



WHAT'S INSIDE

A great award for a QFA board member
page 3

Gaspé reinvents itself with hip music festival
page 5

Beyond carbon pricing
page 6

The best wood to burn
page 8

Help isolated seniors in your community
page 12

Switching to robotic milking
page 18

Mexico re-opens completely to Canadian cattle



Canadian and Mexican authorities announced this month that Mexico is now open to Canadian cattle imports, ending a 13-year ban that started with the 2003 BSE crisis.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

— Albert Camus

QFA's annual general meeting!

Friday, November 18

Macdonald Campus

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

There's good news for Canada's beef farmers: as of October 7, Canada now has full access to the Mexican beef market, ending a 13-year restriction that was put in place during the BSE crisis of 2003.

From a trade mission in Mexico, Federal Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay said that regular trade in the cattle markets between the two countries had resumed and that all regulations were put in order so that Canadian cattle exporters could start earning money in the long-closed market.

"It is an access that the prime minister and the president (of Mexico) announced in June," MacAulay reported. "The announcement was made, but

there was a lot of work done between the CFIA and health officials here in Mexico. Yesterday was the day that Mexico was open to all Canadian beef."

Promise kept

Back in June, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told optimistic cattle industry representatives that Mexico would soon lift its ban on Canadian cattle imports, following a two-day state visit to Canada by Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

At that time, Trudeau and Nieto said Mexico was dropping its restrictions on Canadian beef from cattle 30 months of age and older, since prior to the announcement, Mexico would accept beef only from Canadian cattle younger than 30 months because of lingering concerns over BSE.

Projections at that time made by the Canadian Meat Council suggested that the reopening of Mexico to Canadian cattle imports would add \$10 million in revenue annually to the collective wallet of the country's beef industry. But now MacAulay and others are projecting a rosier forecast.

"Now Canada Beef is talking that it could (mean) up to \$200 million a year for our Canadian farmers and ranchers," said the agriculture minister and MP for Cardigan, PEI. "This expanded access, based on sound scientific principles, will create new opportunities to export even more high-quality Canadian beef to Mexico while putting more money in the pockets of farmers and helping to grow the middle class."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BSE hit hard

Canada's exports to Mexico were cut in half when BSE hit in 2003. Between 2000 and 2002, the average annual export

revenue to Mexico was \$289.7 million for Canadian producers. In between 2011 and 2015, that average dropped down to \$136 million—and the nation's livestock producers felt the pinch.

Getting back up to the \$200-million-

mark won't be easy. Recent changes in the cattle industry, along with the phenomenon of aging and retired farmers, mean that the opportunities offered by Mexico opening its borders will be pursued gradually.

"The problem today is we don't have the same number of cattle," John Masswohl of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association points out.

"The herd size has been reduced because of a lot of these market closures, because a lot of farmers switched from cattle maybe to growing a crop, putting in canola instead of cattle."



This expanded access, based on sound scientific principles, will create new opportunities to export even more high-quality Canadian beef to Mexico.

Mexico is Canada's third largest beef market. Industry analysts say that it could develop further due to its diversity and become one of Canada's best markets for cattle over 30 months of age.

Canada's post-BSE beef exports to Mexico peaked in 2004 at 80,625 tonnes, worth \$327.41 million. In 2015 Mexico took 19,418 tonnes of Canadian beef, worth \$155.65 million, a report from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association said.

QFA's annual meeting! Friday, November 18

Macdonald Campus

Guest speakers include:

RON BONNETT, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture

DAVID EPP, Ontario Regional Representative, Canadian Food Grains Bank

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QFA board member wins prestigious scholarship

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

No one has to tell Andrew Hickey about the importance of working smart in today's agricultural environment.

The 24-year-old Quyon native grew up with a love of farming, being raised directly beside the farm where his uncle tends 100 head of a mixed Angus-Hereford breed.

But when it came to pursuing agricultural education after high school, Hickey didn't go the usual route of focusing and perfecting his production techniques with a mind to going right back to the family farm. Instead, he chose to look into the "business" element of the term "farm business," taking a CEGEP degree in Business Administration from John Abbott College.

"I did that first for two reasons," explains this determined young farmer, who sits on the QFA Board of Directors as 4-H representative. "So that I would be able to have something to fall back on, and so that I could focus on loan specialization and other areas of business when I came to school out here."

"Out here" is far away from home indeed—Olds College, an Alberta school that specializes in applied agricultural, horticultural, land and environmental management 45 minutes north of Calgary.

"The school is great," Hickey raves. "I'm able to focus on everything from economics and risk management, HR, and project management. It's really good in that it gives you the competencies for dealing with banks. And it helps guys like me who want to work in industry before settling down to farm."

In taking the Agribusiness Applied Degree Program at Olds, Hickey puts himself in good stead for having a career working off-farm.

"I'm still up in the air about what type of work I'd like to pursue before farming," he admits. "Being an ag financial consultant in banks, or specializing in field crop production assistance—making sure that producers have the right inputs to get out there and make their money."



QFA board member Andrew Hickey is the only Quebecker to win a scholarship from the Canadian Agri-Business Education Foundation this year.

Scholarship winner

Hickey's intellect earned him a prestigious distinction this year: he is one of only six students across Canada to win a scholarship from the Canadian Agri-Business Education Foundation (CABEF), which awards \$2,500 scholarships annually to Canadian Grade 12 students who are entering into an accredited agriculture college or university. The charity foundation encourages students to pursue their passion for agriculture and to bring their new ideas and talent to the industry. Scholarship winners are evaluated on a combination of leadership attributes, academic standing and their response to essay questions.

Only one student may win from each province. So

Hickey has the honour of being Quebec's winning representative for the CABEF scholarships this year.

The money will help him stay afloat while studying so far away from home, Hickey says. To afford his stay at Olds College, he has picked up custom work on the side, giving Hickey a whole new perspective on Canadian farming.

"It's large-scale out here in the West," he marvels. "It's amazing, I've done custom work on a 220-horsepower John Deere tractor, a kind of equipment I've never operated before—the advancements that they have out here are nothing like they have in Quebec. I want to take what I've learned out here and apply it back home."

Big ideas


Students applying for CABEF scholarships are asked for an essay response to the question, "What do you consider to be the three main opportunities for the Canadian agriculture industry and which one inspires you the most?" Hickey isn't short on words when it comes to answering that one.

"The future in agriculture has never been as uncertain as it is now. People all across the country used to have a hand in it, and used to have some experience in it. But now, we're just operating on the idea, 'People want it, they want this kind of product—so DO it.' Farming is the only industry where what we do is dictated both by the consumer and the buyer. We're caught in the middle."

Nonetheless, it's this young producer's hope to return to the farm and keep it in beef. When asked if he sees a bright future for Anglophone farmers in Quebec, Hickey is adamant.

"Sure, you always have to worry about access to information as an English-speaker," he says with matter-of-fact optimism in his voice. "But we have good translation services. You can go to the QFA, you can call up MAPAQ. We can get by."

To learn more about the Canadian Agri-Business Education Foundation (CABEF), visit www.cabef.org




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5:00 p.m. Holstein Show (Summer, Junior, Intermediate adult classes)
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8:00 a.m. Holstein (Distance of Junior classes and cows) Supreme Championship



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Marcel Groleau
UPA President

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently raised its projections for world wheat production in 2016–2017. Production is up in India, the United States and Russia. Production of coarse grains (barley, corn, oats, rye) is also expected to increase as a result of record harvests in the United States, Argentina and India. In general, world production of all grains combined is expected to grow by 1.5 per cent this year.

For those concerned with food security, this is good news. But it may not be such welcome news for farmers. According to the FAO reports, prices are set to drop by the highest amount in six years. Wheat and corn futures prices have already fallen by 16 per cent since the beginning of the year on the Chicago Board of Trade. The low Canadian dollar currently works in our favour. But how long will it last?

The meat market is going through a similar period. The FAO reports that world meat production will remain fairly steady in 2016, with an increase

Lack of clear vision is hurting our agriculture

of just 0.2 per cent. Production is expected to rise in the United States, Europe, Brazil, India, Mexico, Canada and Russia (increase of 1.4 per cent) but fall in China and Australia. In North America, pork production especially slightly surpasses slaughter capacity. This explains the recent fall in prices offered to farmers. With the impact of porcine epidemic diarrhoea in the United States waning, production is rising.

As the president of the Producteurs de porcs du Québec, David Boissonneault, said last week, "the business environment for pork production is far from favourable to investment. Increasing delays, especially in improvements to buildings and equipment, are becoming more than worrying [a 53 per cent decrease from 2007 to 2013]. Falling pork prices and the bleak projections for the coming months are only adding to this gloomy outlook. [...] A number of farms, especially independent ones, are prepared to make the decision to get out of the pork production business over the short term."

Agricultural commodity prices fluctuate with supply and demand. In one sense, this makes agricultural

commodities no different from any other consumer products. The difference is that agricultural commodities are essential to human survival, and a slight dip in supply creates huge increases in price. (Think back to the food riots of 2008.) Conversely, a slight surplus in supply causes a major drop in prices, given that agricultural commodities are perishable and that adjusting production levels to match the demand takes time. This economic phenomenon, which is unique to agriculture, was identified in the 1930s and termed the "farm problem." The farm problem explains why it is necessary for governments to become involved in agriculture through risk-sharing programs adapted to each sector.

