

Quebec Farmers' Advocate

Vol. 36, No. 2 – February 2016



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"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

— Edith Sitwell

QFA's Farm Food Forums

Thursday, March 24,
2016

**This Changing World:
Growing Food with more
Unpredictable Weather**

See page 7 for details.



A rooftop garden overlooking downtown Montreal run by Santropol Roulant, a community organization that brings people together through meal-delivery programs and urban agriculture workshops.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTROPOL ROULANT

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

The words "urban agriculture" may cause a few seasoned agricultural producers to snicker and smile. Farming in the city? It sounds like a few gardening enthusiasts getting too ambitious. Or, it seems like something out of the 1800s, when families might keep a few chickens or pigs in their backyards in squalid conditions.

But urban agriculture is more than a passing trend. And what's more, it might be the key to bridging the gap between rural farmers and an ever-growing urban and suburban Canadian population.

"My grandfather kept bees in Maine, and that's what originally put the idea

of beekeeping in the city into my mind," says Kathryn Jezer-Morton, a journalist and graduate student at Concordia University. "I had just moved back to Montreal, and I wanted to produce something from nature in the city. But I didn't have a backyard; I didn't have a garden; I didn't even own any dirt."

Like many urbanites interested in growing their own fruits and vegetables, herbs or flowers, Jezer-Morton signed up to get a community garden plot. Montreal has been running its own small garden plots where residents have around 100 square feet of cultivable soil since 1975. The program now boasts 97 community gardens.

But there's one problem: everybody wants in. "I put myself on the waiting list for a community garden plot as

soon as I heard about them," says Jezer-Morton. "And no one ever called me back. For all I know, I'm still on that list!"

That's when beekeeping seemed like a good option.

"Bees are very urban friendly. They don't take up space, and the initial investment is a few hundred bucks. And once you have them, they do the work for you!"

Not to be deterred, Jezer-Morton decided to take a course in apiculture offered over four weekends by the Centre Formation Agriculaire à Mirabel (CFAM). There she learned the science and practice of beekeeping and felt ready to get her urban hive up and running.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Guerrilla farming

But with no backyard and no plot of land, what was an enthusiastic beekeeper to do? In the end, Jezer-Morton simply put her hive in an empty lot of municipal land strewn with rubble on the fringe of Montreal's old garment district and trusted that passersby wouldn't vandalize it. And her plan worked.

"I put up a sign by the hive that said: 'This is a beehive. Please don't mess with this.' And I created an email address for the hive," Jezer-Morton explains. "Mostly because I was worried that the city would come along and dismantle it. I wanted them to have a way to contact me so I could collect my equipment!"

But city officials let the hive stand. And the only emails ever received were from other urbanites wanting to help and learn about apiculture. As Jezer-Morton, her husband and friends tended and checked on the bees' progress, they were inundated with would-be helpers.

"I got 20 emails from people saying, 'Can I come help? Can you tell me when you're stopping by the hive next so I can come and see?'"

Swarms of helpers

Jezer-Morton's efforts started a trend in the neighbourhood. Eventually she handed the care of her hive over to a group of students interested in tending the bees. That was in 2010, and a hive still stands in that empty lot this winter.



Kathryn Jezer-Morton and her husband, Gray Miles, set up a beehive in an empty lot of land in Montreal when they couldn't get a community garden plot.

"We had a good harvest every year," says Jezer-Morton. "We just haven't been that successful at overwintering them. But I'm glad we started it. Originally, I just wanted to share supplies and orders with other urban beekeepers. But there were none that I could find. Now, there's

a whole company—Alvéole—in town that will come set up a hive on your roof or in your garden."

Jezer-Morton doesn't feel that urban agriculture constitutes a threat to traditional farming. Raised both in the city of Montreal and in rural Vermont, she's seen both sides of agriculture and feels that the movement of city dwellers becoming interested in farming and their own agricultural production will only increase.

"I wanted to do it, and as soon as I did, it seemed that everybody wanted to help, but wasn't sure where to get started. But I felt that farming in the city was just in the *zeitgeist*, it was in the air. It feels like an idea whose time has come."

