



Vol. 36, No. 8 – September 2016

## WHAT'S INSIDE

The fire blight rages  
Page 3

Worldwide visitors on  
strawberry fields  
Page 5

Summer fairs  
Pages 6 and 7

Building a low-carbon  
policy  
Page 8

Cutting costs on  
the farm  
Page 10

Towards a simplified  
Environmental Farm  
Plan  
Page 23

"Autumn wins you best  
by this its mute appeal  
to sympathy for its  
decay."

— Robert Browning

## Save the Date!

Friday, November 18

QFA's Annual  
General Meeting

See page 2 for details.

# Quebec dairy producers protest Trudeau



Over 300 dairy farmers protested the ongoing problem of diafiltered milk as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Saguenay for two days of Liberal caucus meetings on August 25.

**Andrew McClelland**  
*Advocate Staff Reporter*

Quebec is once again at the heart of Canadian dairy farmers' campaign against diafiltered milk. Last month, over 300 farm producers protested in Saguenay over what they feel is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's inaction on the controversial milk protein.

Trudeau and his staff of 181 Members of Parliament were in the Saguenay region for their Liberal summer caucus meeting. Protestors brought their tractors and honked the horns of their trucks while the prime minister entered the Delta Hotel for two days of meetings. "Producers want a regulation to be put in place that will fix the issue of diafiltered milk, not financial compensation for it," said Bruno Letendre,

president of the Les Producteurs de lait du Québec, noting as well that in July diafiltered milk imports caused heavy losses among dairy farmers of Canada.

The protestors got some satisfaction. Six Quebec Liberal MPs, including International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier, left the hotel to meet the dairy farmers and bring them some hot coffee. But the main targets managed to elude the demonstrating farmers: neither Trudeau nor Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay came out to address the crowd.

## Dairy losing money

The problem producers want addressed is diafiltered milk—a cheap milk protein product that is allowed into Canada from the US without duties. Canadian

yogurt and cheese producers are using it in their manufacturing and processing, costing dairy farmers thousands of dollars a month.

The issue is a regulation nightmare: on one hand, the Canadian Border Services Agency considers diafiltered milk a milk protein, and therefore does not bar its entry at customs. However, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, who is charged with the job of enforcing the minimum milk requirement in cheese, isn't stopping the practice because it considers diafiltered milk to be milk.

Canadian Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay—who has himself been a dairy producer in his native province of P.E.I.—skipped an afternoon of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LYSTER NAPIERVILLE ST-GUILAUME ST-DENIS STANBRIDGE

**Claude Joyal**  
www.claudejoyal.ca

**USED COMBINE**  
**0%**  
interest  
during  
18 months

Certain conditions apply

**CNH**  
INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL

©2015 CNH America LLC. Tous droits réservés.  
Case IH marque déposée de CNH America LLC.  
CNH Capital est une marque de CNH America LLC.  
www.cnh.com

**CASE IH**  
AGRICULTURE





## On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Liberal caucus meeting to sit down with Saguenay regional president for Les Producteurs de lait du Québec—Daniel Côté—at his farm.

“Being minister of agriculture and not responsible for the border services agency, I don’t think it would be appropriate for me to say how they [the Canadian Border Services Agency] should operate,” MacAulay said.

“All I can tell you is there are a number of issues that we inherited as a government, and we are working with the dairy industry in consultation, and we hope and we expect to have an even stronger dairy industry in this country, and most farmers understand that.”

### The bigger picture

The crisis is one that Canadian dairy producers have been pointing out to Ottawa since the Harper era. Producers say the regulatory problem cost them \$220 million last year alone.

“Diafiltered milk purchases by major milk processors in Canada have forced Canadian dairy farmers to lose eight per cent of their revenue,” said Côté. Agropur’s decision not to buy diafiltered milk to support local producers has allowed us to recover 30 to 45 per cent of what we lost. That’s already a good improvement.”



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his staff of 181 Members of Parliament were in the Saguenay region for their Liberal summer caucus meeting.

For its part, the Liberal Government says that the problem of diafiltered milk is not as easy to fix as it appears on the surface. Ottawa may be stalling on addressing the issue directly because it wants to offer the dairy industry an all-encompassing solution follow-

ing compromising changes resulting from the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the possible Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

“There is an active process, involving a number of different government

agencies that have to reconcile the problem,” said Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. “I’m encouraging them to come to a conclusion that is logical and factual as fast as they can.”

## 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

Including presentations to Warren Grapes award winners, lunch at the sumptuous Tadjia Hall and a 5 à 7 whisky tasting!

There is ample free parking for all! When you arrive, go pick up your parking pass from the security desk in Laird Hall (100 feet north of Centennial Hall on the Mac Campus).







**Leilak Anderson**  
Certified Arborist  
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

Apple trees are in the news again, as producers have called a state of emergency in response to the fire blight devastating Laurentian apple orchards. The blight is a bacteria that causes a tree's leaves and branches to wilt and turn black, appearing scorched; the disease is highly contagious and, if left untreated, can kill the whole tree. The hot, humid spring of 2016 created optimal conditions for the blight to flourish. As of the beginning of this September, 70 per cent of orchards in the Laurentians were affected.

In July 2016 Pierre Paradis, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, made a promise to Quebec farmers to make the blight epidemic a priority, and said all affected orchards in the region would be inspected by mid-August.

# Fire blight rages, causing apple producers more grief

Apple producers are spending vast amounts of money to save their apple trees, as the only way to combat the blight is to prune out affected branches one at a time. For instance, Pascal Lacroix, who owns an orchard in St-Joseph-du-Lac, has spent an extra \$25,000 in labour to manage the outbreak. He has paused for only a few weeks to harvest his crop of McIntosh, Spartan and Honeycrisp apples before he and his workers return to tackle the problem. Apple producers are calling on the government to do more than inspections.

Minister Paradis acknowledges the financial hardships of the producers, saying that "talks are underway with the federal government to put in place financial support for operators of commercial orchards affected by blight," but details remain unclear. Because Nova Scotia has been dealing with the same blight, Paradis has privately consulted with his counterpart in the maritime province. The federal and

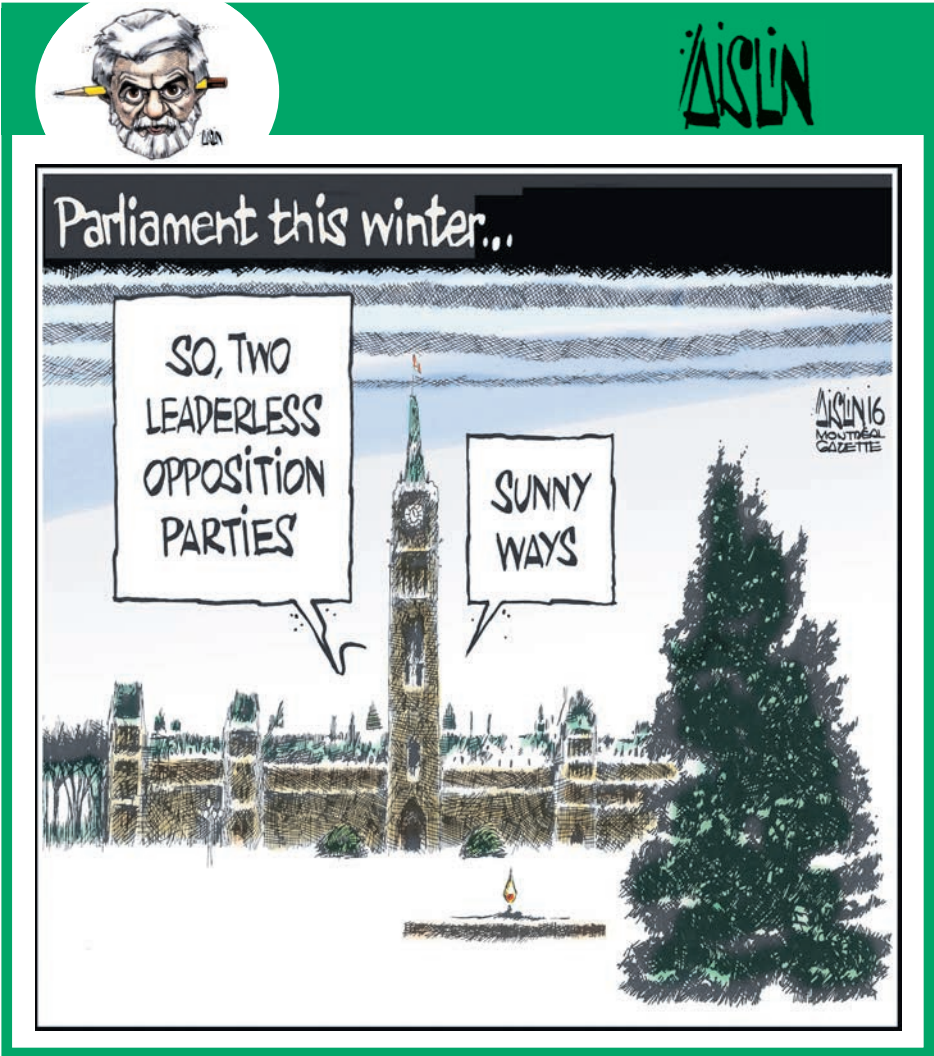
Nova Scotia governments pledged over \$2.5 million in aid for producers after the 2014 post-tropical storm Arthur caused an outbreak in the maritime province, affecting 95 per cent of apple and pear orchards.

*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](http://www.leilak.info)*



Apples producers are once again scrambling to save their livelihood.

LEILAK ANDERSON



## 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](mailto:qfa@upa.qc.ca).



This one is a reminder of winter entitled "The future of farming - Caroline with Connie giving salt to the cows". Thank you to Mark Boyd for sending us this one.





**Marcel Groleau**  
UPA President

At long last, Minister Pierre Paradis has announced the details of the consultation process for the Sommet sur l'alimentation (Food Summit). The summit is planned for fall 2017 and will lead to the creation of a biofood policy at some point in spring 2018. By that time, it will have taken four years for Quebec to create a new policy.

The policy will be introduced a few months before the general election in October 2018 and will coincide with the start of Canada's next agricultural policy framework (APF). Coincidence? Of course not.

The time lags between the consultations with consumers, distributor-processors and farmers were likely chosen based on the election date and the current negotiation of the APF with the federal government and the other provinces. These two events will undoubtedly have an influence on the consultations in Quebec and on the content of our new biofood policy.

This lengthy process flies in the face of the urgent need for action that the current situation demands. Data from

# Timelines hard to explain given urgency at hand

Statistics Canada suggest that when you compare agriculture and food processing in Quebec to that in the rest of Canada, especially Ontario, there is cause for concern. Capital expenditures in Quebec's agriculture sector saw an overall 25 per cent increase between 2006 and 2015, and they have not changed since 2010. In Ontario, these expenditures almost doubled in the same period (94 per cent increase). For Canada as a whole, includ-

million per year. This is truly worrying.

On the labour side of things, a recent study by the Conference Board of Canada indicates that 1 in 12 jobs in the sector was vacant in 2014, compared to 1 in 36 for all other sectors. Nearly ten per cent of farmers delayed or cancelled an investment project owing to lack of labour; the study goes on to say that this situation will continue to worsen over the next ten years.