Decisions regarding income security made by the Quebec government fly in the face of this phenomenon. Since 2010, there has been an absence of clear vision for agriculture from the MAPAQ, not to mention cutbacks to the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (ASRA) program, especially in the last two years. This has hurt our agriculture and threatens to make us less competitive. The statistics on building expenditures in Quebec are

worrying relative to Ontario and the rest of Canada.

In the context of pork production, the problems of underinvestment and aging equipment and buildings are well known and well documented. If an investment stimulus program had been launched when meat prices were favourable, as was recommended by the UPA-MAPAQ-FADQ committee on income security, it would have had a major impact on Quebec's farms and on its economy. Twice over, the government ignored the FADQ's recommendations on the consolidation of the Agri and ASRA programs. We know how that turned out. Faced with a lack of choice, producers were consulted and subsequently abandoned ASRA. What will they do now if the price of corn drops to \$160 per tonne?

At a time when citizens' expectations have never been higher—whether they pertain to pesticide use, animal welfare or environmental and wetland protection, just to name a few—Quebec farmers are seeing an unprecedented withdrawal of government support for agriculture.

Editorial published in La Terre de chez nous on October 12, 2016



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Summer Fairs

Gaspé reinvents itself with hip music festival

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

The Shigawake Agricultural Fair celebrated its 107th edition from August 11 to 14. The treasured summer fair—located in the small, largely Anglophone community of Shigawake on the southern shore of the Gaspé peninsula—attracts Gaspésians and tourists from all walks of life and is living proof that the summer fair is far from over in rural Quebec.

An Anglo enclave of roughly 300 people nestled along an eight-kilometre stretch of coastline, Shigawake boasts a proud agricultural heritage. Many of its current inhabitants are seventh- or eighth-generation agricultural producers still working the land that their ancestors farmed—and in many cases, living in century-old houses. That fosters a unique sense of history and community dedication, says Meghan Clinton, who coordinates the music festival that takes place as part of the annual fair.

"All the families here have known each other for a long time and therefore

have a thick history," says Clinton. "Just like in family, some of it is complicated, but for the most part they watch out for each other, care for each other and like to have a good time. I would describe the community as strong, hard working, wise, calm, supportive and loving."

Clinton grew up on a family farm herself—right opposite the festival grounds on highway 132. Her grandfather ran a beef and dairy operation on the same land her father and mother now farm.

"When we moved there in the late 80s, it was still a dairy farm run by my grandfather," Clinton explains. "Eventually it was passed on to my father who made it a beef farm. With each generation it seems that each owner did what they felt comfortable doing. That's a beautiful thing."

The Gaspé, like many Maritime regions, has suffered economically with a dwindling fisheries industry in recent decades. That has meant that many locals who move west to seek work in Toronto—or in the oilfields of Alberta—view the Shigawake Agricultural Fair as



The horse haul is always a big draw at the Shigawake Agricultural Fair. Spectators are amazed watching these powerful animals pull as much as 10,000 pounds.

a reason to make a return visit.

"The work they take can be contract work so they will come back in between jobs, but some need to take more permanent jobs," explains Clinton. "The festival is important to the many Anglos from the Gaspé and many who have moved away. The fair has always played a huge role in our lives—we all went as kids, and it was the one event of the year that we looked forward to. It was the highlight."

A traditional summer fair

The Shigawake Agricultural Fair hosts everything rural Quebecers have come to love and expect from their summer festivals. Handicrafts, vegetables and baking competitions draw submissions from far and wide; horse haul and woodsmen (and woodswomen!) competitions entertain spectators; and traditional games like the potato sack race, the egg toss and the three-legged race get the crowds excited as the sun goes down. But much of the fair's continued success is due to Clinton's enterprising decision to add a music festival to the Shigawake Fair.

"Initially the idea came from me growing up in this small Anglo town and not having seen a live, amplified concert until I was about 14," explains Clinton, now 34. "Then moving to Montreal at 16 and realizing how little access we really had in our community to live Anglophone music. My parents (QFA members George and Nikki Hayes) were

a big motivation for the festival. They are musicians in their own right—as are my sister and brother and grandmother—and big music lovers."

The board of directors of the Shigawake Agricultural Society agreed to Clinton's inspired idea, and the first edition of the Shigawake Music Festival was held in 2009—just in time for the Fair's 100th anniversary.

Clinton used her contacts in working in music management in Montreal to draw an A-list of acts to attend the music festival, and over the years, Shigawake has seen big-name performers come to the small town—including Patrick Watson, Marie-Pierre Arthur, Plants & Animals, Les Hay Babies and The Barr Brothers.

The result is both a unique music festival and an agricultural fair like no other, as rural audiences and largely urban-based performers get to rub elbows and maybe even participate in an egg toss with their favourite performers.

"The musicians love the experience of the fair," explains Clinton. "It makes me so happy to share this long-standing tradition of agricultural fairs with them."

"Having the music festival and the summer fair mix creates this bizarre trip—it opens people's minds to things they would never usually pay attention to. Both events are very open to each others' needs, and I think that's what makes it work so well. They act in harmony. It's really something people need to experience for themselves!"





Climate of change



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

The headline news in Ottawa in October was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's decision to set a floor price on carbon, imposing a minimum charge on any provinces or territories that fail to set their own pricing regimes by 2018.

It was an important announcement, even though the price points—\$10 per tonne in 2018, rising in steps to \$50 by 2022—fall far short of what would be needed if anyone thought we could rely strictly on pricing and market forces to meet Canada's painfully modest carbon reduction targets.

But the second half of the story began to emerge a week later, when Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna told CTV's *Question Period* that Ottawa would introduce a whole menu of carbon reduction measures this fall.

"There's going to be a range of measures, and we're going to be doing it with the provinces and territories," she said. "Some people say, just have a price on carbon. If you were to do that, the price would be so high it wouldn't make any sense. So that's why you have to have a variety of different measures."

About those 'co-benefits'

McKenna's comment points toward a conversation that I've been hearing in different corners of the climate and energy community.

For years, climate hawks (I'm guilty here, too) have been encouraging anyone who would listen to think of greenhouse gas reductions as a way to get the other good things they want.

We call them co-benefits:

The improved air quality, reduced asthma admissions in hospitals and lower healthcare costs we can achieve by phasing out coal.

National climate plan should go far beyond carbon pricing



"Carbon farming" is a low-tech solution that uses appropriate planting and methods to allow the soil to naturally sequester carbon, which in turn improves soil fertility.

The million person-years of climate employment to be created in the first five years of a green energy transition.

The potential for farm operators to turn climate response into a second cash crop, by earning credits for sequestering carbon in soil.

But an interesting question begins to form when you look at climate change through the eyes of the "unusual suspects" outside the energy sector—the people whose attitudes, behaviours, choices and decisions shape 90 per cent or more of energy demand, even in a confirmed petro-state like Canada.

If you're a farm producer trying to hold a budget together, a laid-off fos-

sil worker looking to retrain as a solar electrician, or a parent whose toddler can't breathe...is it possible that you already know what you need to get done, and carbon reductions are the co-benefit?

McKenna's focus on a "variety of different measures" finally takes us past an obsessive focus on carbon pricing as a single silver bullet to solve the climate crisis. Sure, market forces are powerful, and pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle. But it isn't the end of the story. It's just the end of the beginning, and some of the details to come could open up interesting possibilities for rural communities and farm producers.

What Ottawa's been hearing

I don't have an inside track on the deliberations leading to the federal government's climate plan. But it's easy to scan through the feedback McKenna's department received after it opened a website and asked for Canadians' ideas on climate solutions.

William Hanlon said the government should "encourage widespread change of agricultural practices into those that can sequester carbon in the soil." He described "carbon farming" as a "low-tech solution that uses appropriate planting and methods to allow the soil to naturally sequester carbon, which in turn improves soil fertility," while producing carbon-credit income for farmers.

Judy Cross suggested following California's lead by dealing with cow flatulence.

James Howe called for "extreme weather resilience planning" for homes and a national home energy retrofit incentive.

Karine Proulx focused on youth employment opportunities "in sectors that will be critical to the low-carbon transition."

Cameron Wales stressed the need for an effective national rail network—a comment that compared Canada's often-disappointing passenger rail service to Europe's, but could easily extend to the rail freight problems that have plagued many farm communities.

Only a small proportion of the comments had anything to do with agriculture. But if the eventual national plan includes space for the kind of bottom-up solutions reflected on the consultation site, it could open important doors for farm communities.

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.



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Growing with the garden

Cultivating a new generation of farmers

Shaina Hayes
Columnist

As temperatures drop and crops begin to die back, leaving only our heartiest, most cold-tolerant vegetable varieties, I am reminded of the days when our crew of seven first stepped onto the MSEG fields, nearly six months ago. Our four farm managers, Anna Lyon, Erlend Bjorklund, Alex Daigle and Matthew McCormick, were stepping onto the fields for a second growing season, only this time the fields were their own. As was explained in the first "Growing with the Garden article", this is the nature of the farm: it lies solely in the hands of its current managers and is passed down to the apprentices the next year. That is, while the use of the land and much of the administrative workings of the farm are facilitated by McGill University, there is no permanent owner or steward of the farm itself. I have painstakingly tried to explain this to people in the past, but am rarely able to fully relay it, and just how unusual and progressive it makes MSEG. This is mainly because when people hear the name Macdonald Campus Student-Run Ecological Gardens, they tend to hear the word Gardens and little else. And indeed, as the farm does produce mainly vegetables, it is comprised of gardens. But make no mistake, MSEG is a farm - a fully functioning, ever-growing enterprise which now feeds hundreds of people every week (and if that's not a farm, then what is?). As our final market dates quickly approach and we prepare



MSEG apprentices Shaina Hayes, Mathieu Ouellet and Florence Bieler pose together at the Macdonald Campus Clubs Day gathering this September.


to finally leave the farm for the winter, I begin to imagine the fear and excitement that must accompany those first steps when I take my place as farm manager this coming spring along with my two fellow apprentices, Florence Bieler and Mathieu Ouellet. It is unclear at this point what legacy we as managers will

plan to leave for future MSEG generations, but the much-deserved winter break will give us the chance to reflect and regroup on the topic!