There are dozens of Quebec organizations working toward making urban agriculture a viable part of the farm industry. Lufa Farms has built the world's first commercial rooftop greenhouse in Montreal. Visit them at www.lufa.com.

Santropol Roulant runs workshops, rooftop gardens and a 1.5 hectare farm near Macdonald Campus. To learn more, visit santropolroulant.org and click on "agriculture."



Mission

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

Vision

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

Shared Values

Members of the QFA believe in:

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

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Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

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Price

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:

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

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

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



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

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Longueuil, Quebec J4H 4E7

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



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Canadian
Heritage
Patrimoine
canadien





John McCart
QFA President

Think ahead: We can stop grain bin accidents

Farm safety is an important issue for the QFA. As agricultural producers, we're dedicated to producing healthy food, taking care of the land and earning a decent living for our families. But that doesn't mean it can't be done without injury to our employees and ourselves.

Between 1998 and 2008, the number of accidental agricultural deaths reported in Canada reached a tragic 1,975. Forty-seven per cent of those deaths were farmer/owner operators, and 14 per cent were their children. Those numbers are far too high.

A seminar on the safety and security issues concerning grain and grain silos was presented by the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA), the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST, formerly CSST) and several other partners on January 21, 2016, in the Chaudière-Appalaches region of Scott. Thanks to video link-up with the Abitibi region, more than 100 people attended throughout Quebec. After the opening and welcome by Martin Caron, second vice-president of the UPA, there was a

short video presentation about a producer who was trapped in a grain silo and was lucky enough to be saved and continue to farm.

Too many farm workers have died when trying to improve grain flow in silos and grain wagons. Flowing grain can completely entrap and suffocate a person in ten seconds. In addition to being trapped by grain that falls from the wall, dangers in the silo include falling through flowing grain that is being loaded out and falling through the crust of grain formed by improper storage. Farmers must also be careful to avoid exposure to dust and mould.

Children are especially vulnerable to injury in silos and trucks, as grain is an attraction like a sandbox. On October 13, 2015, in Alberta, three sisters aged 11 to 13 lost their lives in a truckload of canola. NO ONE should enter a grain silo alone and without the use of a harness and lifeline.

The safest way to handle grain is to avoid entering the bin. This can be done using proper techniques for harvesting, drying and ventilating the grain. If the cereal is harvested under adverse conditions, drying the crop may be necessary to keep the product from spoiling. Temperature and humidity must be con-

stantly monitored, and there are numerous tools to do so. If there is a need to enter the silo, the farm owner or employee must ensure that the power has been shut off to the unloading augers. If the person is to enter by the roof, then a lifeline and harness must be used. An approved dust mask must also be worn as well as the standard clothing, such as proper boots, gloves and no loose clothes. Grain sweeps can also be a great hazard and should be used according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

Rescue within a silo usually requires the local fire department and can take up to two hours with the necessary training. It might be helpful to determine if the responders have been trained in this type of rescue. There have been many cases in which an untrained rescuer has become a victim himself, such as with silo and manure gas.

Legally, an employer must maintain a safe working environment for the employee. The employee must be trained in and follow the proper procedures. Failure by either party to do so

is reason for refusal to do the work or termination of the employee.

Almost all accidents can be avoided through careful planning, safe working techniques and adherence to proper use of the equipment. Let us try to reduce farm fatalities.

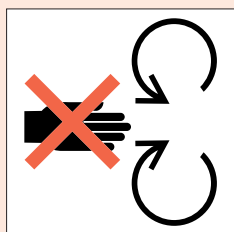
The QFA's Farm Food Forum on April 28, 2016, will focus on the topic of farm safety. All Quebec producers are invited to attend what will surely be an informative video-conference. Glen Blahey, Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist for the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, will be our keynote speaker. Go to www.quebecfarmers.org for more info or join our Facebook group!

For those in the Pontiac, a farm safety event will be held at Ralph Lang's farm on March 13, to coincide with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. There will be a series of workshops designed to raise awareness about the risks involved in farming and the necessity for farm safety. The fun starts at 12:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. at C45 Hanna Road, Shawville, Quebec.