***Sadly, the consultation process is reflective of the government's lack of interest in the biofood sector despite its central role in Quebec's economy.***

ing Quebec, expenditures are 160 per cent of what they used to be.

This discrepancy is also seen in research and development spending. R&D expenditures decreased by 30 per cent from 2008 to 2015, dropping from \$199 million to \$139 million for food processing and from \$105 million to \$73 million for agricultural production. If Quebec invested the normal amount for countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), our current investment should be increasing by \$85

In the coming months, citizens will have their say in consultations. I say "citizens" advisedly because it is consumers who make individual decisions every day over what products to buy. A number of surveys show that there is always a discrepancy between what a citizen says and how a consumer will act—even though it is the same person. This disconnect between our values as citizens and our behaviour as purchasers is real. It's the reason why price remains the strongest driving factor behind our

purchases—by far the strongest, as you can see from the success of store flyers.

In 2014, Quebec exported \$7 billion worth of biofood products internationally and imported \$6.6 billion worth, meaning that the province's biofood industry has a positive trade balance. Our biofood policy must of course meet the needs of our fellow citizens, but it must also allow us to stay competitive in order to profit from growing food demand, both at home and around the world.

Quebec has a clear vision for its aeronautic sector, which includes major investments. In the space of a few months, it also adopted a strategy for innovation and the digital economy. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Pierre Arcand recently introduced a bill on the implementation of a future energy policy. Delaying the introduction of a biofood policy will likely prove a costly decision because, as we all know, governments are not very active during consultation periods. Sadly, the consultation process to which we are being invited by Minister Paradis is reflective of the government's lack of interest in the biofood sector despite its central role in Quebec's economy.

*Editorial published in La Terre de chez nous on September 14, 2016*



## 2016/17 FARM. FOOD. FORUM.

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 - Business Risk Management and Growing Forward III

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016 - For What It's Worth - Valuing Farm and Land Capital

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

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 - Farm Business Advisory Services

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

Connecting Community Learning Centres in Shawville, Low, Lachute, Ormstown, Magog, Richmond and Bury

**The Quebec Farmers' Association – representing Quebec's Anglophone agricultural and rural community since 1957**

QFA, 555 Boul. Roland-Therrien, Longueuil, QC. J4H 4E7  
450.679.0540 Ext. 8536      qfa@upa.qc.ca      www.quebecfarmers.org



FARM MANAGEMENT CANADA

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





## International Event

# ISS 2016 farm visits on Île d'Orléans

**Jennifer Crawford**

Research and development manager  
Quebec Strawberry and Raspberry Growers' Association

Île d'Orléans producers have a reputation of producing excellent strawberries, and that is exactly what the 150 international researchers confirmed when they visited on August 17 during the International Strawberry Symposium 2016 held in Quebec City.

Although public research and development investments in Quebec have been decreasing in the last years, that is not the case for the two farms visited. François Gosselin and Onésime Pouliot Farm took this opportunity to present their various projects all directed towards the tastiest, most sustainable and productive strawberry fields possible in the specific context of Île d'Orléans, Quebec, and within the North American market.



Visit to François Gosselin Farm on August 17 during the 2016 International Strawberry Symposium.

## François Gosselin Farm

Visitors were greeted by Mr. Louis Gosselin at François Gosselin Farm in Saint-Laurent-de-l'Île-d'Orléans, a family farm specialising in summer and fall strawberries cultivated in mounds or in tunnels. Despite Mr. Gosselin's opening remark that the site was not a laboratory, visitors were amazed by the neat rows and

vitality of the strawberry plants. As well as working with several research centres on new production techniques, this farm also put aside several rows to try a dozen new varieties, which visitors were able to enjoy.

The first research project presented was the result of a partnership between the Quebec Strawberry and Raspberry Growers' Association, the Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement (IRDA) and several farms. The objective was to develop an accurate yield prediction tool for day-neutral strawberries (fall strawberries). Visitors were very interested in this tool meant to solve an important commercialization issue in the fresh local fruit industry.



Quebec researcher Paul Deschênes presenting yield prediction tool at François Gosselin Farm.

Two other projects were presented by Quebec researchers. The first was an innovative strategy combining water and nitrogen management for day-neutral strawberries, and the second was a Saint Lawrence water supply system using sand filters. These new techniques perfected within commercial conditions are very important for gaining knowledge that can be transferred to other strawberry farms.

## Onésime Pouliot Farm

The second half of the day was spent at Onésime Pouliot Farm where visitors were welcomed by Mr. Guy Pouliot, eleventh generation of the Pouliot family to grow fruit and vegetables on the land in the centre of Île d'Orléans.

Mr. Pouliot was also proud to say that it is thanks to the loyal service of his 160 seasonal Mexican workers between April and December that he is able to invest in a research team to coordinate several applied research projects on strawberries and raspberries.

The first research site presented soilless strawberries and raspberries grown in different types of containers and substrates, a growing technique that has become quite widespread in other parts of the world and that requires significant infrastructure investments. As well as creating a better controlled environment for insects and disease, soilless production allows for efficient and rapid harvesting.



Soilless strawberry trials at Onésime Pouliot Farm.

Other research initiatives included the development of different types of strawberry plants, such as tray-plants, and different types of raspberry plants, such as long canes. These initiatives require various installations, such as greenhouses, shade houses and tunnels. Finally, this farm is very dedicated to sustainable practices and invests in many projects to reduce pesticide use, better manage water usage and improve soil health.

The Quebec Strawberry and Raspberry Growers' Association recently published a *Quebec Strawberry Research Overview*, a bilingual document available on the Association's website: <http://fraisesetframboisesduquebec.com/symposium-international-2016/survol-de-recherche-fraise-quebec/>



International researchers tasting strawberry varieties at François Gosselin Farm on Île d'Orléans.



Mexican workers in raspberry tunnels at Onésime Pouliot Farm.



## Summer Fairs

# Hope and hospitality at Richmond Fair

**Dougal Rattray**  
QFA Executive Director

I have visited the Eastern Townships several times in recent years, but I'd never spent much time in Richmond.

Within minutes of arriving at the Richmond Fair on September 10, any sense of trepidation was quickly dispelled by the cheerful welcome of QFA board member Patricia Keenan, who was helping out with the Quebec Women's Institute in the craft hall. In characteristic farmer plain-talk, Keenan asked me, "So why are you here? What do you want to do?" My reply: "Meet farmers."

Predictably, when asked what top two challenges farmers currently face, the most common response was the crazy amount of paperwork they are expected to manage. This was no surprise, as I have heard this every year for the past five years when conducting interviews at fairs across Quebec, and I

have experienced first-hand the ton of bureaucracy in UK farming.

Besides this, and after probing beneath the surface, one discovers a heightened underlying anxiety in agricultural communities stemming from squeezed margins and compounded by system uncertainty.

Squeezed margins are nothing new in the industry; farmers have been facing this conundrum daily, for generations. What is relatively new, however, is the burgeoning and compounding pressure that business owners are contending with as a result of supplier consolidation and the uncertainties surrounding supply management and international trade deals.

"Planning and making informed business decisions becomes more challenging when confronted with uncertainties, in particular around markets," commented Tom Enright, local farmer and president of Brome Fair. But hope is the time-honoured sentiment rural resi-



Cynthia Jackson and Shannon Keenan lending a helping hand with the Quebec Women's Institute exhibit.

dents have been expressing for decades. "People will always want to eat," I heard again and again in my conversations with farmers.

The answer to the question, "What are the impacts of adaptation?" is also one that we have recognized for years: "the trend towards fewer and larger farms will continue at the expense of the social fabric of our communities."

And what did respondents see as a solution to this set of circumstances? A focused, assertive and decisive leadership along with clear communication and a strategic long-term public education campaign.

After a convivial conversation around a hearty BBQ dinner and with clouds threatening, I packed up for the day, making my way home back across the province. Reflecting on the open hospitality and insights of farmers in and around Richmond, I was struck by the spirit and pride of the people, by their inimitable depth of character and sinew to cope with adversity. "Society needs more people like this, not less," I thought to myself. A wise leader would invest.

Discover the first booklet  
of the series *We're clicking!*  
at [www.clique-clicking.ca!](http://www.clique-clicking.ca!)

**APF** Association  
de la presse  
francophone



FOLLOW ME  
THROUGH 100 YEARS  
OF WOMEN'S RIGHT  
TO VOTE!





## Summer Fairs

# Sun shines on Shawville

**Dougal Rattray**  
QFA Executive Director

It was a packed crowd once again at this year's Shawville Fair, which took place from September 1 to 5. The sun shone, the crowds came out, and they were not disappointed. As with all fairs across the province, there was something for everyone.

New attractions this year were Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, popular throughout Western Quebec; a lumberjack demonstration, which put a spotlight on traditional and modern saw and axe handling skills; and a children's magic show oriented towards learning about agriculture and farming.

Also new this year was an initiative that took a proactive approach to educating the public about farming and agriculture. Calling their booth "Ask a Farmer" and setting it up in the main Agricultural Hall, a group of local farmers invited members of the public to ask them anything they wanted about food, farming and agriculture. Volunteers were easily identifiable in their bright yellow t-shirts with *Ask a Farmer* printed on them. Commenting on this new practical approach, local organizer Chris Judd said, "We had all sorts of questions being asked. When young adults refer to their favourite vegetable as an apple, it's clear

that we, as a society, have a long way to go. This was a simple but effective way of bridging the knowledge gap."

The impressive array of headline musical acts included such illustrious names as Canadian rock icon Kim Mitchell, locally grown talent Phil Denault, Julie Corrigan and Adrienne Taylor, Juno Award winner Brett Kissel, Country Music Association Award winner Leah Daniels, and Canadian country legend Gord Bamford.

The fair board's commitment to educating kids about farm safety was reinforced with the QFA being asked once again to offer workshops to local school kids on the Friday morning. 4-H and open livestock competitions had strong entries, and the bleachers were full when the horse drawn carriages came into the outdoor arena.

"What a great few days we had," said local farmer and Fair Board Director Andrew Simms, summing up the event. "The crowd seemed happy, there were no major problems, the weather was fine and the gate numbers were up." It was reported that visitor numbers were around 42,000. What a tremendous success!

Congratulations to all 25 board members and the army of volunteers for yet another enjoyable and well-orchestrated fair.



The sheep shearing demonstration put on once again this year was a big hit with members of the public.

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

To be eligible for the program applicants:

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

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

Find out more!  
This credit could be for you!

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

**UPA** POUVOIR NOURRIR  
POUVOIR GRANDIR  
L'Union des producteurs agricoles



James Howard, Charleen Moore and Andrew Simms pose for a photo on the Saturday morning.





## Climate of change



**Mitchell Beer**  
President, Smarter Shift

# Lessons from Ireland: How Canada can build a low-carbon Farm Policy Framework

With Ottawa inviting feedback on the next Agricultural Farm Policy Framework, it's time to draw a lesson from a country that is scrambling to balance its agriculture strategy with its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

That country is Ireland, where the economic importance of agriculture and the direction of government policy bear uncanny resemblances to Canada.