One of my main discoveries during the 2016 growing season was the fact that open and honest communication is absolutely crucial in farming. Every single morning of the 50-hour workweek at 7:30 a.m. our crew sat down for "feelings time." At first this struck me as trivial, but not only did it give each member a chance to express any comments or concerns they had about the previous work day or about upcoming tasks, it also allowed the entire team to be up-to-date with each other's physical and emotional state. This allowed us to move forward with consideration and efficiency, especially at peak season when we began to lose steam and, at times, patience. I would highly recommend a "feelings time" for farms of any scale!

Above all else, I discovered that MSEG is more than just a MAC club or program, and it's more than even your run-of-the-mill market garden, because while MSEG is growing sustainable veggies, it is also growing savvy, hardworking young farmers who will someday take their first steps onto their own fields, and will do so with the environment, their communities and their fellow farmers in mind and in heart.

Endless thanks go out to Paul Meldrum and Dr. Caroline Begg, whose undying support for MSEG and all its members have kept the farm alive and ever evolving.



Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec

OCTOBER 2016

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Nombre	kg de MG/jour
Offers to sell		
Total	186	1,159.1
Eligible for allocation	186	1,159.1
Successful	186	1,159.1
Reserve		
Quantity purchased (-)/ sold (+)		0.0
Offers to buy		
Total	906	7,000.7
Eligible for allocation	904	6,988.5
Successful	904	1,159.1

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 0.6 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	Cumulation
1	1.5		< 24,000.00	2	12.2	
185	1,157.6	1,159.1	24,000.00 ceiling price	904	6,988.5	6,988.5

ALLOCATION TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

Buyers			
	Number	kg of BF/day	%
PRICED	Startup Assistance Program	0	0.0
	Holding of less than 12 kg of BF/day	0	0.0
	Reimbursement of startup loans	10	1.0
	Iteration (0.7 kg of BF/day)	904	615.2
	Prorata (8.52 %)	846	542.9
	16.59% of the offers have been processed	1,159.1	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	186	1,159.1	100.0
100.00% of the offers have been processed	186	1,159.1	100.0

183466



The Tree Doctor



Leilak Anderson
Certified Arborist
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

What does your woodpile look like?

A wise old-timer I know used to complain that a penny-pinching woodcutter would sell a cord of wood that was stacked with holes big enough for a dog to jump through. However, I know the current readers are most likely supplying their own wood for the winter, so we'll stick to tips about preparing your own stash.

In an ideal world where a farmer has enough time in a day, firewood is cut at least one year in advance to sufficiently cure. Properly stored wood is covered on top but open on the sides, so air can pass through and dry the wood properly. You can also stack your wood in an open space for the summertime, bark-side up, for quick drying and then move it to storage for winter, but if you have time to stack your wood twice in a season then you've figured out something the rest of us haven't! But no matter where you stack your firewood, make sure it's off the ground so it doesn't wick up moisture.

The best wood to burn is hardwood with about 20 per cent moisture content (which means it's had ample time to cure, since the moisture content



Annual chimney cleaning is the only way to ensure a safe indoor fire.

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starts at about 50 per cent when it's first split). Roughly speaking, oak will take two years to dry, maple needs one year, and dead-standing ash can be burned pretty much right away. Softwood like spruce is excellent for kindling or for small fires to take the cool out of a room without building up a big bed of coals.

"In an ideal world where a farmer has enough time in a day, firewood is cut at least one year in advance to sufficiently cure."

A note on chimney fires: when wood burns without sufficient airflow, the oils in the wood do not fully combust, and smoke carries the off-gassed product up into the chimney. As the smoke rises, it cools, and the water, carbon and volatile gases condense on the inside of the chimney pipe, building up

creosote. This is bad for two reasons: it reduces the opening size of your flue and the draft, and this means your fire isn't getting enough airflow for complete combustion, once again adding to the build up. More importantly, creosote is highly combustible, so a single hot fire with the air control wide open can allow hot oxygen to meet the built-up creosote and cause a serious chimney fire. Therefore, get your chimney cleaned every year, period. None of us have the time to stand around all day monitoring the quality of fire burning, and some of us have to burn less than quality wood, so annual chimney sweeping is the only safe alternative.

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.

Forage crops

Decision time for alfalfa fields

Ev Thomas

ethomas@oakpointny.com

By the time you read this most corn intended for silage will be fermenting and you may be contemplating a fall harvest of alfalfa. The hot, dry summer hammered alfalfa yields in much of the Northeast, and the situation was even worse with grass that in some areas went dormant for a good part of the summer. I'm not sure there's much that can be done with grass fields, but some late-season rain has made an October alfalfa harvest a possibility — at least where there hasn't yet been a killing frost. Even frosted alfalfa may be worth harvesting, but only if it hasn't been rained on since it was frozen. Rain quickly leaches nutrients from freeze-dried alfalfa leaves. Don't even think about making dry hay, and use a silage inoculant since by October the native *Lactobacillus* bacteria on the alfalfa may have died.

Before putting the hay head back onto



Before putting the hay head back onto the chopper, ask yourself: Is this trip necessary (or more accurately, will it be economical)?

the chopper, ask yourself: Is this trip necessary (or more accurately, will it be economical)? Fall alfalfa yields are often discouragingly low—those big leaflets

are deceiving. And especially important for stands you intend on keeping a couple more years: Mowing alfalfa in the fall usually reduces first cut yield

the following spring regardless of the harvest interval between a fall cut and the previous one. If you were fortunate enough to harvest bud stage alfalfa three or four times this year, allow at least 50 days for the plants to recover root carbohydrates. Alfalfa growing in hot weather will reach the bud stage in fewer days than normal, but this doesn't mean the plants have accumulated adequate root carbohydrates. If you don't really need the forage, leave the alfalfa be and go do something else.

Finally, examine third year and older alfalfa stands with a critical eye. Are there enough plants — or more importantly, enough alfalfa stems—to justify keeping the field in alfalfa for another year? A field with a mix of alfalfa and grass may be productive longer than a field of straight alfalfa with the same alfalfa stem density.

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

Agriculture is our way of life too

Meet Jacques

In 16 years at FCC, Jacques has helped hundreds of Canadian producers build their dreams. Like everyone on your FCC team, Jacques knows your industry and he'll get to know you.

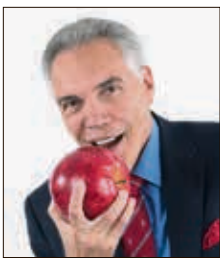
1-800-387-3232 fcc.ca

Jacques DeBlois
FCC Senior Relationship Manager

Farm Credit Canada
Advancing the business of agriculture

Canada

Separating sense from nonsense



Dr. Joe Schwarcz
Scientist and author

Toilet science

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

International Toilet Day is celebrated every year on November 19. That may sound funny, but it is no joke. It is a time to contemplate what we have and others don't. As we sit in privacy on our comfortable flush toilets today, it is hard to imagine that a scant 200 years ago sewage disposal meant emptying chamber pots into the nearest convenient place, which was often the street. If you were out for a walk in Britain in the eighteenth century and heard the cry "gardy-loo," you had better scamper across the street because the contents of a chamber pot were set to be hurled your way from a window.

What may be even harder to imagine than the sidestepping of flying fecal matter is that roughly a third of the world's population today cannot easily sidestep the problems associated with exposure to untreated sewage because of lack of access to a toilet. As a consequence, diarrheal disease is rampant, killing more children than aids, malaria and measles combined. In developing countries, a child dies every twenty seconds as a



In developing countries, a child dies every twenty seconds as a result of poor hygiene. Diarrheal disease is rampant, killing more children than aids, malaria and measles combined.

result of poor hygiene. Mahatma Gandhi recognized the problem when he proclaimed in 1925 that "sanitation is more important than independence."

The invention of the flush toilet and the introduction of plumbing for sewage disposal mark two of the most significant advances in history. Let's get one of the toilet myths out of the way right away. Contrary to numerous popular accounts, Thomas Crapper did not invent the flush toilet!

Almost all accounts of the Crapper saga claim that a 1969 book by Wallace Reyburn, cleverly titled *Flushed with Pride: The Story of Thomas Crapper*, establishes Crapper as the inventor of the

flush toilet. Reyburn actually says no such thing - flush toilets were around long before Thomas Crapper ever got into the game in the nineteenth century.