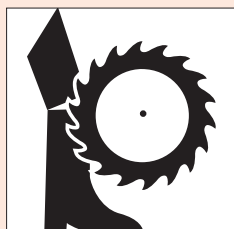
Symbols for Safety

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.

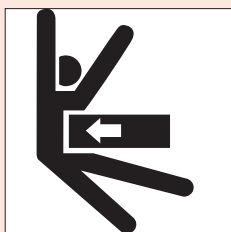
Below, we've reprinted some of the warning signs you might find on farm machinery and equipment. Take a quick look at them and remember what they stand for. It could save your life.



WARNING:
Never reach into area where parts are in motion

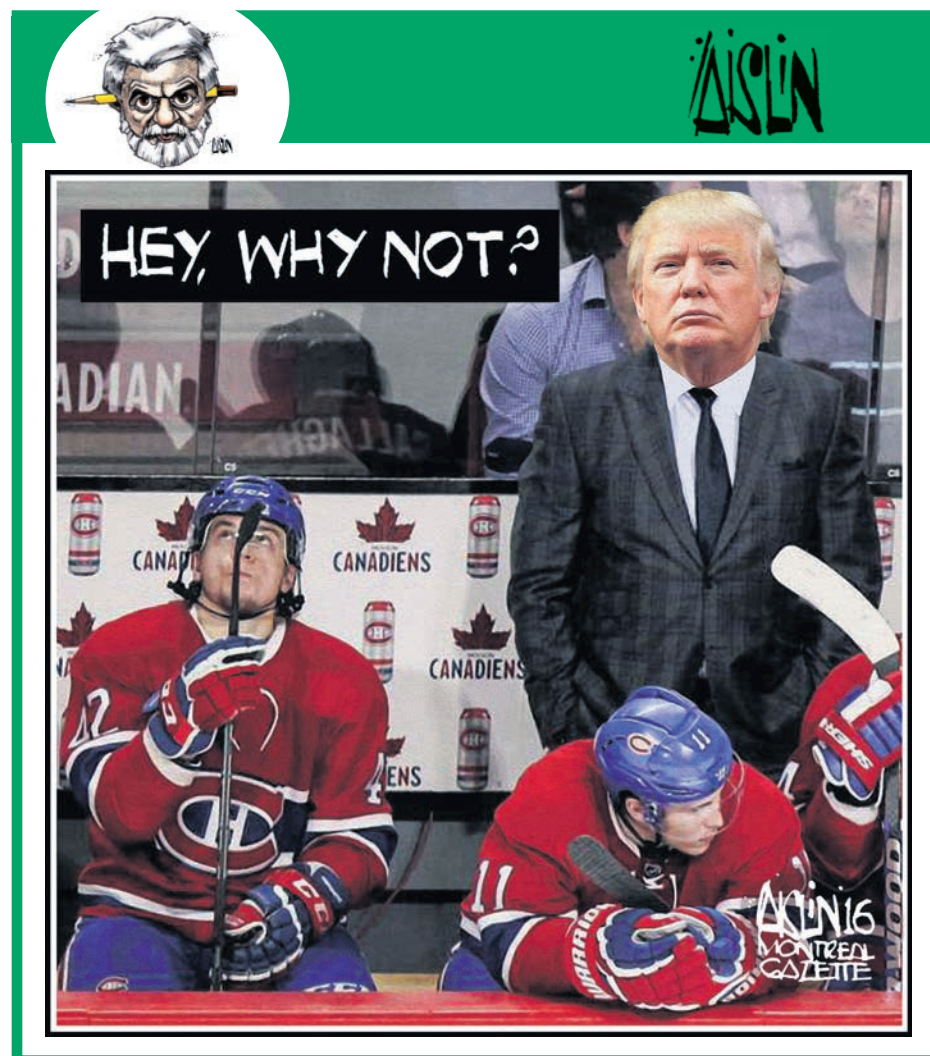


WARNING:
Crush of whole body -
Force applied from side



WARNING:
Severing of leg - Blade or cutter

Hazard symbols taken from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.





