add the rest of the greens and cook just until wilted. Serve alongside steaming hot rice and meat dish. Nowadays, you can find basmati rice in many stores. Do use this if you can find it, as it has much more flavour than regular rice and a lovely aroma.

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



Rural Community Better Together



REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Eastern Townships:

Sawyerville 4-H Dance
Music by Slightly Haggard
When: May 28, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Where: McAuley Center, Cookshire Fairgrounds

Cost: \$7, tickets available at the door Info: Kendra Parnell (819-889-3275 or kendraelly@gmail.com)

Richmond 4-H Achievement Day

When: Sunday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Richmond Fairgrounds

Hatley 4-H Achievement Day

When: July 3, 9:00 a.m.
Where: Ayer's Cliff Fairgrounds

Sawyerville 4-H Achievement Day

When: July 17, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Cookshire Fair grounds

Congratulations to Richmond 4-H members who represented 4-H Quebec at conferences this spring. A warm welcome home to Trinity Mastine, one of ten Canadian delegates at the National 4-H Members Conference

in Washington, DC, as well as to Devin Keenan and Emilie Rodgers who met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress in Ottawa.

Montréal:

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

Laurentides:

Lachute 4-H Achievement Day
When: August 27. Handicrafts, poultry, rabbits, etc. at 10:30 a.m. Livestock

judging at 1:00 p.m.
Where: Lachute Fairgrounds

Pontiac:

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

4-H Quebec Provincial Rally

Theme: Hollywood
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. For more information, visit: quebec4-h.com/rally or email: 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 Scholarships

Scholarship applications deadline is May 31, 2016. 4-H'ers can supplement the cost of a post-secondary education and access resources and networks that will be invaluable throughout their academic career and beyond. Currently available:

- Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.)
 - TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarships
 - CIBC 4-H Post-Secondary Education Scholarships
 - John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarships
 - Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship
 - Weston Family 4-H Agricultural Scholarships
 - Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers 4-H Scholarship
- For more information, visit: 4-h-canada.ca/GrantsScholarships%26Awards

4-H Rural Safety Fund

A total of \$20,000 in funding will be available to support 4-H clubs, districts, regions, and provincial offices. Funds must be used in the development of an activity, project or initia-

tive that develops youth leadership, safety awareness and advocacy among 4-H youth and within the community. Successful applicants will receive \$500-\$2000. Application deadline: May 31, 2016
For more information, visit: <https://4-h-canada.ca/4-h-rural-safety-fund>

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).

Are you a QFA member?

All UPA Regional Federations corresponding to the linguistic minority decided at the close of 2015 to stop funding translations going into the *Advocate*. This is not to say they wish to stop funding services for English-speaking farming communities. Indeed, regional offices are working hard to fulfill the needs of English producers and administrators, and elected officials see greater value in funding activities rather than translating information for publication in the *Advocate*.

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

If you become a member, not only does your money go directly towards production of the newspaper, but you are also eligible to receive exclusive benefits such as: competitively priced health insurance; considerably reduced prices on Farm Credit Canada management software; discount cards for Carhart work wear; discounted QFA translation services; 7.5 per cent discount on Via Rail travel; and three free classified advertisements for the *Advocate*. Taking advantage of these benefits more than pays for the membership cost, so, essentially, membership is free. A list of new and recently returning members appears below. This list is not complete, so if your name does not appear this month, it will be in the May issue.

If you have recently paid for membership but have received another notice, please accept our sincere apologies and disregard the renewal notice. Occasionally, there are delays in processing.



Brad Andrews
Ron Angus
Alvin Barrington
Kevin and Karen Bates
Cyrus and Doris Beck
Peter Bienz
Jeffrey Blair
Irvin Brennan
Bob Bretzlaff
Hubert Brochard
Kirk Cavers
Stanley Cheslock
Wayne Cook
Barrie Drummond
Raymond and Marilyn Dubois
Kelvin Egan and Christina Thompson
Ferme Lamont SENC
Ernest Gasser
David Gibson
Jean Gilbert
Douglas and Joy Grant
Donald Gruer

Paul Haldeman
Bill Hamilton
Vincent and Gertrude Hendrick
Winston Hodge
Stanley Holmes
Sidney Jones
Heinz and Kathy Kessler
Jamie Laidlaw
Steven Latulipe
Richard and Pauline Mayhew
Hubert and Eleanore McClelland
Rodney and Cynthia McMillan
Dr. John McOuat
Ed Michaud
Mildred Miller
Barry Moffat
Calvin Morrow
Robert and Thyra Ness
Garry and Charleen Overton
Frank and Marlene Palmer
Herbert and Jean Parnell
David Parnell and Deanna Fowler

Brent Peddie
Douglas Perkins
Chris Rawlings
Martin and Ruth Roth
Michael Royea
Wesley Ruddock
Michael and Sandra Savage
Andrew Simms
Donald and Robert Soles
William Stevenson
David Storey
Alfons Stroebele
Scott Templeton
John and Gail Tracy
Theode and Kelly Turgeon
Andrius Valevicius
Jennifer Ward
Kenneth and Allan Ward
Bruce Weir
David Young
Gordon and Lorna Young

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- Panoramic visibility with curved windshields, electric mirrors and up to 3 viewing cameras
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