The first flush toilet appeared as early as 1700 BC. The Palace of Knossos on the island of Crete, built around that time, featured a toilet with an overhanging cistern that dispensed water when a plug was removed. Curiously it would take another 3,000 years until the next step in flushing technology was taken by Sir John Harrington, godson of Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1861, Crapper's plumbing company opened for business in London. The time was ripe for the sale of plumbing sup-

plies because the need for proper sanitation was being firmly established. A public report issued in the city of Leeds claimed a significantly higher death rate among children who lived in "dirty" streets where sewage flowed openly. And in 1854, physician John Snow had pinpointed the homes in London where someone had contracted cholera during an epidemic and traced the problem to water contaminated with sewage being dispensed from a pump in Broad Street.

It is virtually impossible to attribute the numerous improvements in toilet technology since Crapper's time to individuals. There are patents galore for eliminating overflow, reducing water usage, curbing noise, improving waste removal from the side of the bowl, devices to alert night time users if the seat is up and gimmicks to encourage men to aim properly. And the future may belong to toilets equipped with biosensors that automatically monitor urine and feces for health indicators such as sugar and blood but for now, just think of the amazing technology that allows for the removal of the roughly 200 grams of poo we deposit per person per day. That's a stunning six-hundred-thousand kilos in a city of 3million!

So next time November 19 rolls around, as you get comfy on your high tech toilet, ready to flush away the remnants of a scrumptious meal a roll of soft toilet paper and fragrant soap by your side, give a thought to how we can help those unlucky enough to have been born in a place where "gardy-loo still rings true."

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.

Every Set of Lost Keys Has a Story

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GIVE TO A YOUNG FARMER.

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

Optimizing compost use

The Quebec Potato Growers (PPTQ), as an active member of the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)'s Organic Roundtable (TDPB), organized a study trip in Manitoba to visit organic research and production sites. Eleven potato growers and four agronomists from different regions of the province participated in this initiative that took place last August.

The first objective was to gain a hands-on understanding of how organic production systems in the Canadian prairies have evolved. Dr. Martin Entz from the University of Manitoba, who was in Longueuil recently to present his research results as part of the Canadian scientific conference on organic agriculture, met with the Quebec group at Glenlea Research Station. For the last 24 years, Dr. Entz and his team have been carrying out a comparative study on this site, looking at the agronomic and economic performance of different production systems: conventional, low-input and organic.

This long-term experimentation has shown that, among other things, the future of organic production, and specifically of organic potato production, will depend on better proficiency in the



Glenlea Research Station, University of Manitoba.

use of farm fertilizers such as compost. The remaining challenge is the sufficient availability of nitrogen for superior plant growth. On this, Dr. Entz is categorical: "We need a scientific approach to the use of compost and we need to train growers in this matter." This implies better on-farm composting methods, regular compost sampling in order to measure its nutrient value, and the application of appropriate quantities depending on the type of soil and the specific needs of the

plants cultivated. This finding was also reported during the second day of the trip when the group visited Kroeker Farms in Winkler. This farm has over 5,000 acres of organic production, of which one quarter is dedicated to potato crops. Marvin Dick, the agronomist responsible for organic production management at Kroeker Farms, also spoke about the importance of production techniques and the use of compost: "Compost is used in its solid form,

but we also produce and use compost tea, a nutrient-rich amendment that provides growth elements as well as beneficial microorganisms that stimulate growth and prevent diseases; however, we still have much to learn in this area." This trip was a tremendous opportunity for Quebec farmers to see what large-scale organic potato farming looks like, and it is a source of inspiration and motivation to continue to develop their organic techniques.



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



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

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

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

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

Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

Last Name.....

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Address.....

Phone

Fax.....

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Price

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:

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

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

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

Membership Includes

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

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

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



Signature



Help isolated seniors in your community on November 6

In the fall of 2015, the Quebec Farmers' Association partnered with the national organization HelpAge Canada on raising awareness to address seniors' social isolation. Reaching Isolated Seniors Everywhere (RISE) was launched to help Canadians of all ages, cultures and regions become aware of the impact of loneliness and social isolation on their older family members, friends and neighbours – and to take action. As part of this partnership, the QFA is promoting events happening across the country on November 6. Timed for when the clocks change, Canadians are invited on that day to reach out and connect with older people in their communities.

"Isolation is very much a real issue for our community," says QFA Executive Director Dougal Rattray. "People living in rural communities are not always at the forefront of society's priorities. In recognizing that a significant proportion of our rural community is of a more senior generation, we need to be sure that they are okay. This is what this partnership is all about."

In Canada, nearly a million seniors are socially isolated and don't participate frequently in any social activity. We hear repeatedly in the media about how our population is aging and how the number of Canadians who are 65 and over will likely double over the next 25 years. But what we don't hear about so often is how so many older people are isolated and rely on a pet or TV for companionship. On commenting about the campaign, QFA President John McCart said, "This is a proactive stance that our directors feel is important to address. We urge readers to consider the RISE campaign spectrum, and if there is someone you know who might be in need of support, go visit or phone them. Using the changing of the clocks is a perfect time to take action."

Be sure to contact the QFA office if you wish to share your story with readers: qfa@upa.qc.ca. We will print your story in the November or December issue of the *Advocate*.



Is someone you know becoming invisible?

REACH OUT AND CONNECT WITH AN OLDER PERSON

Social isolation and loneliness are major social, health and quality of life issues for older people. Many seniors are isolated and rely only on a pet or TV for companionship. Over time, their mental and physical health deteriorate, sometimes to the point where they become "invisible" – we only learn about their existence when they reach the hospital. But it doesn't have to be that way... The goal of this tool is to help you identify the risks... and the possible actions to take. DEPENDING ON THE RISK FACTORS, MAYBE ONLY A FEW, THE SENIOR COULD BE AT THE SERIOUS OR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION STAGE.

RISK FACTORS | INDICATORS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION

Personal

- age = 80+
- childless
- retired
- member of a specific group (e.g. Aboriginal, LGBT)
- older newcomer
- lower levels of education
- low self esteem
- death of a partner
- weak social/communication skills
- poor English language skills
- low emotional support

Health

- chronic illness/disability
- depression or other mental health issues
- loss of vision, hearing
- dementia
- age-related disabilities (incontinence, fear of falling)
- mobility problems
- alcoholism

LEVEL OF RISK

1 POTENTIAL RISK

PERSON HAS
3+
RISK FACTORS

2 MODERATE RISK

PERSON HAS
5+
RISK FACTORS

POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

- Regular phone calls to check-in
- Contact individual's family
- Set up visitation schedule with friends/family
- Offer to take person shopping
- Offer lift to medical/other appointments
- Invite to meet for coffee or other outing (e.g. library, church)
- Offer assistance with computer

Help us refine this tool by sending us your comments: info@rise-cisa.ca
We welcome new participating organizations and sponsors.



Do not let a senior become “invisible”

Living situation

- low/unstable income
- living alone
- location (urban, rural, remote)
- no friends or family nearby
- change of residence
- living in unsafe neighbourhoods
- being anonymous to neighbours
- minimal participation in social activities, volunteering, outside groups (church, club)
- being a caregiver

Changes in...

- physical health (bruising, weight loss, weakness)
- mental/emotional health (fear, confusion)
- personal hygiene/appearance
- personality/routine (withdrawal, poor diet)
- appearance of home (neglect, cleanliness)

Barriers

- lack of affordable, accessible transportation
- loss of driver's licence
- lack of awareness/access to community services
- challenges re. technology
- limited assistance with routine activities (shopping, meal prep)

PERSON HAS 7+ RISK FACTORS

3 SERIOUS RISK

PERSON HAS 10+ RISK FACTORS

4 IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

The goal of the RISE Campaign is to help Canadians become aware of the possible impact of loneliness and social isolation on their older family members, friends and neighbours – and to take action. For more information about the REACH ISOLATED SENIORS EVERYWHERE CAMPAIGN (RISE):

www.rise-cisa.ca
info@rise-cisa.ca
1-800-648-1111

- Offer to research community volunteer programs
- Drop off prepared meals/offer to prepare meals with person
- Provide contact numbers for assistance (211 is available in all provinces except MB, PEI, NFL)
- Contact local Social Services dept for evaluation and/or immediate assistance
- Contact local Health dept for evaluation and/or immediate assistance

For information:

Call 211, a source of information on government and community based health and social services.

HelpAge Canada
age helps
www.helpagecanada.ca

Disclaimer: These are guidelines only, if you feel that the senior is at the point of serious risk or needs immediate intervention, even though they are experiencing only one or two of the risk factors, please take action.

Maple Syrup

Training for maple producers

Over the course of fall 2016 and winter 2017, the Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ) will once again be offering its highly popular course, *Du sirop d'érable de qualité*, which deals with producing quality maple syrup. This one-day training session is intended for producers who sell syrup in bulk barrels or in small containers and who wish to learn about good practices involved in maple syrup packaging at their sugar bush. The course includes a theoretical portion along with a number of practical exercises and tastings.


The training sessions are organized jointly with the Collectifs régionaux en formation agricole (www.formationagricole.com). The FPAQ will cover the registration fee for one person from each business that has quota. If you would like to register, please get in touch with the relevant contact person listed in the calendar to the right. Be sure to have your FPAQ identification



The highly popular course, *Du sirop d'érable de qualité* includes a theoretical portion along with a number of practical exercises and tastings.

number handy to receive your complimentary registration. The training is offered in French only for the time being. Depending on the need, however, the Federation may look into making the training available in English.