Marcel Groleau
UPA President

Cabinet shuffle priority: Getting investment back on track

Quebec's long-awaited cabinet shuffle finally took place last week. Several ministers have been moved to different positions, while others are joining the select circle of executive government power for the first time.

Through this cabinet shuffle, Premier Couillard clearly hopes to get Quebec's economy back on track. Since the April 2014 election, the government has had just one goal: balancing the budget. It's looking likely that this will be achieved in the next budget. Now, the government is turning its attention to stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

fallen since December, and the Chinese economy is slowing.

The business community and investors are treading with caution. If the government wants to keep the budget balanced and revive the economy at the same time, it has only one option: stimulate private investment, research and innovation—in other words, create the right conditions for investment.

We've been calling for this for decades now. In December 2014, Minister Paradis received a set of recommendations from an income security working committee made up of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) and the Union des producteurs

and Agri-Québec Plus programs. The announcement made on December 9 calls for additional spending on the order of \$12.7 million for the FADQ. The minister also announced a modest investment program. Agricultural businesses will have access to loans of up to \$150,000. The government will reimburse their interest charges up to three per cent over five years.

On a related note, I have a hard time understanding why people are insisting that corn, soy, apple and potato producers should abandon the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (FISI) program in order to access the Agri programs. If the government agrees to do away with the accumulated "arrimages," or funds, and retroactively pay into Agri-Québec for 2014–2015 on the condition that farmers go without FISI (the only true safety net they have in their sector), then why not allow stabilization insurance and Agri-Québec to coexist? Why not create an environment that fosters development?

What kind of message are we sending to pork, beef, lamb and small grain producers regarding the FISI program for their sectors? Are we implementing the recommendations of the Saint-Pierre report step by step? After all the talk we've heard on this issue in recent years, including the Robillard report—which called for FISI to be abolished, even though it was sorely needed—you have to wonder. This is certainly not the type of action that encourages business investment in these sectors, and

it doesn't give the next generation of farmers much motivation either.

Clearly, the government needs to reconsider. In just a few months, Ontario come out with a highly aggressive economic policy in which agriculture has its place. No consulting with the general public, no juicy scandals in the press: just action. Now consider that, according to data from the Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec, our horticultural exports have increased by \$60 million, while Ontario's have increased by \$500 million. Meanwhile, the Conseil québécois de l'horticulture lost its funding and was dismantled.

At last year's general congress, the UPA and the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec (CTAQ) demanded that agri-food be included as a strategic sector for Quebec's economic development. This means that the UPA, the CTAQ and the ministers responsible for finance, economic development, innovation, and small and medium enterprises would need to come together to set clear objectives sector by sector and ensure they have the resources they need.

I sincerely hope this cabinet shuffle can be taken as a sign that the government is getting into action and development mode. I sincerely hope that Minister Paradis has a clear mandate and the latitude needed to support the agricultural sector and give it the resources it needs. If this is the case, Quebec will be able to carve out its place on the market and meet the increasing demand for food.

"I sincerely hope this cabinet shuffle can be taken as a sign that the government is getting into action and development mode."
— Marcel Groleau, UPA President

Despite favourable conditions (low cost of energy, low Canadian dollar), it's obvious that our exports aren't increasing as much as expected. The Canadian economy, which relies heavily on exporting natural resources, has been affected by the drop in demand in this sector. And cuts in government spending have not been offset by private investment. Job creation is stagnating, and people's worry is palpable. On top of it all, the stock markets have

agricoles (UPA). This committee unanimously recommended that enhancements be made to income security and risk-management programs that support agricultural businesses. The committee also recommended that an investment program be created to promote innovation and productivity in agricultural businesses.

Out of all these recommendations, the only ones to have been addressed by the minister involve the Agri-Québec



Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec

ATTENTION: Change to the SCVQ

Beginning with the June 20 to 28, 2013 period of offers, quota transactions will be done through the producer Extranet site or through an IVR system (interactive voice response). Please refer to the letter sent to you in this regard. Instructions on how to place quota transactions may be found on the producer Extranet site or from your region.