### A tale of two countries

In Ireland, agriculture accounts for about eight per cent of GDP, eleven per cent of exports, and nearly nine per cent of employment, reports *Corporate Knights*.

Canada is the world's fifth-largest exporter of agricultural products, and it relies on the sector for nearly seven per cent of GDP and one in eight jobs, according to the Calgary Statement, a joint release issued on July 22 by federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers.

Both countries see growing farm exports as the key to a thriving farm sector.

"Ireland's planners want to see significant growth in its food and agriculture industry – a sector that is one of the main pillars of the country's economy," *Corporate Knights* notes.

The Calgary Statement lists markets and trade as its first priority. "To achieve growth both in domestic and international markets over the long-term, the sector must adapt to [a] changing global environment and stay ahead of its competitors."

The difference is that Ireland, facing a 2030 European Union deadline to cut emissions at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels, is staring down a bigger issue that Canada is just beginning to understand.

### Cow belches and nitrogen fertilizers

"The dilemma is that about a third of Ireland's total emissions already come from agriculture and food production—from methane produced by the flatulence of the country's seven million cattle, and from the widespread use of nitrogen-based fertilizers on its abundant grasslands," *Corporate Knights* explains.

"Ruminant-based agriculture is of crucial importance to the Irish economy," state the Institute of International and



In Ireland, agriculture accounts for about eight per cent of GDP, eleven per cent of exports, and nearly nine per cent of employment, reports *Corporate Knights*.

European Affairs (IIEA) and the Royal Dublin Society. But "plans for the continued expansion of food output, focused in particular on the dairy sector, and increasingly stringent emissions reductions suggest a growing contradiction between Ireland's climate and agriculture policy objectives."

### Over the last couple of years, I've heard different suggested solutions to deal with emissions on the farm, ranging from reasoned to wacky.

There's no indication that Ireland has found a magic bullet to solve the problem. But at least the topic is on the agenda. The Calgary Statement lists risk management and environmental sustainability and climate change as third and fourth priorities, respectively. But in the 30,000-foot language of most inter-governmental pronouncements, it contains no specifics on shifting farm practices to reduce the sector's emissions.

### Policy abhors a vacuum

This is a bad time for a policy vacuum on anything related to climate change.

An Taisce, The National Trust for Ireland, responded to the IIEA-Royal Society report with a sharp critique of national farm policy.

"The report shows the stark need for large changes in Irish agriculture away from its current livestock focus," the organization stated. "Farmers must be

supported to use less polluting methods that can support increasing biodiversity and water quality."

That statement reflects the urgency to drastically reduce emissions of methane, a fast-acting greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. Over the last couple of years, I've heard different suggested solutions to deal with emissions on the farm, ranging from reasoned to wacky. To get that discussion right, the sector has to participate, and the federal consultation is an immediate place to start.

Here are three strategic shifts that would fit a more ambitious climate agen-

da and support agriculture itself over the longer term:

- Planning for a future when consumers eat less meat, not because meat is evil, but because eating too much of it is unhealthy for people and the planet. This is where the market is going, even in countries like China, where demand is slacking off. When business trends change, the pragmatic business owner adapts.
- Discovering (or learning from each other) how to integrate animals in lower-carbon agriculture, delivering a practical alternative to factory farms that produce massive concentrations of animal waste, and most of the opposition to meat. Smaller, diversified operations can hit the standard I heard from one producer: The animals have a good life, with one bad day.
- Telling farmers' stories, again and again, by building on the farm-to-table dialogue that is already going on.

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.





Phil Lavoie, agr.  
Club Argenteuil Agri-Environmental

As I wind my way through the rural countryside, I am a witness to the beginning of the fall harvest. Many grain fields in the Argenteuil and Outaouais regions are now harvested or being harvested. In a short time, the corn silage, soybean and finally the grain corn harvest will be in full swing. It is this realization that turns my thoughts to fall soil tillage practices, and it is with this in mind that I write this article. Many of you now fatigued by the summer's long hours are anxious to see the end of the season, the results of your hard work and a much deserved break, yet, I ask myself, is the fall the end or the start of a new cropping season?

Club Argenteuil recently held a field demonstration day, operating tillage equipment of interest in our region. Serge Lussier from Macdonald Campus was on hand to guide us all through the finer details of what these machines are designed for and how they performed on this day in August. In a field of barley stubble, we observed in operation a Kverneland Qualidisc Farmer, which was set up for lighter soils, and a Kverneland Qualidisc, set up for heavier soils. Both pieces of equipment did well that day, as both were well suited and designed for working in cereal stubble. Key to evaluating the performance of any tillage

# Fall: The end or start of your cropping season?



Results after passing a cultivator on barley stubble.



Results after passing a Pottinger 3501 disc harrow.



Uneven worked wheat stubble at a depth of one inch.

equipment is to observe the soil condition the equipment has left behind it. To this end, Mr. Lussier drew our attention to an area behind and worked by each piece of equipment. Here we were introduced to what it is we should be looking for. Observations made at the working depth will indicate the soil conditions that we are left to work with next spring. Both Qualidisc left a relatively smooth surface at their operating depths. In contrast, we observed a pass made from a regular cultivator. The cultivator left a soil surface at its working depth with areas of peaks and troughs. Photo 1 shows these peaks and troughs following a pass with the cultivator, and photos 2 and 3 show similar results in different soil types and to varying degrees, all of which I have observed this September.

So what if there are a few peaks and troughs in the soil? The crops will grow anyway!

Science has shown that the key to crop uniformity is linked to even germination. If we are to have even germination, a few


key factors must be in place. The seeds need to be planted in soil with adequate moisture at a uniform seeding depth, and they need to be exposed to relatively similar environmental conditions. The fact that the fall tillage left these peaks and troughs will counteract these factors. Imagine some of your seeds are placed in the trough while others are placed in the peaks. Do you believe that moisture levels and seed depths are the same? I would argue that they are not. Depending on the type of spring, the troughs may have more or less moisture, allowing for differences in moisture being absorbed by the seed. This can lead to uneven germination. The seeding depth may also be affected. The downward pressure of the seeding units may place the seeds at different levels, adding to the issue of uneven germination. Uneven germination can be the cause of varying crop maturity in the field, further complicating the harvest period.

So, is the fall the end of the cropping season or the start of another? I believe it

is both. This is a time when you get the results of your cropping practices while setting the stage for next year's results. During this fall season, do not hesitate to get off the tractor and observe the stage you are setting. Make the needed changes and adjustments to your equipment to ensure the best crop results in the coming year. If your time is tight, it is also the perfect opportunity to take advantage of your crop advisor's services to ensure next year's crop is the best ever!

Should you need a helping hand to ensure your equipment, time and energy are working the best for you, give me a call. As a crop advisor, I would be pleased to help!

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



Les Producteurs  
de lait du Québec

SEPTEMBER 2016

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Number	kg of BF/day
<b>Offers to sell</b>		
Total	130	558.6
Eligible for allocation	130	558.6
Successful	130	558.6
<b>Reserve</b>		
Quantity purchased (-) / sold (+)		+ 1.0
<b>Offers to buy</b>		
Total	1,035	7,747.4
Eligible for allocation	1,034	7,740.2
Successful	1,034	559.6

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 1.5 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
3	20.3		< 24,000.00	1	7.2	
127	538.3	558.6	24,000.00 ceiling price	1,034	7,740.2	7,740.2

#### ALLOCATION TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

**Buyers**

	Number	kg of BF/day	%
Startup Assistance Program	0	0.0	0.0
Holding of less than 12 kg of BF/day	0	0.0	0.0
Reimbursement of startup loans	10	1.0	0.2
Iteration (0.3 kg of BF/day)	1,034	304.8	54.5
Prorata (3.41 %)	923	253.8	45.3
<b>7.23% of the offers have been processed</b>		<b>559.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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	130	558.6	100.0
<b>100.00 % of the offers have been processed</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>558.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## Management

# Cutting costs on the farm: Management techniques

Kayla Hultquist

[hultquist@whminer.com](mailto:hultquist@whminer.com)

Cutting costs appropriately on the dairy farm is always important to profitability, especially during times of low milk prices. Early last year the USDA predicted declining milk prices until 2018, when prices would then start to level off and wouldn't begin to increase again until 2021. During this time it's crucial to maintain a profitable farm or the consequences may mean bankruptcy.

Although it is important to cut costs, you must know which costs to cut to still maintain healthy animals that can produce a lot of milk. Feed is the highest variable cost on a farm and often feels the wrath of low milk prices as producers feed cheaper ingredients or remove additives to reduce costs, but you should be careful when doing this. If the diet you're feeding doesn't provide adequate nutrients to your cows, production will suffer and therefore you'll lose money in your milk check.

It's also important to maintain an adequate diet for your dry cows and heifers as they will soon be entering the lactating herd. If you're looking to cut costs in the diet, watch the markets and choose alternative ingredients that are cheaper on a dry matter basis but still provide adequate nutrients to replace what you took out of the diet. Protein is a big cost in the ration, so if you're planning to look into other cheaper sources of protein, monitoring milk urea nitrogen (MUN) levels can help ensure that the protein sources you're using are working in your ration. Typically average herd MUN levels should be between 8 and 12 mg/dl. If MUN levels are above 12 mg/dl the cows aren't properly utilizing the protein and it is essentially wasted. If MUN levels are below 8 mg/dl the cows are not getting enough protein, which could negatively impact production. If you feed a poor quality diet to your cows at any stage in lactation, productivity will decrease and you could see an increase in metabolic diseases.

Feed additives are also important and are in the diet for a specific nutritional value. Removing these additives can be risky, so only remove those that don't have a research proven benefit-to-cost ratio of 2:1 or greater. Remember, if you start taking additives out of the diet, herd production will likely suffer. You may not think that a few grams per cow of a certain ingredient will make much



Although it is important to cut costs, you must know which costs to cut to still maintain healthy animals that can produce a lot of milk.

of a difference but it can. Ultimately, the cow will let you know in subsequent milkings and health data if your decision to remove an ingredient was a good or bad choice, so make sure to carefully monitor your cows if you plan to make any diet changes.

Besides watching the markets for feed prices you should also pay attention to prices on other items you buy on a regular basis, such as veterinary supplies, fuel, and teat dip. If you find items that you buy regularly on sale, stock up, making sure you don't get more than you will use by the expiration date or more than you have space to store. Your cows are what make you money so keeping them healthy is of upmost importance. While it may be tempting to reduce the amount of bedding you use to make your inventory last longer, this could have a negative impact on the occurrence of mastitis. Making sure that the cows have a clean, dry environment to lie down in is crucial to reducing pathogen exposure and somatic cell counts, which can lead to an increase in milk quality and your milk check.

Another way to decrease costs is to reduce the age at first calving to 22-23 months if you previously calved at 24

months or longer. This will allow animals to enter the lactating herd sooner so they can start making you money and will also give you more replacement animals per year. Along with this, improving your overall herd reproductive performance will allow cows to produce more replacement animals quicker and re-enter the early part of lactation

quicker since this is usually the most productive time. Good management can help your farm get through rough times. Just make sure to cut costs that won't impact the future health and production of your herd.