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

Date	Region	Location	Registration
02/12/2016	Centre-du-Québec	Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska	Guylaine Martin / 819 758-6401, ext. 2702 gmartin@formationagricole.com
08/12/2016	Montréal-Est	Saint-Hyacinthe	Mylène Guindon / 450 774-9154, ext. 5224 mguindon@upa.qc.ca
09/12/2016	Laurentides	Mirabel	Karelle Gohier / 450 434-8150, ext. 5764 karelle.gohier@cssmi.qc.ca
13/12/2016	Bas-Saint-Laurent	Mont-Joli	Commission scolaire des Phares / 418 775-7577, ext. 1500
14/12/2016		La Pocatière	ITA, La Pocatière Campus 1 800 363-6272, ext. 1 ita-formationcontinue.omnivox.ca
16/01/2017	Beauce	Thetford Mines	Centre de formation professionnelle Le Tremplin / 418 338-7808, ext. 3116 info_sae@csappalaches.qc.ca
17/01/2017	Beauce	Saint-Georges	Commission scolaire de la Beauce-Etchemin / 418 228-5541, ext. 2620 www.csbe.qc.ca
18/01/2017	Outaouais	To be determined	Nathalie Guimond / 819 985-2293 crfao@formationagricole.com
19/01/2017	Lanaudière	Joliette	Collectif de formation agricole de Lanaudière / 450 753-7486, ext. 350 lanaudiere@formationagricole.com
23/01/2017	Beauce	Sainte-Marie	Commission scolaire de la Beauce-Etchemin 418 228-5541, ext. 2620 www.csbe.qc.ca
24/01/2017	Beauce	Saint-Joseph	
25/01/2017	Centre-du-Québec	Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska	Guylaine Martin / 819 758-6401, ext. 2702 gmartin@formationagricole.com
26/01/2017	Chaudière-Appalaches	Lévis	Online registration: https://www.amilia.com/store/fr/centre-de-formation-agricole-st-anseleme/shop/programs
27/01/2017		Montmagny	
31/12/2017	Estrie	Sherbrooke	Online registration: https://www.formationagricole.ca/formation.php?cours=511 For more information: Julie Moreau, 819 346-8905, ext. 138
01/02/2017	Estrie	Lac-Mégantic	Online registration: https://www.formationagricole.ca/formation.php?cours=504 For more information: Julie Moreau, 819 346-8905, ext. 138

QFA Membership



Are you a QFA member?

Files show that there are around 1,500 English-speaking farmers paying their dues to the UPA. ALL 1,500 receive the QFA's *Advocate*. Despite this, only one quarter of potential members give money for production of the *Advocate* and to help support other services. Please consider becoming a member. Your support goes a long way. Unfortunately, processing of welcome letters has been delayed, but packages will be delivered before the end of the year. Management takes responsibility for this and thanks you for your patience.

Below is a list of new and recently returning supporters. We thank you for making a difference.

James and Dorothy Barr

Christian and Marina

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Donald Brown

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Harry and Sheila

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Conner

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Ross Craig

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Hamilton

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Edward Johann

James Kucharik

Arthur and Sharon

Laberee

Jaimie Laidlaw

Ken McRae

Brian and Janet Rogers

William and Brenda

Russell

David and Kelly Sample

Eddy and Nancy Scott

Eric Seller

Brain Stanton

April Stewart

Allan Sutherland

Townshippers' Association

Colvin Watt

Jean Whelan

TOGETHER WE SUSTAIN QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING RURAL COMMUNITY.

Minimum insurable area under ASRA program: No change for 2017

Until just recently, in order to be eligible for the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (ASRA) program, administered by La Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ), grain producers had to abide by the minimum insurable area of 15 hectares per insurance year for the following products: barley, canola, feed wheat, food wheat, grain corn, oats, soy or a combination of crops.

With the removal of grain corn and soy from the ASRA program, these crops were supposed to be left out of the equation when calculating the number of hectares to be insured. Because of this change, a number of farmers were at risk of falling short of the minimum insurable area, which would render them ineligible for any compensation at all. In order to prevent this situation from



Grain corn and soy will continue to be considered in calculations of minimum insurable area for 2017, as was the case in 2016.

ASRA coordination committee meeting

Representatives of sectors that fall under ASRA meet from time to time to discuss issues related to the program. The removal of four products (grain corn, soy, potatoes and milk-fed veal) from the ASRA program has recently been an obvious topic of discussion. Given the positive account balance for these crops, there was a fair amount of discussion of how exactly the money is to be disposed of. In our sector, these amounts were \$57 million, including \$38 million from the FADQ. Certain sectors claim that this portion of FADQ funds should not necessarily go to grain producers—and the PGQ is concerned by this. The PGQ's view is that these funds should urgently be carried over into a substitute program that will make up for the loss of compensation for grain corn and soy producers under the ASRA program. Regardless of the government's decision to ask farmers to choose between income security programs, the PGQ's position remains the same: farmers need access to a basic program that covers their production costs, coupled with a supplementary program that will allow them to make productive investments in their businesses.

occurring, the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) held discussions with the FADQ over the summer months. Although the solution they reached is a temporary one, the outcome of the talks is that the minimum insurable area will remain unchanged for 2017. Therefore, grain corn and soy will continue to be considered in calculations of minimum insurable area for 2017, as was the case in 2016. It is important to note, however, that this is set to change in the 2018 insurance year. The PGQ will post the latest information at www.pgq.ca as it becomes available.

The October USDA supply and demand report

The USDA October report had no surprises. The US corn harvested area was increased by 200,000 acres, but the yield was reduced by 1 bu/acre. As a result, USDA now estimates the corn crop at a record-high 15.057 billion bu (Gbu), down 36 million bu (Mbu) from August. USDA's carryout forecast of 2.32 Gbu in 2017 was down slightly from last month, but it would still be the largest carryout since 1987-88. The season-average projected price is \$2.95 to \$3.55 FOB farm, up 5 cents from last month, compared to \$3.61 in 2015-16.

The US soybean acreage was raised from 50.6 to 51.4 bu/acre—the production estimate increased by 68 Mbu at a record-high 4.27 Gbu. Ending

stocks were up 30 Mbu since last month at 395 Mbu, compared to 197 Mbu in 2016. The projected price is unchanged from September at \$8.30 to \$9.80 FOB farm, compared to \$8.95 in 2015-16.

Worldwide, USDA raised Australia's wheat production by 800,000 tons at 28.3 million tons (MT), and Canada's by 1 MT at 31.5 MT. On the other hand, the European Union's crop was reduced by 2 MT on the account of France. In South America, USDA raised Brazil's corn and soybean estimates by 1 MT each at 83.5 MT and 102 MT, respectively, which means the corn production would be the second highest ever and the soybean crop would be a record high.



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.



To all agricultural and forestry producers, partners in the agri-food sector, and government stakeholders

We cordially invite you to attend the 92nd General Congress of the Union des producteurs agricoles, which will be held on November 29 to December 1, 2016, at the Quebec City Convention Centre, located at 900 René-Lévesque Boulevard East.

Delegate registration will take place on November 29, 2016, starting at 8:30 a.m. The first working session will begin at 10:00 a.m. the same day.

Please note that amendments are likely to be made to the UPA's General by-laws, to the Regulation regarding the contribution assessment of the UPA federations and specialized syndicates; to the Regulation on the categories of producers, their representation and their annual dues to the Union des producteurs agricoles; and to the Regulation respecting the Professional Defence Fund of the Union des producteurs agricoles.

Charles-Félix Ross
Director General



Apple



The PPQ represents 510 apple growers and helps improve producers' income through the bargaining power that comes from strength in numbers.

The Producteurs de pommes du Québec (PPQ) is a professional association of apple producers. In 1974, Quebec apple growers created the Fédération des producteurs de pommes du Québec. In 1978, a majority of producers voted to establish a joint plan with the goal of governing the marketing conditions and developing the economic, social and moral interests of the members.

QUEBEC APPLE PRODUCTION BY THE NUMBERS:

- 510 apple growers**
represented by the PPQ
- \$57**
million in farm income
- 2,443,517**
bushels of fresh apples
- 1,489,327**
bushels of apples for standard juice
- 1,660,863**
bushels for sauce or opalescent juice

Collective marketing
Collective marketing plays a direct role in improving producers' income through the bargaining power that comes from strength in numbers. Giving members a presence among decision-making bodies is a highly effective way to promote their interests. The PPQ also actively participates in research and development on production in order to raise quality standards and improve the market positioning of apple production.

- PPQ activities**
- Management and administration of the joint plan
 - Quality program (Pommes Qualité Québec)
 - Research and technology transfer
 - Promotion
 - Sponsorships at events
 - Demanding better policies and programs for apple producers
 - Minimum price committee
 - Lowering production costs
 - Integrated fruit production
 - Sector development
 - Agreement with the Association des emballeurs de pommes du Québec (AEPQ) and fresh apple buyers
 - Collective marketing

The joint plan
We have two marketing agreements that allow the PPQ to negotiate with other actors in the sector: one with the AEPQ and one with fresh apple buyers.

- Services offered
- Newsletter for apple growers
 - Promotional material
 - Monthly storage
 - Social media
 - Consumer website
 - Industry website
 - Support for cider producers (CAQ)
 - Promotional support for regional syndicates
 - Advance Payments Program (APP)
 - Info-Marchés newsletter

To learn more:
Industry website: www.producteursdepommesduquebec.ca
Consumer website: www.lapommequebec.ca

CONTEST

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS OF CANADA CONTEST

2016 TOP WINNERS

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

The 35th edition of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers (Quebec section) was held on August 31st at Centrepo Océano in Drummondville. Once again the event was a great success with participation of nearly 400 people.