Centralized Quota Sales System FEBRUARY 2016

Centralized Quota Sales System

Fixed Price \$24,000.00

	Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day
Total offers to sell	84	379.6
Offers to sell participating in the distribution	84	379.6
Successful offers to sell participating in the distribution	84	379.6
Net quantity bought by the reserve		1.6
Total offers to buy	1,182	8,031.3
Offers to buy participating in the distribution	1,182	8,031.3
Successful offers to buy participating in the distribution	1,182	378.0

Purchase and Sale offers by Stratum

SALES			PURCHASES		
Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day	Cumulation	Price offered \$/kg b.f./day	Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day
1	5.0		< 25,000.00		
83	374.6	379.6	24,000.00 ceiling price	1,182	8,031.3

The fixed price for February is the ceiling price for this month. A quota quantity of 379.6 b.f./day was offered for sale at the fixed price. Of this quantity, an amount of 0.1 b.f./day was allotted to producers benefiting from the Start-up Assistance Program and producers holding less than 12 kg, in accordance with the quota regulation.

1st step distribution by iteration = 0.2 kg BF/day • 2nd step distribution by prorata = 1.87% • Portion of quantities satisfied = 4.71%

Trudeau writes mandate letter to new minister of agriculture

Lawrence MacAulay was sworn in as Canada's new Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on November 3. The Quebec Farmers' Association would like to congratulate Mr. MacAuley on his appointment and wish him the best of luck in helping and serving Canada's farm industry.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered a mandate letter to MacAuley on November 6. We reprint it here for readers to better understand the responsibilities of a cabinet minister.

Dear Mr. MacAulay:

I am honoured that you have agreed to serve Canadians as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. We have promised Canadians a government that will bring real change – in both what we do and how we do it. Canadians sent a clear message in this election, and our platform offered a new, ambitious plan for a strong and growing middle class. Canadians expect us to fulfill our commitments, and it is my expectation that you will do your part in delivering on those promises to Canadians.

We made a commitment to invest in growing our economy, strengthening the middle class, and helping those working hard to join it. We committed to provide more direct help to those who need it by giving less to those who do not. We committed to public investment as the best way to spur economic growth, job creation, and broad-based prosperity. We committed to a responsible, transparent fiscal plan for challenging economic times.

I expect Canadians to hold us accountable for delivering these commitments, and I expect all ministers to do their part – individually and collectively – to improve economic opportunity and security for Canadians.

“As Minister, you will be held accountable for our commitment to bring a different style of leadership to government.”

— Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

It is my expectation that we will deliver real results and professional government to Canadians. To ensure that we have a strong focus on results, I will expect Cabinet committees and individual ministers to: track and report on the progress of our commitments; assess the effectiveness of our work; and align our resources with priorities, in order to get the results we want and Canadians deserve.

If we are to tackle the real challenges we face as a country – from a struggling middle class to the threat of climate change – Canadians need to have faith in their government's honesty and willingness to listen. I expect that our work will be informed by performance measurement, evidence, and feedback from Canadians. We will direct our resources to those

initiatives that are having the greatest positive impact on the lives of Canadians, and that will allow us to meet our commitments to them. I expect you to report regularly on your progress toward fulfilling our commitments and to help develop effective measures that assess the impact of the organizations for which you are answerable.

I made a personal commitment to bring new leadership and a new tone to Ottawa. We made a commitment to Canadians to pursue our goals with a renewed sense of collaboration. Improved partnerships with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments are essential to deliver the real, positive change that we promised Canadians. No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

We have also committed to set a higher bar for openness and transparency in government. It is time to shine more light on government to ensure it remains focused on the people it serves. Government and its information should be open by default. If we want Canadians to trust their government, we need a government that trusts Canadians. It is important that we acknowledge mistakes when we make them. Canadians do not expect us to be perfect – they expect us to be honest, open, and sincere in our efforts to serve the public interest.

Our platform guides our government. Over the course of our four-year mandate, I expect us to deliver on all of our commitments. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that we fulfill our promises, while living within our fiscal plan. Other issues will arise or will be brought to our attention by Canadians, stakeholders, and the public service. It is my expectation that you will engage constructively and thoughtfully and add priorities to your agenda when appropriate.