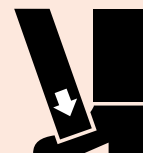
*This text comes from the February 2016 Farm Report published by The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute.*

## 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.

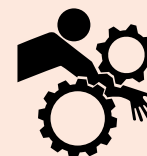
Below, we've reprinted some of the warning signs you might find on farm machinery and equipment. Take a quick look at them and remember what they stand for. It could save your life.

**WARNING:**  
Force applied  
to foot



**WARNING:**  
Rotating shaft

**WARNING:**  
Gears



*Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.*



# TOGETHER, WE ARE THE UNION DES PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES

## WINTER-SPRING 2016 REPORT



Today we are publishing a midterm report of the most significant gains and achievements made by the UPA and its affiliated groups since the General Congress last December. It is an overview of the actions taken to ensure that producers' concerns are heard and that their wishes translate into concrete action. Without a strong and supportive organization, and without the engagement of representatives from all regions and sectors of production, these successes—both small and large—would never see the light of day.

## Together, supporting and developing our businesses across the province

### Towards an agri-food strategy

On the eve of the General Congress last December, the UPA and the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec (CTAQ), supported by La Coop fédérée, the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences at Laval University and Desjardins Group, publicly called for the creation of an agri-food strategy for Quebec. The CTAQ and the UPA jointly produced a manifesto presenting concrete proposals to create such a strategy, which centres on three themes:

- Stimulating private investment
- Investing in research and development
- Responding to the labour shortage and fostering the development of a workforce

The manifesto was submitted to the offices of Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Pierre Paradis.

As part of budget announcements on March 17, agri-food was identified as one of the key economic sectors by the government, which stated its plans to prepare an agri-food strategy during the 2016-2017 year. To be continued...

## Significant strides made in private forestry

In March, the Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec applauded the provincial government which, in a rare move, announced fiscal measures to encourage Quebec's 134,000 forest owners to undertake silvicultural improvements:



- Increase in the threshold of income obtained from forestry operations below which the owner is tax exempt, from \$10,000 to \$65,000 (this exemption will apply to the vast majority of producers)
- Enhancement of the Programme de remboursement des taxes foncières (property tax reimbursement program) for forestry producers via the introduction of an annual indexing formula for expenses recognized in the field of forest management
- Averaging of income earned from the sale of wood for a period of up to seven years at the provincial level
- \$6 million increase in the budget allocated to the Programme d'aide à la mise en valeur des forêts privées (private forest development assistance program), which provides support for silvicultural improvements

## Energy

On April 7, following extensive consultation in which the UPA played a role, the Quebec government announced its new 2030 Energy Policy. The new policy sets out four measures that apply to our sector:

- Ensuring rural regions have broader access to three-phase electric power

- Ensuring access to eco-efficient technologies and cleaner forms of energy to replace petroleum products
- Supporting local pilot projects devoted to biomethanization of agri-food residual materials
- Supporting greenhouse producers by considering their special energy needs

## Potato farmers celebrate 50th anniversary

On February 3, the Producteurs de pommes de terre du Québec blew out 50 candles in celebration of this milestone in their association's history. Over the last 50 years, Quebec's potato producers, united within one association, have carved out their place in the North American market. This has included negotiating an agreement with large processors such as Frito Lay—a task that is easier said than done. Congratulations!

## Pork farmers celebrate 50th anniversary

On June 9 and 10, the Éleveurs de porcs du Québec also marked a 50th birthday at their Annual General Meeting. With a half-century-long history of working together to oversee the marketing of Quebec pork, not to mention a product recognized in over 125 countries around the world today, there are plenty of reasons to be proud!

## Maple syrup: 25 years of collective marketing!

On November 19, the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers (FPAQ) marked the 25th year of the joint plan for maple syrup at a banquet attended by over 330 people. The maple producers deserve credit for the exceptional progress they have made in both marketing and product development. Bravo!



## Animal welfare

On February 10, the UPA, in collaboration with the CTAQ and the Retail Council of Canada (RCC), held a day-long event devoted to the issue of animal welfare, which was attended by over 45 people from a wide variety of fields. Attendees discussed issues related to animal well-being and explored communication strategies with a view to better addressing consumer concerns and identifying opportunities for cooperation. Those present agreed that actors in the sector should come together in the coming months to produce a concerted action plan.

Still on the topic of animal welfare, we salute the concerted efforts of the UPA and its animal-related specialized groups during the consideration of the animal welfare bill in the parliamentary committee. The input the minister received from the UPA helped make him more aware of the progress that has been made to date in the different production sectors when it comes to animal welfare. Our objective was to ensure that the tools developed by producers' boards are recognized and to avoid the redundancy of having two regimes in place. The final version of the legislation opens the door to the application of standards or codes of practice other than those published by the National Farm Animal Care Council, which implies that the work done by the producers' boards will in fact be recognized. Stay tuned...

## Marketing support for artisanal alcoholic beverages

On May 25 and 26, the National Assembly passed the *Act respecting development of the small-scale alcoholic beverage industry* (drinks containing berries, honey, etc.). This legislation, which is set to come into force this fall, will allow producers to sell their products in grocery stores, thereby giving them access to a potential network of 8,000 sales outlets. The sector has been calling for this change for many years. Several other contributions formulated by producers made their way into the act, including the addition of fermentable products in manufacturing processes and potential labelling of grape varieties and vintages for products sold to grocery permit holders.

## Land drainage

On June 20, the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) announced the implementation of the Programme de soutien au drainage et au chaulage des terres (land drainage and liming support program) for the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord. This program has been given a budget of \$9 million over three years. This comes as good news for the affected regions, which are all located outside the major centres. The program will help businesses increase their yields and diversify their crops.

## Enhancements made to foreign worker program

In March, the UPA's demands regarding the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) saw traction with federal authorities. For the 2016 season, the time required to obtain a second permit for Guatemalan workers was four weeks, down from the previous four to five months. Also, the 10 per cent limit on foreign workers that applies to certain seasonal businesses was lifted in 2016.

## Changes to risk management programs: Small gains, big disappointments!

On December 9, Minister Pierre Paradis announced the first changes to the risk management programs since the recommendations of the MAPAQ's agricultural income security working group were submitted in February 2015. The changes mainly come in the form of enhancements to the Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus programs (support for sectors that do not fall under the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance program (ASRA) or supply management, including support for the aquaculture sector), as well as specific measures for businesses with under \$100,000 in annual income. Here are the main highlights:

- Agri-Québec: government support increases from 3 to 3.2 per cent, with an extra increase to 4.2 per cent for businesses with under \$100,000 in income
- Agri-Québec Plus: coverage rate increases from 80 to 85 per cent
- Investment assistance for all agricultural businesses: refund interest (maximum \$20,000) on a maximum loan of \$150,000 for a five-year period (conditional on an analysis of the business and presentation of a business plan)
- The UPA is happy to hear about the enhancements that have been made, particularly for additional assistance for small businesses, which was part of the working group's recommendations.
- However, this handful of gains is still quite unsatisfactory, and the implementation of the most far-reaching recommendations remains to be seen!
- In addition, the recent decision to stop soy, corn and potato producers from accessing ASRA is highly disappointing. Despite a petition of about 4,500 names and an unconvincing consultation, the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) decided to move forward with the decision in June. Over the coming months, the UPA will continue its representations with a view to persuading the government to:
  - postpone the FADQ's decision to withdraw access to ASRA, and
  - implement the recommendations of Quebec's agricultural income security working group.

## Together, supporting and informing our people

### The UPA's new journal

On December 1, the UPA launched the very first issue of L'U magazine, the new union publication for all Quebec farmers. The monthly supplement to *La Terre de chez nous* allows the UPA to directly reach farmers all across Quebec and give them an overview of its actions—not just provincially, but also locally and regionally. Subscribers to *La Terre de chez nous* will find L'U tucked into the newspaper they receive in the mail. The magazine is also available electronically at [www.lu.upa.qc.ca](http://www.lu.upa.qc.ca).

### Negotiating farmer-friendly deals

On December 1, the UPA unveiled its new **UPA Benefit Program, which is open to all agricultural and forestry producers** free of charge. Thanks to deals negotiated with leading partners and retailers, the program offers discounts, cash back, packages and benefits on a variety of services and products. The UPA Benefit Program currently has three major partners: Desjardins AgriCard, Hewitt Equipment/CAT and Fiat Chrysler. Further information on the program is available online at [www.benefitprogram.upa.qc.ca](http://www.benefitprogram.upa.qc.ca).





## UPA promotional campaign wins two awards

On May 31, the UPA won bronze in the “Best External Publications” category at the Canadian Public Relations Society’s 2016 Major Awards for its *Pouvoir nourrir, Pouvoir grandir* (the power to feed, the power to grow) television campaign, produced in collaboration with the TAM-TAM\TBWA agency.

On June 17, the UPA also won silver in the “Tactical Excellence – Communication Tool” category for its *Pouvoir nourrir, Pouvoir grandir* campaign, this time at the awards of excellence presented by the Société québécoise des professionnels en relations publiques (SQPRP).

The key message of the campaign was as follows: Farmers, who are motivated by passion and don’t count all the hours they put in, are people we can count on.

## Farmer’s mental health

On April 27, the UPA held a forum across multiple regions, with attendees in six different cities simultaneously linked by videoconference. Over 250 participants heard a variety of presentations on the theme of farmers’ mental health and issues related to stress management and suicide prevention.

The day-long event fostered a dialogue among those who work in the community: representatives from suicide prevention centres, health services and professional associations, as well as psychologists and social workers. It also saw the launch of the new agriculture-specific version of sentinel training, with the objective of holding 50 training sessions across Quebec in the next two years.

## Do you know how the RMAAQ works?

In May, the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec (RMAAQ) posted three reference sheets on its website (under the “Règles et politique internes” tab). In an easy-to-understand fashion, the sheets show readers how to file a request, how that request moves through the system, and how to prepare for a public hearing. These new tools, developed in collaboration with the UPA and the CTAQ, will be a handy tool for farmers and buyers.

## Access to veterinary services

On May 10, the MAPAQ announced the renewal of the Amélioration de la santé animale au Québec (ASAQ) program (improving animal health in Quebec), which was created in 1971. The purpose of the program is to promote animal health by providing access to veterinary services in all agricultural regions of Quebec. The new agreement comes with a budget of \$15.1 million over one year.

## UPA represented at Acfas conference

On May 11 and 12, the UPA joined the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM), Space for Life and the Fonds de recherche du Québec in presenting a colloquium at the Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas) conference. The theme was “Between Country and City: Cultures Seeking Cultures.” This event was an opportunity to share the farmers’ point of view with about 40 experts from at home and abroad who work in a variety of disciplines and fields.

## 150 organic producers answer the call

On March 16, over 150 farmers participated in a consultation on the problems, issues and needs involved in developing organic production. Themes for the day included collective marketing, income security and crop insurance, research and development, certification, consulting services and promotion. The outcomes of this exercise will allow the UPA, and more specifically its Table de développement de la production biologique (TDPB), to identify the actions and projects to be undertaken that are best suited to the reality facing farmers.