Mr. Dominique Drapeau and Mrs. Chloé Hébert
Ferme Drapeau et Hébert inc.
St-François-de-Labrière
Early production and cider

2016 FINALISTS

Mrs. Sabrina Gauthier and Mr. Doris Giguère
Ferme Haind Gauthier inc.
Lapointeville
Early production and cider crop

Mr. Raymond Boudreau and Mrs. Sophie Béri
Ferme RB Boudreau
Soreville
Early production

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WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

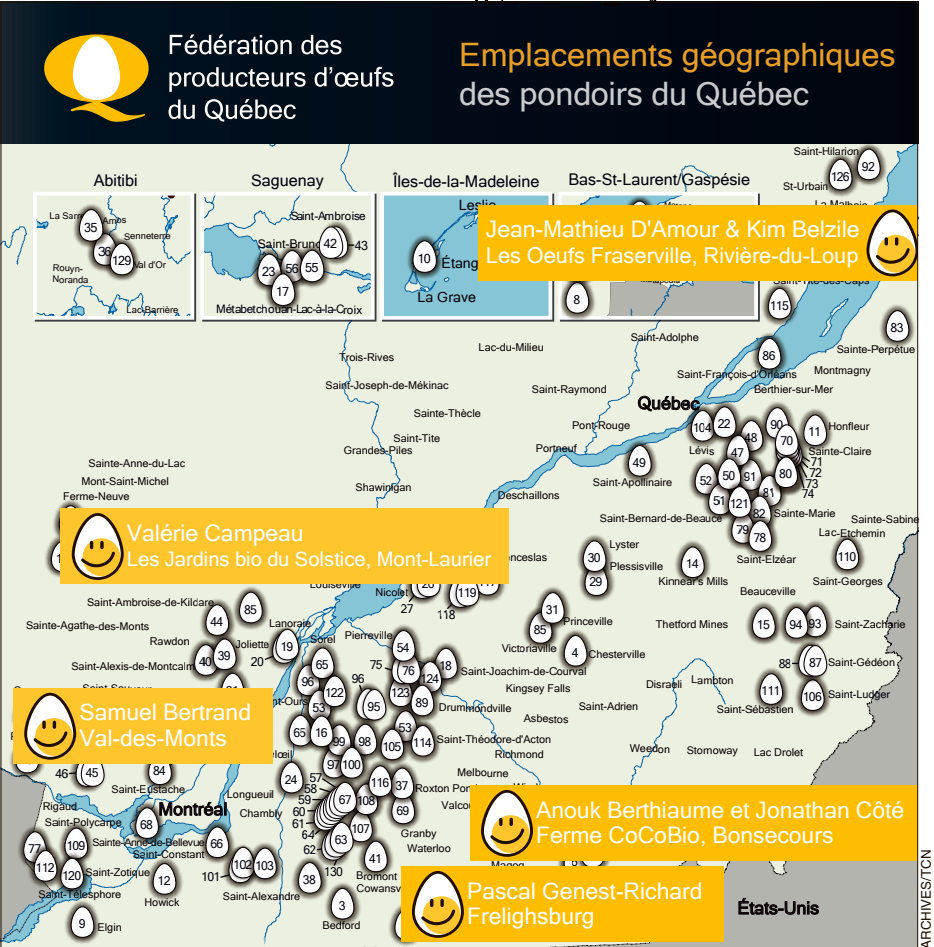


EGG PRODUCERS

Five new farmers named winners in draw

On September 29, the Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec (FPOQ) held a draw to determine the 2016 recipients of its new start-up program for egg producers who are dedicated to direct sales. The program gives five new producers quota for a maximum of 500 layers if the farmers sell directly to consumers, whether this be through farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) or virtual markets (e.g. solidarity markets). The FPOQ received a total of 12 applications for this first year of the program.

The 2016 recipients are:
Anouk Berthiaume and Jonathan Côté of Ferme CoCoBio, located in Bonsecours
Samuel Bertrand, located in Val-des-Monts
Valérie Campeau of Les Jardins bio du Solstice, located in Mont-Laurier
Pascal Genest-Richard, located in Frelighsburg
Jean-Mathieu D'Amour and Kim Belzile of Les Oeufs Fraserville, located in Rivière-du-Loup
To watch a video of the draw, go to: <https://youtu.be/BphdY7LXTrk>





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.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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



Brynn with chickens – a farmer in training.

Crack-ups

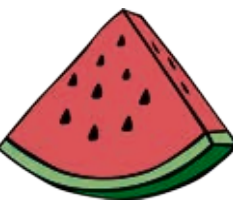
Watermelon Patch

A small-town country farmer has a watermelon patch, and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to his prized watermelons.

The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!"

He smiles smugly as he watches the kids run off the next night without eating any of his melons.

The farmer returns to the watermelon patch a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"



The Lottery

Interviewer: "Congratulations on winning the \$140 million dollar Powerball lottery."

Farmer: "Thank you."

Interviewer: "Do you have any special plans for spending all of that money?"

Farmer: "Nope. Not really. I'm just gonna keep farming until the lottery money is all gone."



VALACTA – Dairy Production Centre of Expertise

Switching to robotic milking: Our producers are up to the challenge

Gervais Bisson, agronomist,
Dairy Production Expert - Milking Robots

Julie Baillargeon, agronomist,
Technology Transfer and Research Project Coordinator

A move to robotic milking is a major undertaking and is probably one of the most important projects in a dairy producer's life. In most cases (60 per cent), the robotic milking project will also involve the construction of a new barn. And if the old tie-stall system is being replaced by a new free-stall setup at the same time, the challenges are even greater.

In 2015, 88 per cent of Quebec's dairy farms housed their cows in tie stalls (Figure 1). Comparatively, 46 per cent of farms in the Atlantic Provinces used a tie-stall system. Ontario more closely resembles Quebec, with 67 per cent of farms equipped with tie stalls. As for the western provinces, the trend is actually reversed, with only 11 per cent of farms using a tie-stall system.

In Europe, only 38 per cent of farms (2010) house their cows in tie stalls, and in France that number drops below 10 per cent. In the United States, while 39 per cent of farms use tie stalls, only 13 per cent of dairy cows are housed on those farms.

In Quebec, it seems that most farms that adopt robotic milking also switch from tie stalls to free stalls. This certainly makes the project even more challenging.

A challenge for the cows as well

Adapting to living in a free-stall system is a big adjustment for a cow that has always lived in a tie stall, even more demanding than learning to go to the milking robot, which is no small feat either. So having to deal simultaneously with both these changes is quite the challenge for a cow.

In a tie-stall system, food and water are always easily accessible. However, in a free-stall setup, the cow will have to walk a lot more in order to find out where the forage and grain rations are, where the water bowl is,

and where she needs to go to get milked or lie down to rest. Moreover, she will now have to walk to meet those needs. While exercise is certainly good for the cow, a sudden transfer to a free-stall system will be physically demanding for her.

A belligerent bunch

Cows are naturally gregarious animals, re-establishing their social hierarchy every time there is a change in the group. For those housed in tie stalls, the hierarchy is limited to their stall neighbours. However, when the cows are first transferred to free stalls, they often behave aggressively, engaging in vicious head butting, to establish their ranking within the tribe. Therefore, once the animals are installed in the new facility, it is important to ensure that the dominant cows in the group have access to the feed bunk and resting areas.

Conquering new territory

Cows like to explore their new environment, and the more space they have, the more they will be inclined to move about. You'll have never seen claws wear out so fast! After the move, it is a good idea to confine cows to a smaller area initially, and then gradually increase the available space. For more information on preventing hoof problems at start-up, read our article published in the April 2016 edition of the Advocate.

Some cows may initially exhibit perplexing behaviour:

Lying in the alley: Not knowing where to go or how to use their new stalls, some cows simply lie down in the alley, particularly if it is covered with rubber flooring. You may need to show your cows around and provide them with a guided tour of their new surroundings.

Difficulty exiting the stall: Cows accustomed to tie stalls may have trouble backing up and initially take more time to exit their stalls. Some will try to turn around first. Give them some time; they generally catch on quite quickly.

Standing: Cows may spend more time standing than usual during the first few days, and may even remain



A move to robotic milking is a major undertaking and is probably one of the most important projects in a dairy producer's life.

standing in their stalls awhile before deciding to lie down. Give them a few days to establish their new routine.

All is well when the cows are eating!

In the days following their arrival to the new barn, the cows will not be readily drawn to the feed alley. They will need time to get accustomed to their new feeding routine. Headlocks at the feed bunk may make them uneasy and curb their appetite for a time. One thing is certain however: the cows will eventually find the feed.

An initial drop in dry matter intake is thus to be expected, and this will in turn result in a temporary decrease in production. The rule of thumb is as follows: 1 kg of dry matter = 2 kg of milk. If all goes well, production will drop slightly during the first week in the new barn but return to normal once the cows have regained their appetite.