As Minister, you will be held accountable for our commitment to bring a different style of leadership to government. This will include: close collaboration with your colleagues; meaningful engagement with Opposition Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and the public service; constructive dialogue with Canadians, civil society, and stakeholders, including business, organized labour, the broader public sector, and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors; and identifying ways to find solutions and avoid escalating conflicts unnecessarily. As well, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, indeed all journalists in



Lawrence MacAulay was sworn in as Canada's new Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on November 3.

Canada and abroad, are professionals who, by asking necessary questions, contribute in an important way to the democratic process. Your professionalism and engagement with them is essential.

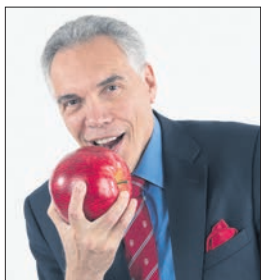
Canadians expect us, in our work, to reflect the values we all embrace: inclusion, honesty, hard work, fiscal prudence, and generosity of spirit. We will be a government that governs for all Canadians, and I expect you, in your work, to bring Canadians together.

You are expected to do your part to fulfill our government's commitment to transparent merit-based appointments, to help ensure gender parity and that Indigenous Canadians and minority groups are better reflected in positions of leadership.

Due to space restrictions, the remainder of Prime Minister Trudeau's letter to Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay will appear in the March issue of the Advocate. Check back here next month!

Separating sense from nonsense

Time to stop babying the food babe



Dr. Joe Schwarcz
Scientist and author



You may have noticed that last month we began publishing a new column from award-winning chemist Dr. Joe Schwarcz. 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 and balanced content that values a healthy and balanced public discourse, the Advocate will be publishing extracts from Dr. Schwarcz each month. We hope you enjoy the read. This month we publish the first of a two-part piece that investigates the permeable membrane between science and pseudoscience.

Did you know that the calcium pill you may be popping contains the same chemical found in gravestones? Or that your tasty bite of bread contains gypsum, better known as plaster of Paris? How about some toilet bowl cleaner in your cake mix? What are these nasty food and drug companies trying to do? Poison us? What an outrage! Right? Wrong!

Calcium carbonate is an effective, safe calcium supplement, and calcium sulfate is a tried and true yeast nutrient. Sodium hydrogen sulfate in combination with baking soda generates the carbon dioxide that makes cakes rise. The fact that it can also dissolve deposits in toilet bowls is irrelevant. We don't avoid pasta because flour dust can cause grain elevators to explode, or soda water because liquefied carbon dioxide is used to take stains out of fabrics. And if there is any concern about the flour additive azodicarbonamide, it should not be because it is also used in the manufacture of yoga mats or because its name may be difficult to pronounce!

That brings us to Vani Hari, of "remove the food dyes from mac and cheese" fame, an attractive young woman, who under the moniker of "The Food Babe," aims to blow the whistle on brands of foods and beverages that in her very

words "are trying to slowly poison us with cheap and harmful ingredients." Hari does not have any sort of degree in food science or chemistry, but that does not seem to be an impediment when it comes to telling us that "we are getting conned by cheap, toxic chocolate" or that our beer is chock full of "shocking ingredients" or that "butter is secretly ruining our health." No, it isn't the fat or the cholesterol in the butter. It's the genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the corn or soy that the cows are fed.

It doesn't take more than a quick perusal of the Food Babe's blog to reveal that she has no understanding of what genetic modification is all about. Just what GMOs does she think are present in butter that pose a risk? And what's with the "toxic chocolate"? Here her target is soy lecithin, used as an emulsifier. It may come from genetically modified soybeans, and as Hari exclaims, "We do know that the consumption of GMO foods poses a serious threat to our health." Actually, we know no such thing. And she says we better watch out for isinglass in beer. Why? Because it is produced from the swim bladders of fish. So what? It is just purified protein that is used to remove haziness from beer. Now to the issue of the "yoga mat" chemical, azodicarbonamide. Yes, it can

serve as a source of nitrogen, the gas that creates the tiny pockets that characterize plastic foams. It can also be used as an additive to flour where it acts as an oxidizing agent that allows protein molecules to link together to form the elastic network we know as gluten. This traps the carbon dioxide gas released by the action of yeast and helps give bread a desirable texture. At the same time, azodicarbonamide oxidizes some of the natural dark pigments in flour giving it a whiter appearance and increased consumer appeal. As with any food additive, regulatory agency approval is needed before use.