## Quebec berry farmers honoured at the DUX Gala

On January 27, the Association des producteurs de fraises et de framboises du Québec (APFFQ) was awarded first prize in the “Agricultural Product” category of the DUX Program, the highest honour in food. Thanks to its vision and hard work, the APFFQ has developed new cultivars of fall strawberries that extend the berry harvest season to as long as five months.

The DUX Gala recognizes initiatives designed to improve health through food. Thanks to a recommendation put forth by the UPA, a partner in the event, this is the first year a prize was awarded for an agricultural product.

## Support for short supply chains

On July 8, the Fédération des producteurs d’œufs du Québec announced an assistance program for poultry businesses wanting to specialize in selling fresh eggs directly to consumers. This initiative will allow farmers to exceed the established limits, with certain conditions, in order to better serve short supply chains (e.g. farmgate sales, farmers’ markets).



## No to expropriation in Montérégie

On November 25, over 250 farmers came together to show their opposition to the expropriation of farm businesses that is part of the proposed creation of a logistics hub in Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

The UPA Montérégie Federation stressed the importance of finding sites with a lesser impact on agriculture. The battle is not over yet, as the bill governing the creation of this infrastructure continues to threaten businesses in this sector. The Federation intends to follow this issue very closely.

## Property assessment and municipal taxes: A guide for farm and forest owners

On April 11, the UPA launched a new guide to help Quebec farm and forest owners better understand municipal property assessment and the tax rules that apply to their properties, as well as the protocols available to them under the law to have their assessments reviewed or contested. This guide also provides information on the Farm Property Tax Credit Program and the Programme de remboursement des taxes foncières for forestry producers.





# Together, strong and united

## Maple syrup

On February 11, Minister Pierre Paradis published the Gagné report, which deals with the future of Quebec's maple syrup industry. With its 21 recommendations, the report contains all the ingredients needed to tear the sector apart and dismantle our collective tools. The mobilization in opposition to the report was swift: four days after its publication, 1,200 producers from across the province converged near the National Assembly to protest and condemn the report.

## Action taken in recent months

- Meetings with MNAs in all regions
- Launch of a petition to the National Assembly
- Letter from the FPAQ to all producers, along with a special feature in *L'U*
- Presence of producers in social and conventional media
- Protests at the RMAAQ hearings concerning the request to increase FPAQ quotas
- Press activities in Quebec City
- Numerous shows of support (from MNAs and MRCs)

## Bumper year for syrup production

Quebec maple producers brought in a record-breaking \$288 million for the 2015-2016 marketing year. This figure is the outcome of the unprecedented sale of 104.3 million pounds of maple syrup in the period ending February 27, 2016.

## 5 million new taps

On June 7, the RMAAQ approved the request to issue more maple syrup quota starting in the 2017 season. This means that the FPAQ could grant as many as 5 million new taps to meet the growing demand. There had been a push for this move for several months preceding the announcement. On March 22, over 250 producers attended the RMAAQ's hearings to affirm their commitment to their current quota system.

## Diafiltered milk

For months, Canadian dairy producers have been demanding that Ottawa put a stop to the importation of diafiltered milk. In 2014, Canadian producers lost \$200 million as a result of the importation of the product. For 2015 and 2016, this figure is expected to be even higher. Mobilization has intensified over the course of winter 2016.

In a press conference held on April 12, the president of the Producteurs de lait du Québec, the Quebec agriculture minister, the president of the UPA, the president of Agropur and the president of the Dairy Farmers of Canada jointly criticized the federal government's inaction on the issue and called for cheese standards to be followed. The event saw the publication of a press release and the unveiling of a list of 59 processors who stand behind the dairy producers' demands.

On April 11, a total of 400 farmers from Montérégie and Estrie—accompanied by 52 tractors—staged a demonstration in front of the offices of federal MP Pierre Breton.

On April 13, the MNA for Mirabel, Sylvie D'Amours of the CAQ party, tabled a motion of support for dairy producers in the National Assembly, which was unanimously adopted.



In Ottawa, on April 21, 100 farmers gathered on Parliament Hill in connection with the motion tabled in the House of Commons by MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau. Unsurprisingly, after having been voted on, the motion that enjoined the government to take action was defeated by the Liberal MPs.

On May 3, at 4:00 a.m. several dozen exasperated dairy producers gathered in front of the Parmalat processing facility and blocked entry with hay bales.

## Strong and united on Parliament hill

On June 1, the government announced its intention to hold consultations regarding the mitigation measures needed to offset the impacts of the trade agreements negotiated with the European Union and the countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

On June 2, more than 2,500 protestors and more than 70 tractors descended upon Ottawa. Over the course of this impressive demonstration, dairy producers from across Canada expressed the importance of supply management for the future of their businesses and demanded that the government take action to correct the many shortfalls in the country's border management, which have been compromising the effectiveness of their marketing model for years.



**TOGETHER,  
WE ARE THE UNION  
DES PRODUCTEURS  
AGRICOLES**

2016 WINTER-SPRING REVIEW

September 2016



POUVOIR NOURRIR  
POUVOIR GRANDIR

*L'Union des producteurs agricoles*



## Growing with the garden



**Shaina Hayes**  
Columnist

Although the students of the Macdonald Campus Student-Run Ecological Gardens (MSEG) are now returning to their classes, they must still work to maintain the production of 75 weekly membership vegetable baskets, three weekly vegetable market stands and various wholesale orders until the end of October. This is made possible by the fact that, as fall approaches, tasks such as bed prepping, planting and extensive weeding are no longer required since all plants needed for subsequent harvests are by this point in the ground and well established. Although harvesting takes up the bulk of the fall workweek, a new, very important task emerges: field-closing.

For small-scale market gardens, such as MSEG, that abide by organic principles, thoroughly closing the field is crucial for facilitating crop growth and fieldwork for the next growing season since tools such as herbicides and synthetic fertilizers are unavailable. One of MSEG's biggest priorities when it comes to field closing is ensuring that the soil is not left bare. Bare soil beds encourage soil erosion, and exposure to winter temperatures will likely cause the soil micro-

# Time to close the field



MSEG manager Anna Lyon proudly displays the farm's peak-summer produce at the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue farmers market.

bial populations, which are essential for cycling nutrients, aiding in plant growth and countless other ecological actions, to suffer. Leaving adequate crop residues in place, covering exposed beds with tarps, or, most preferably, cover cropping are the three main methods that MSEG uses to keep our soils covered. In our case, cover crops are also used to salvage and import soil nutrients, improve various physical soil characteristics, as well as reduce weeds for next year's plantings. Cover crops are planted with enough time to allow

the plants to become fully established (without going to seed!) so that they will outcompete weeds and provide an adequate canopy to cover the ground for the first snowfall. Oats, which winterkill and whose coarse residues must be raked off or incorporated into the soil the following spring, are the cover crop of choice at MSEG for ensuring that this canopy is created. Catch crops are cover crops that take up valuable soil nutrients, which could easily leach out of the soil system, into their biomass where they are stored over the winter and

released as the plant decomposes in the spring and early summer. Horseradish and buckwheat are used for this purpose at MSEG. The horseradish also serves to improve soil drainage for the coming spring: the fully grown radishes freeze and remain frozen for the winter and break down in the spring, leaving behind radish-shaped channels in the soil that allow water to drain off the land sooner—an extremely valuable action given the high clay content of many of MSEG's plots. Peas are also used as cover crops at the farm since, as leguminous plants, they fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and release it upon decomposition in the spring.

With this cover crop combination (oats, buckwheat, horseradish and peas) we have peace of mind knowing that our soils will be cared for during the winter, and that we have done our part to ensure that future MSEG generations will be stepping onto fertile and workable soil that is teeming with microbial activity!

To find out more about MSEG, visit our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/macdonaldstudentgarden](http://www.facebook.com/macdonaldstudentgarden)) or stop by one of our three market stands for a chat!

**Concordia Farmers' Market**  
(Hall Building) – Wednesdays, 12-6 p.m.

**McGill Farmers' Market**  
(Y- intersection downtown McGill Campus) – Thursdays, 12-6 p.m.

**Marché Ste-Anne** – Saturdays,  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## All-time record for 2016 organic maple syrup harvest!



From north to south, from east to west, sugar maples flowed like never before in the history of Quebec sugaring. A total of 148 million pounds of maple syrup was harvested by Quebec producers. To date, 123.7 million pounds of bulk maple syrup has been classified and inspected for quality control, and 31.5 million pounds was certified organic, which represents nearly 26 per cent of the production.

In 2015, 22.2 million pounds was classified. Regions producing the highest rates of organic maple syrup in 2016 are: Mauricie (60 per cent), Québec Rive-Nord (55 per cent), Outaouais Laurentides (40 per cent) and Bas-

Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie (36 per cent).

Consequently, there has been a 25 per cent rise in the number of organic maple syrup producers, from 386 producers in 2015 to 481 producers in 2016. The organic producers shared an organic premium of over \$5.5 million, according to the current marketing agreement, which sets the organic premium at \$0.175 a pound.

The demand for organic maple syrup is rising. Producers who wish to convert to organic production are invited to contact certification agencies for more information.

For more information, visit <http://fpaq.ca/>



## Grains



In transitioning to the "Agri" programs, corn grain and soy growers will be eligible for retroactive Agri-Québec compensation for 2014 and 2015.

# Corn and soy moving to Agri programs

Following the discontinuation of the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (ASRA) program for grain corn and soy, a preliminary meeting was held with the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) and the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) to establish transition protocols to the "Agri" programs for these crops, and to identify the impact on maintaining ASRA for grain and canola crops. A number of issues were tabled at the meeting, including retroactive Agri-Québec compensation for 2014 and 2015, insurable minimums as of 2017, modifications to collective insurable hectare limits, final payment dates for the 2016 insurance year, and disposal of ASRA funds. Both the corn grain and soy funds report positive balances, of \$45 million and \$12 million respectively. The FADQ is open to redistributing not only producer dues but also government contributions to producers. It is still too early to know with any certainty the intentions of the various stakeholders, such as the minister of agriculture and the FADQ. Even the PGQ has only just begun to consider the issue. Possible ideas could include research projects, environmental programs, farm infrastructure investment programs, or the development of a private risk-management tool to help mitigate losses due to the ASRA cancellation. Further discussions will be held as early as September to define challenges and possibilities more specifically. The disposal of funds must be defined before June 29, 2017, and the final decision is subject to ministerial approval.

### Processing of 2014 and 2015 Agri-Québec claims

In transitioning to the "Agri" programs, corn grain and soy growers will be eligible for retroactive Agri-Québec compensation for 2014 and 2015. The FADQ will send 2014 deposit notices in September; the regular schedule will resume for 2015 notices. A letter will be included in order to explain a major exception for those two years: seed values, which are taken into account in net sales calculations, will have to be included as estimates only, since the imported data does not allow that particular variable to be isolated for grain corn and soy. Growers who feel penalized by the FADQ estimates will be able to request a review. The FADQ letter will outline the process in more detail.