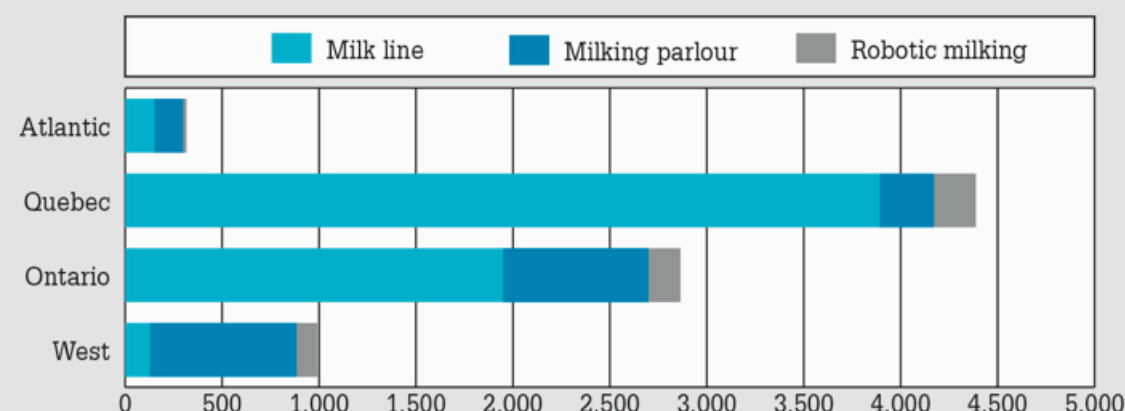
Keys to a happy ending

The challenges of the shift to robotic milking are certainly greater when combined with a move from tie stalls to free stalls, but proper preparation will ease the transition.

Visit other producers who have already made the switch, and feel free to ask them questions to help avoid some of the pitfalls. You can also talk to our robotic milking specialists; they can support you at every step of the process, from planning to start-up.

Make sure you have the time and the resources needed to properly prepare your robotic milking project and give your story a happy ending!

FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF CANADIAN FARMS ON MILK RECORDING (VALACTA AND CANWEST DHI) BY MILKING SYSTEM (2015)



Macdonald

Reports



Management tour exposes FMT students to best practices

Caitlin MacDougall

Liaison Officer

Farm Management and Technology Program

This year, 32 students and four staff members from the Farm Management and Technology (FMT) program toured seven agribusinesses during the annual Enterprise Management 2 field trip from October 4 to 6, 2016. This trip to Southern Ontario provides students in their final year of the program with a chance to go on farms well known for their management success and talk to producers about the opportunities and challenges they face.

New opportunities

Two new stops were added this year and were well received by the students, Upper Canada Creamery and Red Crest Farms. Staff members endeavour to show students a variety of operations since our students come from many different backgrounds.

The first stop, Upper Canada Creamery, in Iroquois, is owned by the Biemond family. The organic cream-top yogurt processing plant has been in operation since August 2015, and uses milk from its mixed organic dairy herd. It was built as a way to sustain the farm in supporting three families.

Olivia Howard from Eganville, Ontario, described this as her favourite visit: "I can relate to it. I have always been interested in on-farm processing, and we could easily go organic since we

already don't use pesticides."

Her comments were echoed by Cameron Burns of Cookshire, Quebec, whose family owns Ayrshires: "I could see my farm going there in the future. I hadn't really thought about it before now, but everyone needs to look at diversifying. There are huge opportunities."

The second stop was Chudleigh's Apple Farm in Halton Hills, which welcomes visitors for u-pick apples, meals and a wide variety of event-hosting and entertainment.

The first night concluded in Brantford with a talk about family farms and communication by Mark Andrew Junkin, a farm succession and strategy coach.

Human resource management

Wednesday started with a visit to Beverly Greenhouses in Waterdown, where students learned about some of the challenges and opportunities of operating a single-crop greenhouse and economies of scale.

Next stop: Summitholm Holsteins (Joe Leowith and sons) in Lynden, which is consistently ranked in the top managed dairy herds in Canada (#3 in 2015). They milk over 400 cows and focus on human resource management as an important part of their business operations. They believe that employees who feel personally invested in their farm lead to better results.

Karl Viens Bernhard of Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville, Quebec, said that he would apply what he learned at Summitholm



Ben Leowith, co-owner at Summitholm Holsteins speaks to Year 3 FMT students at his farm in Lynden, Ontario.



The FMT group in front of the Upper Canada Creamery owned by the Biemond family in Iroquois, Ontario.

to his family farm: "Even though we do things with our employees already, I think we can do more to improve relationships. When you explain why you do certain things, it helps them to feel part of the operation. Summitholm works hard to make their employees and even their custom operators happy."

Planning for the "what ifs"

In the afternoon, the bus headed to Blackstock to speak with Maggie Van Camp, who is senior editor of *Country Guide* and owner of Red Crest Farms. The visit started off with a description of her farm, but then switched gears to discuss why farm families need to be prepared for cases of disability, divorce, disagreement or death.

Van Camp shared the story of her husband's fatal farm accident and the repercussions for the business. She handed out guides that farms can use to prepare all pertinent business information and urged students to talk to their parents about these topics.

Bruno Laurin from Mirabel, Quebec, said that this visit affected him most: "She opened up about an experience that most of us have heard about, but it hasn't happened directly to us. By sharing what she learned, it is helpful for everyone."

For Emily Enright, a resident of Saint-Felix-de-Kingsey, Van Camp's story was an eye-opener: "She talked about

so many things that you don't think about. There are so many farm accidents – but nobody thinks about what happens after, to the family."

On the third day, students visited Sandbanks Estate Winery in Prince Edward County for a tour of the vineyard, production facilities and retail store.

The final visit was Forman Farms in Seeley's Bay, a diversified business that includes cash cropping, greenhouses, a bio pelleting machine and many other projects.

Takeaways

Upon reflection, students found that this exposure to high-end managers was invaluable for the future. "It takes so many years to gain that level of knowledge and advice," stated Emily Enright. "We can then look at our own farms with a different perspective. We can see new ways to make our farms unique," said Olivia Howard.

"You get to see businesses that are different from what you have at home. If you don't take the time as students to see them, you may never get the chance," Bruno Laurin added.

As part of their Enterprise Management 2 course, students will complete assignments on the visits, but the impressions and advice they received will stay with them past the final due date.

Farm Safety

The barrier to a safe farm could be a bad attitude

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

I can't. I don't want to. You can't make me. Coming from children talking about a math problem or a difficult chore, these phrases would have adults accusing them of a negative attitude. But children are not the only ones that can suffer from a negative attitude. Could a negative attitude be preventing you from having a safe farm?

Having a safe farm is a priority for almost all farmers. But is this just all talk? According to a survey conducted by Farm Credit Canada, 75 per cent of farmers feel the work on their operation is done safely most of the time; however, more than 40 per cent of the same respondents have reported a personal injury, family member injury or employee injury on their operation. This begs the question – if most work is being done safely, why are people still getting hurt?

Time, money, old habits. These are common responses to the question of what obstacles stand in the way of improving safety. However, a negative attitude towards safety also impacts job performance and increases the chance of getting injured. One of the biggest negative attitudes when it comes to safety is "accidents happen," or "it was a freak tragedy." These statements are simply untrue.

Not knowing or feeling overwhelmed is totally okay, just ask for help when you need it.

Recognizing that accidents are not only predictable but also preventable is the first step in having a good attitude around safety and injury prevention. Sometimes it might be uncomfortable or time consuming to think about safety and injury prevention, but those inconveniences are minor when it comes to preventing an injury or even a fatality.

When it comes to day-to-day attitudes, the first thing is to avoid becoming fatigued or overly hungry or thirsty. No human does his/her best under these conditions. Being tired can slow down your reaction time and can influence your decision-making skills. Being hungry, well, that can just make you irrita-



After performing a job many times without a problem, you may believe you're experienced enough to skip steps. That's exactly when an injury can happen.

ble and even reckless. Addressing basic needs like rest, food and drink can go a long way in maintaining a good attitude.

Another negative attitude that can affect your farm and your safety is complacency. After performing a job many times without a problem, you may believe you're experienced enough to skip steps. That's exactly when an injury can happen. It's important to follow your established safety procedures each and every time you perform a task.

Emotions are good and normal. It's okay to be upset or angry at a situation. But it's not okay if you let those emotions get in the way of performing your task correctly. Being angry or upset can lead people to be reckless or to make hasty decisions. Take the time to calm down, or to figure out a solution before performing your task. Sometimes, a task can be frustrating. We've all been in the position where, no matter what you do, nothing you do seems to go right. This can be annoying, frustrating and infuriating! Walk away, calm down and then restart. This goes for everything from fixing machinery to sorting calves. Take a moment (it doesn't have to be hours) to take a few deep breaths. Regroup. And restart.

Lastly, ask for help! You aren't in this life alone. Many people, including agri-retailers, medical professionals, family

members, neighbours and friends, are there for you. We all need help sometimes. It can be as simple as asking for clarification on a new crop-protection product from your local ag rep or as complex as dealing with a health crisis. Not knowing or feeling overwhelmed is totally okay, just ask for help when you need it.

Maintaining a positive attitude will help reinforce the importance of doing farm work safely. Having a good attitude about farm safety costs no dollars, but it is an investment in time and in thinking that can pay off in spades in having an injury-free farm.

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

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:
No riders



WARNING:
Force applied to body, two directions



WARNING:
Machine rollover, no ROPS

Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.



The last tomatoes

Cynthia Gunn
QFA's Food Writer

Root vegetables and I have a lot of dates coming up in the next five or six months. So although the leaves are turning and the temperature is dropping, I'm putting off our first date. The roots can wait and endure little suffering while doing so. In the meantime, there are a few hardy or confused summer-type vegetables here and there in the garden, waving their colourful bodies my way.

With a frost warning on the radio, I pulled the last of the frost-sensitive vegetables from the garden on October 10. Maybe because it's such a late frost I cling even more feverishly to the re-sprouting green onions, a handful or two of late-planted string beans and the odd yellow zucchini, confused about the late frost. And of course tomatoes.

Oh my, but will they ever stop! The tomatoes just keep on and on. What to do with them all? My freezer is already full and the chickens that are happily chasing grasshoppers have still to find a resting spot in its depths. It's hard to imagine at this point splurging on a mediocre winter tomato for the hamburgers. Lately, I've taken to lobbing any slightly blemished tomatoes into the chicken pen, secretly thinking "Ha! One less to process." I tried making ketchup one year, but sadly the kids prefer Heinz. I'm going to have to learn how to can—shameless that I have gotten this far without becoming adept at this important skill.

I recall once seeing a recipe for roasted cherry tomatoes and green beans topped with feta. I try it. It's awful, at least with cherry tomatoes, all seedy and full of skins. But the taste is pleasant, so I experiment a bit with different tomatoes, and add the yellow end-of-season zucchini, and of course up the garlic factor. We had roast leg of lamb for Thanksgiving and it made such a colourful and delicious change of vegetables. By the time you read this, there may be no fresh vegetables left, but I see no reason why you couldn't resort to frozen vegetables. That's the next experiment.

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.



Roasted Tomatoes, Beans and Zucchini with Feta Cheese



CYNTHIA GUNN

Ingredients

2 lbs tomatoes, cut in half or quarters, depending on size
1 lb green beans
1 small yellow zucchini, cut in 1/4 inch slices
3 green onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced or sliced very thinly
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 - 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
Chopped parsley for garnishing

Preparation

Choose meaty tomatoes with a relatively low water content so that you don't end up with the vegetables "swimming" in water. Wash and cut tomatoes. Place in a casserole dish and bake uncovered at 450 °F for 5-8 minutes.

Remove dish and cool until you can handle the tomatoes to slip off their skins. If there are any juices in the dish, discard. Replace tomatoes in dish, sprinkle them with garlic, and then add all other ingredients, except for feta cheese and parsley. Drizzle with the olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Cover and bake at 400 °F for 30-40 minutes. Remove from oven.

Can be kept warm or served immediately. When ready to serve, sprinkle with feta and parsley. Makes a lovely colourful addition to a late-fall table.



Quebec women's institutes

For home and country

Pat Clarke
Quebec Women's Institute

Who are we?

The Women's Institutes have been a fixture in rural Quebec for over 100 years. We are women of all ages and backgrounds who enjoy each other's company and have lots of fun as we work together to make our communities better places to live.

What do we do in our own communities?

Perhaps you have noticed our booths at your local fairs, or shared an afternoon with friends at a Women's Institute tea.

Maybe you joined us for Remembrance Day services at our cairn, or heard our name called as we placed a wreath at a cenotaph in your town.

I wonder, did you read about us in your community newspaper? Or maybe noticed a group of us laughing together at a local restaurant?

We've been known to visit water filtration plants, take in a play and host Canada Day with cake and lemonade for all who attend.

Our name may be on the certificate your child brought home today, or on the bursary cheque your high school graduate received.

In hospitals, you may notice we are mentioned on donation plaques. Or maybe you had a picnic at our highway rest stop.

Perhaps you attended a Community Information Day or clapped as we handed out trophies at 4-H rallies.

We help our communities fill Christmas baskets and make sure children have hot meals at school. We plant trees, learn new crafts, support women's shelters, make cookies for group homes and help build new parks.

We educate ourselves about the world around us. We reach out to women in other countries and offer them a hand up, supporting programs that teach woman skills to better provide for their families.

And don't think we have forgotten our seniors – we can often be seen in the halls of senior residences and nursing homes. Sometimes we drop by for a game of cards, or to brighten up the day with a sunshine basket.

How else do we make a difference?

Through our Provincial Council, Women's Institutes actively approach politicians at all levels—school commis-

sioners, mayors, provincial and federal ministers—with requests to enact legislation that make our communities better places to live.

Because of the work of Women's Institute members, we now have recycling in towns that were reluctant to change. Our insistence that bread be packaged and bakers wear clean aprons led to current provincial food handling rules. We pushed the federal government for improved food labeling, resulting in new regulations allowing us to make better decisions about what we eat. Women's Institutes established many well-baby clinics throughout the province, which led to the community clinics we now take for granted. Adult education replaced our conveners who, in the past, would spread out through the province teaching skills to woman, allowing them to better contribute to their families' wellbeing.

Currently, the Women's Institutes support the federal government's investigation into missing Indigenous women and have urged them to move forward and leave no stone unturned. We are studying the effects of neonicotinoids on the honeybee population with an eye to ensuring that large corporations do not undermine ecologically sound

farming practices. With some success, we urged the provincial government to reconsider their dismantling of the current system of elected school commissioners.

The list of what we can do and what we can accomplish is endless. We are only limited by our imaginations. Each branch plans its own program and every member helps decide what is important to them and their community as we work together for home and country.

Would you like to know more about us?

Branches throughout Quebec will welcome you at a local meeting.

You may be interested in joining as a member. If there is no branch in your neighbourhood, we can help build one.

Starting today, thanks to the QFA, this will be the Quebec Women's Institute's monthly column. We will be showcasing our activities and announcing upcoming events and fundraisers. We hope to see you out there.

To find out about a meeting, or contact someone in your area, you can call:

Judy: 450-263-3025

Pat: 1-877-781-9293

Or email us at info@qwi



Rural Community Better Together



QUEBEC 4-H ASSOCIATION

4-H Quebec Online Auction

4-H Quebec is once again holding an online auction fundraiser. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please email office@quebec4-h.com. We appreciate your support! This auction is open until November 2. Don't forget to log on and bid on some cool items!

Show Your 4-H Colours Day

November 2 marks the annual Show Your 4-H Colours Day! We invite everyone to wear green for the occasion as a show of 4-H pride. We encourage you to take pictures wearing green in your community and send them to office@quebec4-h.com for the possibility of being featured on our Facebook page!

Sustainability Days

Thanks to funding from Agrium, 4-H Quebec will coordinate Sustainability Days to help bring Journey 2050 programming

to clubs. This fall, staff will introduce clubs to the online game and will help members get started on their own sustainability journeys by bringing the supplies they need to complete a project chosen by the club. To find out more or to book your Sustainability Day, email Julie at program@quebec4-h.com.

Annual General Meeting

At this year's AGM banquet, we are excited to welcome Ann Louise Carson, the CEO of Holstein Canada, as our guest speaker. For ticket information, please call Julie at 514-398-8738.

When: Saturday, November 26

Where: Macdonald Campus, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

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 as aluminum to recyclers, helping to fund their facilities where families can stay nearby their children while they're in the hospital.

4-H CANADA

FCC 4-H Club Fund

The FCC 4-H Club Fund is back! Thanks to Farm Credit Canada, 4-H clubs across Canada can apply for grants of up to \$500 towards events, supplies and more. Full details for eligibility are available on the 4-H Canada website, along with directions on how to apply. These grants are awarded on a first-come-first-served basis, so please apply as soon as possible!

4-H Canada Science Fair

This opportunity opened September 1, 2016. This fall is an excellent opportunity for 4-H youth in grades 7 through 11 to start thinking about their science fair projects. Encourage 4-H members to explore their surroundings or use their interests to

discover, create and get curious! Projects can be in the form of an experiment, innovation or study. Training opportunities are available for our leaders. New volunteers are welcome!

Global 4-H Network Summit

The 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit, July 11-14, is an opportunity for 4-H youth, leaders and professionals from 70 countries around the world, representing 7 million youth worldwide, to gather in Canada's national capital of Ottawa at an exciting time when celebrations are underway for Canada's 150th birthday. 4-H Canada is proud to host this important event, as we come together to share experiences, learn from each other and celebrate the successes of the 4-H global movement through positive youth development. Register with the 4-H Quebec office by November 14, 2016.

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

The Classifieds

YOUR COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

REACHING ALL OF QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING FARMERS

Book your ad today!

RATES:	
1 month	\$7.00
2 months	\$13.00
3 months	\$18.00
4 months	\$22.00
Full year	\$55.00

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

NEXT DEADLINE: Noon. Tuesday, November 8.

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

BEST VALUE: Members receive 3 classified ads FREE.

QFA MEMBER BENEFITS

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

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

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

10% DISCOUNT ON MARK'S WORK WEARHOUSE SELECT ITEMS

– The discount card is sent with your welcome pack on receipt of your membership payment. Items eligible for discount include: – Dakota work shirts and pants, cover-alls, overalls and coats; All Carhartt merchandise; DH Merchandise – jeans, shirts, knits and polar fleece wear and coats; All WR coats – winter underwear and all CSA approved footwear.

DO YOU NEED SOMETHING TRANSLATED? Translate English to French or French to English. No job is too big or too small! QFA members automatically get a 10% discount with additional rebates

available to return customers. Call us at 450-679-0540, extension 8536 or email us: qfa_translation@upa.qc.ca

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

QFA MERCHANDISE

QFA sign and pin combo: \$7
QFA pins: \$3 each
Dessert cookbooks: \$12
Vests: \$40
Caps: \$15
While supplies last!

For more information or to order email the QFA office qfa@upa.qc.ca



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