## The September USDA Supply and Demand Report

The USDA September report was bearish. USDA's corn crop estimate of 15.093 billion bu, based on a yield of 174.4 bushels/acre, was down by 60 million bu (Mbu) from August as the yield came down slightly from 175.1 bu/acre last month. However, the yield is above the average trade estimate, and this is still a record-high crop. USDA's new crop carryout forecast of 2.384 billion bushels (Gbu) was down slightly from last month, but it would still be the largest carryout since 1987-88. The rest of the balance sheet was unchanged for corn, except for a 25 Mbu reduction in feed and residual use. The season-average projected price is \$2.90 to \$3.50 FOB farm, up 5 cents from last month, compared to \$3.60 in 2015-16.

USDA's soybean revisions included one bullish news in the old crop carryout, which USDA slashed to 195 Mbu, down 60 Mbu from last month and below the average analyst estimate of 232 Mbu. This is due to a large upward revision in 2015-16 soybean exports, up by 60 Mbu. But the fundamental outlook still is bearish as USDA projects a record-high crop of 4.201 Gbu with a yield of 50.6 bu/acre, up from 4.060 Gbu and 48.9 bu/acre. The trade was expecting a smaller increase. The projected price is \$8.30 to \$9.80, down 5 cents from August, compared to \$8.95 in 2015-16. The US crops are made, and the market's attention will now shift to South America.

**START BUILDING**  
your own BUSINESS

DISCOVER HOW OWNING A WOOD-MIZER PORTABLE SAWMILL IS AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS.

Countless Wood-Mizer owners achieve success by turning their passion for wood into a profitable and satisfying profession. Choose any of Wood-Mizer's industry leading line of 12 portable sawmill models and receive unmatched quality and performance plus legendary customer service. Call for a FREE catalog or visit [woodmizer.ca](http://woodmizer.ca). Start Building Your Own Business with Wood-Mizer.

**PICKEN'S** QC Dealer  
**DEPUIS 1983** WATERLOO, QC  
1(450) 539-1114  
[www.pickenfarmequipment.com](http://www.pickenfarmequipment.com)

**Wood-Mizer**  
877.866.0667 | [woodmizer.ca](http://woodmizer.ca)

© 2016 Wood-Mizer LLC. \*Prices subject to change without notice.



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



## Egg Producers

Fifteenth annual FPOQ golf tournament

# Quebec egg producers raise \$71,000 for the Fondation OLO

Longueuil, September 1, 2016 – The Fédération des producteurs d'œufs du Québec (FPOQ) raised \$71,000 this year through its annual golf tournament for the Fondation OLO, bringing the organization's total donations to the charity to \$620,000 since 2002. The fifteenth edition of the tournament, which was held on August 31 at the Club de golf Verchères, drew more than 325 participants. The money raised will provide more than 20,000 coupons, each

redeemable for a dozen eggs, to food-insecure families. Egg farmers stand more strongly than ever in support of the charity's mission: helping children get a good start in life and come into the world in good health through appropriate action and nutritional support. The Fondation OLO provides expectant mothers living below the poverty line with eggs, milk and orange juice each day, as well as vitamins and mineral supplements.



Left to right: Bruno Heppel, Guy Barthell (OLO), Patrick Leduc, Paulin Bouchard (FPOQ), Enrico Ciccone, Élise Boyer (OLO), Patrice Brisebois and Matthieu Proulx.



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.



## OPTUM™ SERIES

**Optum series tractors** are designed to meet the customer needs for dimensions, power, comfort, hydraulic capacity, and weight.

The proven 6.7L engines are built to produce power for the toughest field conditions. Reinforced material can handle anything the Optum will put this engine through.

- When specific conditions are met, the engine will idle at a lower speed to conserve fuel
- Industry-Leading SCR-Only Efficient Power Technology Proven, simple, single system solution to meet emissions standards without compromising fuel efficiency

### Reliable CVT Transmission

The **CVT** is a reliable transmission for infinite ground speed control that delivers the power to the ground in field and road applications, while allowing for maximum fuel efficiency by managing the engine RPM and transmission speed.

The CVT transmission features:

- Four forward ranges and two reverse ranges
- Double clutch technology for smooth and efficient operation
- Automatic mode saves fuel and allows the operator to focus on other tasks
- Automatic range shift maximizes mechanical efficiency
- Active stop feature allows for ease of starting and stopping tractor, especially on inclines

### Operator Environment

The SurroundVision™ Cab has 85 cu. ft. of space with 63.2 sq. ft. of glass for all around visibility. Adding to the comfort of the cab is the MultiControl armrest and handle with all the major functions at the operator's fingertips, allowing more productivity. Best-in-class seat options provide the ultimate operator comfort

**A line of all-purpose tractors that delivers the horsepower needed for larger tillage tools and planters, plus enough muscle for high-volume hay and forage operations.**

2 Models, 270-300 (Peak: 290-313 hp)



**Your Case IH dealer - For those who demand MORE!**

CENTRE AGRICOLE INC.  
COATICOOK

LES ÉQUIPEMENTS  
ADRIEN PHANEUF INC.  
SHEFFORD

LES ÉQUIPEMENTS  
LAZURE ET  
RIENDEAU INC.  
STE-MARTINE

LES ÉQUIPEMENTS  
R. MARSAN INC.  
ST-ESPRIT

CLAUDE JOYAL INC.  
NAPIERVILLE

CLAUDE JOYAL INC.  
STANBRIDGE STATION

LES ÉQUIPEMENTS  
ADRIEN PHANEUF INC.  
UPTON

CENTRE AGRICOLE INC.  
WOTTON

Financing provided by



© 2015 CNH America LLC. All rights reserved. Case IH is a registered trademark of CNH America LLC. CNH Capital is a trademark of CNH America LLC. [www.caseih.com](http://www.caseih.com)



183997



# Macdonald

## Reports



# Macdonald Campus Farm welcomes thousands for UPA Open House

**Caitlin MacDougall**

*Liaison Officer, Farm Management and Technology Program, Macdonald Campus*

Sunday, September 11, 2016, started off the same as any other day at the Macdonald Campus Farm. The cows and calves were cleaned, milked and fed, but it was more than just a regular day. Starting at around 8 a.m., student and staff volunteers joined farm employees to help with last-minute tidying and setting up for the "Portes Ouvertes UPA" event, which annually welcomes the general public to over 100 farms across Quebec.

Over 4,500 visitors came to the campus between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This was the second year the Mac Farm participated in the annual event organized by the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA).

Despite gusting winds, the seasonal weather made for a good day, with the sun shining for extended periods in the morning and afternoon.

Last year, an estimated 2,000 visitors came to the campus despite torrential downpours. Attendance numbers more than doubled in 2016, thanks in large part to the improved weather.

Pascal Thériault, faculty lecturer and Director of Community Relations for the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, was on the organizing committee for the open house. He stated that the event "could not have been possible without the precious help of, not only our amazing farm employees, but also our dedicated staff and student volunteers. They really showed the visitors what the Macdonald spirit is all about."

Over 50 students and staff members assisted throughout the day – doing everything from managing parking, to teaching visitors about animals in the petting zoo, to explaining the complex nutritional needs of dairy cattle, and it was all done with big smiles.

Representatives from the Fédération des producteurs de lait de l'Outaouais-Laurentides, Valacta and the Meunerie Gérard Maheu were also set up alongside the Mac Market, Mac's Farm to School program, the University



The Portes Ouvertes volunteers take a well-deserved rest to pose for a group photo at the end of the day.

Advancement office and staff with information about the programs within the faculty. Giveaways including chocolate milk, yogurt, watermelon slices, dried cranberries and Ag More Than Ever swag helped attract people to these educational displays.

Students finishing their final year of the Farm Management and Technology Program also provided a barbeque and corn roast to offer lunch at the farm. It also served as a fundraiser for their annual graduation banquet in April.

Many families with small children took the opportunity to visit the farm, which mostly welcomes school and day camp groups throughout the summer months. The petting zoo with its menagerie of animals was a favourite with the youngest visitors. The opportunity to climb up into the driver's seat of a tractor or combine also held a lot of appeal for children.

The faculty decided to participate because "it is our duty, as an institution that prepares tomorrow's agricultural producers and professionals, to open our farm to the public. Not only can we help them understand the reality of agriculture, in our case dairy production, but we also allow them to understand, as a research institution, what type of research is being conducted and all the animal welfare measures we have in place to ensure that our cows are indeed



The public was welcome to tour the dairy barns and ask farm staff and students questions about dairy production and research.

treated as the mothers and ladies that they are," explained Thériault.

Among the 4,500 visitors, the mayor of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Paola Hawa, and Geoff Kelley, the local MNA for the Jacques-Cartier riding and Minister responsible for Native Affairs, were in attendance. This past summer, the Macdonald Farm became part of a free shuttle circuit offered by Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue to facilitate travel from the town centre to various locations of interest.

While events of this scale require considerable time and energy to coordinate, Macdonald Campus and Quebec agri-

culture in general benefit from helping to educate the public about what it is we do at the farm. Consumers seek opportunities to learn about agriculture firsthand.

Dr. Anja Geitmann, Dean of the faculty, added that "most importantly, thousands of city children realized that in order for the milk to get into their fridge, many dedicated people have to put in a lot of hard work. Reaching out to the general public is a crucial mandate for academic institutions, and there is nothing like a farm to make research accessible and tangible!"

CAITLIN MACDOUGALL

CAITLIN MACDOUGALL



# Synergy for better hoof health management

## André Desrochers

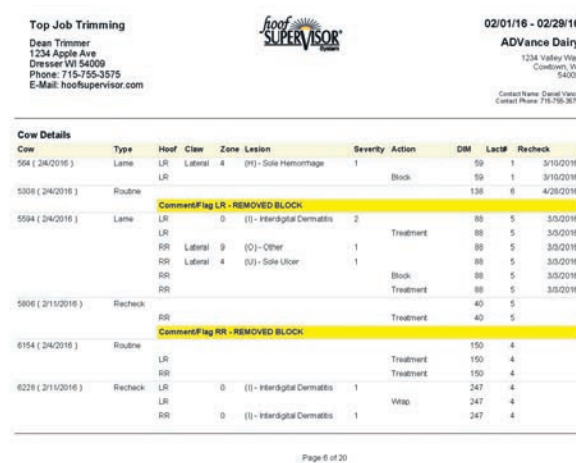
*DVM, professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal; René Lacroix, Eng., Analyst – Data Value, Valacta; and Anne-Marie Christen, M.Sc., Project Manager, Valacta*

A first in Canada! For the past year now, 24 hoof trimmers in Quebec have been contributing to the national dairy herd improvement (DHI) databank by transferring data on hoof lesions. Thanks to their involvement and to the support from Quebec dairy industry partners, vast quantities of information on hoof problems are being compiled for future genetic and genomic evaluations and for health management improvement in our herds.

As of April 1, 2016, close to 250 producers have agreed to share their data on herd hoof lesions with the DHI databank. Their common link? They are all clients of one of the 24 hoof trimmers equipped with a rugged computer and a computerized data input system designed to collect information on cows, hooves, lesions and their severity. Using an interface and the Internet, participating hoof trimmers download the herd inventory from the milk recording database. Once the hoof trimming has been done and the data entered in the program, the hoof trimmers send all the information back to the central databank. As outlined in Figure 1, the Canadian Dairy Network will take on the task of analyzing the data and eventually publishing genetic indexes for hoof health.

on the producer's preference (e.g. by days in milk, by month, by lactation or annually). Examples of these reports can be seen in Figures 2 and 3. From one visit to the next, producers are thus able to monitor the health status of their herds, identify any recurring problems, and measure the effectiveness of any treatments and/or changes in barn management. Most importantly, producers are able to use the report as a tool to facilitate dialogue between their veterinarian, their advisors and their hoof trimmer. Together they will be able to use the information on hoof lesions to develop an action plan to implement preventive measures and appropriate care and determine which products to use when required.

### Figure 2



**Figure 1** Flow of hoof trimming data among dairy industry stakeholders in Canada



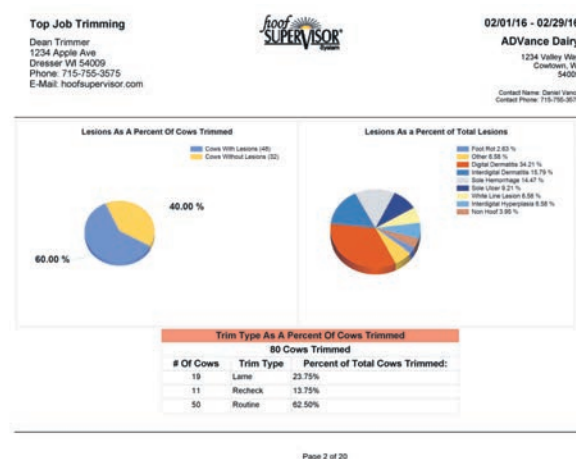
## Next steps

Over the course of 2016, hoof trimmers in the other provinces who are equipped with the same type of computer system will join the effort to collect sufficient data to publish genetic and genomic evaluations for this new trait. A new management report for hoof health will also be developed, making it possible to correlate hoof lesions with a variety of milk recording data for better prevention and monitoring of foot and leg problems.

## Currently in Quebec...

Once the trimming has been done, hoof trimmers give producers a report detailing the lesions observed on each cow and in the herd as a whole. The hoof supervisor reports are a great management tool as they can be personalized according to various criteria, depending

Figure 3

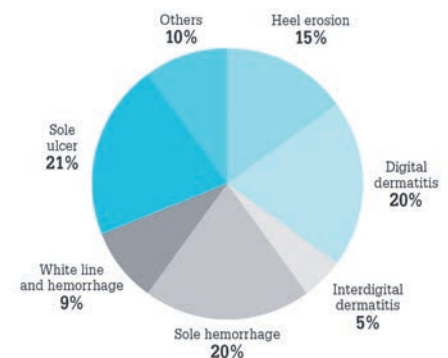


## Interesting statistics!

Thanks to producers and hoof trimmers working together, 32,000 observations on nearly 16,000 cows from 246 herds have been collected since June 2015. Preliminary analyses indicate a total of 13,425 lesions on 5,200 cows in 232 herds. Notably, a third of the cows have at least one hoof lesion and only 14 of the herds are lesion-free!

Figure 4 shows the three most commonly observed lesions: sole ulcers, sole hemorrhages and digital dermatitis. Heel erosion follows closely and is more frequently encountered in the tie-stall herds that are predominant in Quebec. Heel erosion has long been associated with interdigital dermatitis, but the relationship has yet to be proven.

**Figure 4 Distribution by lesion type among participating herds**



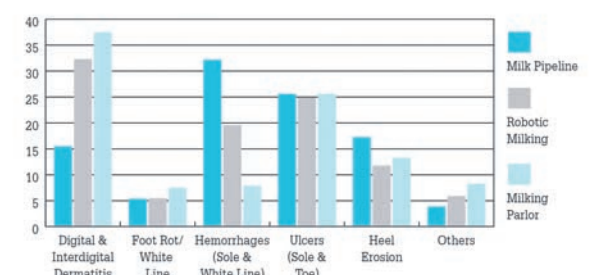
### Distribution of lesions by milking system

The lesions were then distributed by milking system, which is linked to the type of housing, with milk pipelines associated with tie stalls and robotic milking and milking parlour systems associated with free-stall housing.

**Figure 5 Distribution by lesion type among participating herds**

MILKING SYSTEM	NUMBER OF HERDS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF COWS PER HERD	NUMBER OF COWS WITH LESIONS	% OF COWS WITH LESIONS
Milk pipeline	186	62	18	30
Robotic milking	19	79	30	40
Milking parlour	18	147	61	46

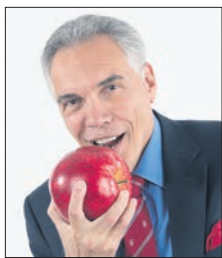
Figure 5 below is extremely interesting and highlights a number of unexpected results that will need to be explained over the coming months. Unsurprisingly, the incidence of infectious disease is higher in free-stall herds (primarily digital dermatitis). On the other hand, hemorrhages and heel erosion occur far more frequently in tie-stall herds. The incidence of sole and toe ulcers seems to be more or less the same, regardless of the milking systems. It is clear that other factors (bedding, production, barn management, etc.) will need to be analyzed in order to fully understand these differences, which underlines the advantage of bringing together all of the information pertaining to milk production, housing conditions and breeding environment.



*This project received financial assistance from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as well as funding and support from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ). This funding was granted under the Program to support sectoral development strategies, a direct follow-up to the Dairy Research Cluster 2 Initiative: Improving Hoof Health in Canadian Dairy Herds.*



## Separating sense from nonsense



**Dr. Joe Schwarcz**  
Scientist and author

Was I bamboozled? No. The truth is that I had bought a "bamboo" t-shirt on a Caribbean cruise not because of environmental consciousness but because I liked its silky feel. However, the Federal Trade Commission in the US believes that many consumers purchase clothing items that are advertised and labeled as bamboo because they feel they are buying a greener product based on bamboo's quick growth and lack of requirement for pesticides. So why did the Federal Trade Commission send a warning letter to a number of retailers who were selling bamboo products? Because the items labeled and advertised as bamboo were actually made of rayon!

There is nothing at all wrong with rayon fiber, but there is something wrong with misleading consumers by implying that the "bamboo" item they purchased is woven from fibers stripped from the bamboo plant. This is not the case. The production of rayon requires extensive processing. A variety of plants, including bamboo, can be used as a source material to create

# Bamboozling labels

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

rayon, but the final properties of the fabric do not depend on what plant was used. And no matter what the raw material, the manufacture of rayon involves the emission of air pollutants and the use of a variety of chemicals that are not exactly environmentally friendly. Still, rayon is an excellent fiber and

ide (lye) to extract the cellulose. Could other chemicals be added to produce a better product, they wondered? Yes, as became apparent in 1892, when alkali cellulose was treated with carbon disulfide to form a bright orange grainy substance that formed a viscous solution when dissolved in water. Wasn't of much use

**Rayon is an excellent fiber and has played a significant role in the development of textiles.**

has played a significant role in the development of textiles.

Rayon is best described as regenerated cellulose. Cellulose is the most abundant organic chemical in the world, being the structural component of the cell wall of green plants. In terms of molecular structure, it is composed of anywhere from several hundred to over ten thousand glucose molecules linked together in a linear fashion.

In England, around the time of the 1889 Paris Exhibition, Charles Cross, Edward Bevan and Clayton Beadle were working on improving the manufacture of paper and cotton thread. The general process began by treating the cellulose-containing material with sodium hydrox-

for making paper, but when this "viscose" was passed through tiny holes into an acid bath, it yielded a fiber that was still cellulose but in which the long chains of glucose molecules had been broken into shorter ones. The result was a fiber that until 1924 was commonly referred to as "artificial silk." That's when the DuPont Company began to produce this regenerated cellulose on a large scale, christening it "rayon," because of the fabric's lustrous, almost metallic sheen when the rays of the sun fell upon it. Textile manufacturers and their customers were thrilled because rayon was half the price of raw silk.

Today, rayon is widely manufactured for clothing, sheets,



**There is nothing at all wrong with rayon fiber, but there is something wrong with misleading consumers by implying that the "bamboo" item they purchased is woven from fibers stripped from the bamboo plant. This is not the case.**

blankets and upholstery because it is smooth, cool and comfortable. And that is precisely why I bought my t-shirt. In fact, I've ordered a couple more since. And I was gratified to find that the ones I bought from bamboo product retailer Cariloha would not have raised the FTC's ire. They were clearly labeled

as "made of 70 percent viscose from bamboo and 30 percent organic cotton." No bamboozling here.

*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.*

## GIVE. TO A YOUNG FARMER.



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

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

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

Please make cheques payable to "Warren Grapes Agricultural Education Fund".  
Receipts will be issued for all donations of \$25.00 or more.



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



# Enter oatmeal

**Cynthia Gunn**  
QFA's Food Writer

What would happen if an eight-year-old ate only white starchy food for an entire week? White pasta, white rice, white bread, pancakes and crepes made with white flour. Oh, and a few orders of fries. What would a child be like at the end of "the white week"?

My eight-year-old would love to participate in such an experiment, and tries to steer things that way every chance she gets, but I just don't feel I could

support this particular scientific experiment. I have a handy item in my toolbox that helps me battle the inertia towards all things white: oatmeal. It has a way of adding body and flavour along with nutritional value without the heaviness and stodginess that whole grain flours can often add to pasta, pancakes and many baked goods.

Here's the thing. You have to plan ahead. Well, you don't have to, but you obtain infinitely better results if you do, both in taste and nutrition. When you soak oats, they seem to blend bet-

ter with the other ingredients and their nutritional make-up is significantly altered.

Before I learned of the reasons why soaked oats are the way to go, my husband had mentioned once that his mom always soaked the oats for the breakfast oatmeal overnight. "Why?" I asked him. "Why?" I asked her. "Because that's the way it's always been done." Nothing wrong with that answer, as these food traditions usually have a reason, even if they're unknown. In the case of oats, which contain the highest amount of phytic acid of all grains, soaking in an acidic liquid, such as buttermilk or yogurt, activates the enzyme phytate. This enzyme then works to break down phytic acid, which blocks mineral absorption. Soaking also helps to break down complex starches and difficult-to-digest proteins, increases vitamin content and makes all the nutrients in grains more available.

Over time, and with the popularity of convenience items like quick oats, this traditional practice of soaking grains has been largely forgotten.

I haven't managed to get rid of the "white" food in our house—and truth be told, I don't want to. A baguette with a thick slice of butter and very old cheddar cheese is heaven. Using anything but white flour in a baguette would be just plain wrong. I shudder at the thought of a whole wheat croissant. But where we can, like in muffins and pancakes, adding some soaked oats can boost that bottom nutritional line without sacrifice. So go ahead, give it a whirl.

*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.*

## Oatmeal Muffins



### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup plus 2 TBSP buttermilk (or add 1 tsp. lemon juice to milk and let sit 5 minutes)
- 1/2 cup brown or organic sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup large-flaked oatmeal (not quick oats)
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2/3- 1 cup fruit (blueberries or small pieces of strawberry or apple)
- 1/3 cup toasted pecans (optional)

### Preparation

Soak oats overnight in buttermilk. Mix eggs into oat mixture. Stir in sugar, vanilla and melted butter. Sift dry ingredients together in a separate bowl. Gently fold into wet ingredients. When almost incorporated, add fruit and optional pecans. Fold in. Overmixing causes muffins to be tough. Spoon into muffin cups. Bake at 350 °F for 25 - 30 minutes, or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the middle of a muffin comes out clean. Makes about 12.

## AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

### Sherbrooke Research and Development Centre

#### Custom Raising of Dairy Heifers

The Sherbrooke Research Centre in Lennoxville maintains a herd of 130 dairy cattle for research purposes. The Centre is seeking a private company to raise replacement heifers on a fee-for-service basis.

The company's mandate will be to raise the Centre's heifers starting from the age of approximately eight (8) weeks until eight (8) weeks before the expected calving date. The heifers will have to be boarded at the company's farm for 21 to 25 months. The company's housing facilities must therefore be able to accommodate approximately 100 head.

To learn more or to bid, please consult the call for proposals:  
<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-16-00746803>

This call for proposals closes on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.



Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Canada



# The Classifieds

## YOUR COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

### REACHING ALL OF QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING FARMERS

#### BALES FOR SALE

100 ROUND BALES 4X5 covered, alfalfa grass mix \$45. 100 ROUND BALES 4x5 year-old hay alfalfa grass mix covered \$35 - 819-647-5718 or 613-601-5718

#### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

NI 3 row narrow Picker -Sheller - \$2,900  
10T Martin wagon with 24 foot steel rack with end brackets for round bales, plywood bottom. New 11L tires & rims - \$2,500  
NI 5215 for parts. Also have trans-

mission JD 5250 Seed Drill 18 run - grass seed box, hyd. lift, very good condition - \$3,500

Patz 305 TMR mixer. 540 Pto w/ scale & belt unload - \$4,500  
Tel: 819 647-5718 or 613 601-5718

#### PROPERTY FOR SALE

304 acres of prime farmland and immaculate home for sale in the heart of Sheenboro, QC. 150 acres of crop/pasture and 154 acres of mixed bush. Turnkey home built in 2009. For more details please view the MLS listing #19522420 or call

Jennifer Gagnon at 613-602-7750 or 819-689-2300



#### QFA MEMBER BENEFITS

**HEALTH INSURANCE** - There is strength in numbers and the QFA has negotiated a competitively

### 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, October 11.

**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.

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!**

**County Fairs of the Eastern Townships**

A commemorative book of photos

and recollections of county fairs of the Eastern Townships for nearly 200 years. Available at the Cookshire, Ayer's Cliff, Brome and Richmond Fairs; The Record office (1195 Galt St. East, Sherbrooke); Q.A.H.N. office (257 Queen St., Sherbrooke).

\$15 plus shipping and handling. Limited number available. For more information or to order a book, call The Record at 819-569-9528  
billing@sherbrookerecord.com



## Rural Community Better Together



### QUEBEC 4-H ASSOCIATION

#### 4-H Quebec Online Auction

4-H Quebec will once again be holding an online auction fundraiser. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please email [office@quebec4-h.com](mailto:office@quebec4-h.com). We appreciate your support! This auction will be open from September 1 until November 2. Don't forget to log on and bid on some cool items.

#### Journey 2050

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](mailto:program@quebec4-h.com).

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

#### Annual General Meeting

When: Saturday, November 26

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

### 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!

#### Growing Forward 2 4-H Canada Outreach Fund

Is your club looking for ways to do 4-H outreach in the community? Maybe you need new signs that show off your club logo,

or new display and promotional materials for fairs or community events? Or maybe you are looking for ways to recruit new volunteers and build capacity for your leaders? Growing Forward 2 4-H Outreach Fund can help! Any Canadian 4-H Club is eligible to apply for grants up to \$1,000 depending on the size of their project and number of 4-H members that it will represent. Applications for this fund close on October 31, so do not delay!

#### 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!

#### Club to Club Exchanges:

The 4-H Canada Club to Club Exchange program is open to groups of ten 4-H member delegates between the ages of

12 and 17, supported by two chaperones. Selected groups from Eastern Canada will be "twinned" with groups in Western Canada. This year's 4-H Club to Club Exchanges travel date options are June 29 - July 8, July 24 - August 2, and August 10 - August 19.

#### Global 4-H Network Summit

The 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit, July 11-14, is the 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 city 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: [program@quebec4-h.com](mailto:program@quebec4-h.com)  
514-398-8738



### Quebec Farmers' Advocate

Published to benefit the English-speaking agricultural and rural community in Quebec

Vol. 36, No. 8: 2016

All contents copyright and may not be reprinted or translated without permission. Published in Quebec by The Quebec Farmers' Association.

Legal deposit: National Library of Canada.  
Dépôt légal: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.  
ISSN#0714-9518

Publication Mail No: 40033773

THE QUEBEC FARMERS' ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE IN THE PUBLICATION OF THIS PAPER.

**Editor-in-Chief** Dougal Rattray / [qfa@upa.qc.ca](mailto:qfa@upa.qc.ca) **Managing Editor** Andrew McClelland / [qfa\\_advocate@upa.qc.ca](mailto:qfa_advocate@upa.qc.ca) **Production Manager** La Terre de chez nous  
**Sales Director** Pierre Leroux / [pleroux@laterre.ca](mailto:pleroux@laterre.ca) / 450 679-8483 ext. 7290 **Sales Representatives** Daniel Lamoureux (National Sales Representative) / Sylvain Joubert / Marc Mancini

QFA memberships, which include a free subscription to the Advocate, are \$68.99 (\$60 + \$3 GST + \$5.99 QST) for **one year** OR \$137.97 (\$120 + \$6 GST + \$11.97 QST) for **two years**.  
**Send cheques to:** The Quebec Farmers' Association / 555 Roland-Therrien, office 255, Longueuil, QC J4H 4E7 / Phone: 450 679-0540, ext. 8536 / Fax: 450 463-5291  
E-mail: [qfa\\_advocate@upa.qc.ca](mailto:qfa_advocate@upa.qc.ca) / [www.quebecfarmers.org](http://www.quebecfarmers.org)





# Towards a single and simplified Environmental Farm Plan

**Erin K. Gowriluk**  
*National Environmental Farm Plan Chair*

For some producers, doing an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a burdensome paper exercise. However, for many others, EFPs can be a way of making operations more efficient and sustainable, while ensuring the long-term profitability of their business. An EFP is a voluntary, whole-farm self-assessment tool that helps producers identify environmental risks in their operations and develop plans to reduce those risks. Approximately half of the arable land in Canada is under an EFP, which means the EFP is the most widely used environmental program in Canadian agriculture.

The EFP's success in the farming community is because of its general model, which spreads awareness and drives the process through environmental education, practical and proven best-management practices, regulation and cost-sharing incentives.

One of the strengths of the EFP has been the fact that it can respond to regional agricultural and environmental realities through provincial delivery, while maintaining a fundamental link between environmental responsibility, farm management and the need for agriculture to remain profitable, regardless of where the EFP is delivered.

**So why the move to a national plan?**

The provincial and territorial delivery agents for EFP programing are federal and industry representatives who have recognized the opportunity to take EFP to the next level. They'll do this by introducing a consistent structure that can be positioned as an environmental component in responsible sourcing programs for the marketplace.

To that end, a forum has been established where the entire Canadian agri-food value chain can come together to discuss how a single simplified program can be created that meets the needs of producers who farm in a wide variety of agricultural climates, while giving buyers a national program that ensures consistent requirements have been met, regardless of where in Canada they source their product.

On November 1 and 2 in Ottawa, Canada's agri-food value chain will meet for the first ever National Environmental Farm Plan Summit. Attendees will learn more about how the EFP operates at different provincial and territorial levels and how it is currently being used in sector-specific sustainability programs. This will inform a path forward where attendees will lay the groundwork for a single national program as it relates to the needs of buyers in Canada and around the world. It will also discover potential

delivery models and engage stakeholders from farm to fork as part of a producer-driven, made-in-Canada solution.

The summit is open to all. More information can be found at <http://www.nationalefp.ca/>



The Environmental Farm Plan is the most widely used environmental program in Canadian agriculture.


Crack-ups


Dead Again

During a funeral, the pallbearers accidentally bump into a wall and hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find out that the woman is actually alive. She lives for ten more years and then dies. There is another funeral for her. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carry out the casket. As they are walking out, the husband cries out, "Watch out for the wall!"

Bride & Broom

Two brooms are getting married. Before the ceremony, the bride broom says to the groom broom, "I think I'm going to have a whisk." The groom broom says, "How can that be? We haven't even swept together!"





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, Alcoue / 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, Gaspesie

Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

Last Name.....

First Name .....

Address.....

Phone .....

Fax.....

E-mail .....

Price

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:

☐ 1 year \$68.99 (\$60 + \$3 GST (5%) + \$5.99 TVQ (9.975%))

☐ 2 years \$137.97 (\$120 + \$6 GST (5%) + \$11.97 TVQ (9.975%))

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

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

Signature .....

Membership Includes

• a one year subscription to the Quebec Farmers' Advocate

• discounts on QFA sponsored events and services

• free advertising in the Advocate's classified ads

• voting privileges at the QFA Annual General Meeting

Quebec Farmers' Association

555 boul. Roland Therrien, office 255

Longueuil, Quebec J4H 4E7

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



# PERRECT FIT. PERFECT FEEL. PERFECT SPEED.

## A NEW WORLD DEMANDS **NEW HOLLAND.**

### T5 SERIES

- Nimble and easy to maneuver due to compact design
- Deluxe VisionView™ cab for ultimate visibility and comfort
- 8 push-button powershifts without a mechanical lever range shift



### T4 SERIES

- VisionView™ cab with great visibility and 10-vent cooling/heating or the roomy, flat-deck ROPS platform
- Command Arc console gives priority placement to the most-used controls
- A wide selection of transmissions including 12x12 mechanical and power shuttle, 20x20 power shuttle with creeper, 24x24 HiLo Dual Command™ and 40x40 HiLo Dual Command with creeper



*Dynamic and experienced: visit your local New Holland dealer today!*

EQUIPPED FOR A NEW WORLD™

**DALHOUSIE STATION**  
Fernand Campeau & fils Inc.

**IBERVILLE**  
Équipement Inotrac Inc.

**COOKSHIRE EATON**  
Machinerie CH

**MIRABEL**  
J. René Lafond Inc.

**SAINTE-MARTINE**  
Machinerie CH

**WOTTON**  
Machinerie CH

© 2016 CNH Industrial America LLC. All rights reserved. "New Holland" is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. "Equipped For A New World" is a trademark in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.

**CNH**  
INDUSTRIEL CAPITAL

185971