To read more about Vani Hari go to: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vani_Hari

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

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



NEWS RELEASE NOTICE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Regarding dues to the Union des producteurs agricoles

UPA dues for 2016 have been set at \$331 for individual producers and \$662 for undivided co-owners (joint ownerships) and multiple-owner farms (corporation, partnership, association, trust, etc.).

The UPA dues will be deducted from milk producers' last pay in January. For milk producers who pay the equivalent of two fees (\$662), an additional deduction will be made on the final pay in February. Other producers will receive notice through the mail in the near future.

The dues are used to finance a portion of the organization's union activities and are allocated as follows:

Local syndicate:	7.05%
Regional federation:	38.25%
Confederation:	54.70%

For any further information, please contact your regional UPA federation.

Denis Corbeil
Information Technology and membership
dues Director

N.B.: GST (5%) and QST (9.975%).
Eligible producers may reclaim these
taxes from the Minister of Revenue

Notice: This news release does not replace the official version of the Règlement sur les catégories de producteurs, leur représentation et leur cotisation annuelle à l'Union des producteurs agricoles. It is the only legally valid version and may be consulted at the Publications du Québec Web site.

183697



Science or pseudoscience? It's not always easy to tell.



Quebec's new animal welfare regulations

The more things change, the more they stay the same

Dougal Rattray
QFA Forum reporter

With almost 70 farmers attending the videoconference Forum held Thursday, January 28, on "Quebec's new animal welfare regulations," it is plain to see that, not surprisingly, the topic is close to the heart of the farming community. And when one considers that the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) is receiving up to 500 calls per month concerning animal welfare, it can be concluded that the matter is equally embedded in the public consciousness, a fact that was well articulated during the course of the evening.

Hélène Trepanier, the MAPAQ's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, who had been scheduled to speak, unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute due to a work dispute. She sent her regrets. Quebec Beef Federation specialist Nathalie Côté and Union des Producteurs Agricoles du Québec (UPA) senior lawyer Stéphane Forest were the speakers.

Côté provided an overview of the new law's origins while Forest gave an impassioned view on how farmers ought to receive the new legislation. His message can be summed up by the following: "If you as a farmer are caring for your animals properly, handling them well, treating them with respect, and providing an adequate balanced diet and shelter, then, really, it's business as usual." He added that farmers "should not feel intimidated by the new legislation; due diligence and common sense preside."

One notable difference with the new legislation is the power it gives the State to wield a "big stick" as a

deterrent against poor treatment of animals, with fines reaching \$250,000 if perpetrators are found guilty. Here is a direct quote from the new law: "An animal's welfare or safety is presumed to be compromised if the animal does not receive care that is consistent with its biological needs."

Such care includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that the animal:

- (1) has access to drinking water and food of acceptable quality in sufficient quantity;
- (2) is kept in a suitable place that is sanitary and clean with sufficient space and lighting and the layout or use of those facilities are not likely to affect the animal's welfare and safety;
- (3) is allowed an opportunity for adequate exercise;
- (4) is provided with the necessary protection from excessive heat or cold;
- (5) is transported in a suitable manner in an appropriate vehicle;
- (6) is provided with the necessary care when injured, ill or suffering; and
- (7) is not subjected to abuse or mistreatment that may affect its health.

Much of the new law is based on the "Codes of Practice," nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals that serve as the national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices. However, like all laws, this one is open to interpretation, and there was considerable concern expressed by the audience about the training of inspectors.

Enforcement

In Quebec, there are to be 100 inspectors who will be responsible for enforcing the regulations under the Act.

On request, an inspector must provide identification and produce a certificate of authority signed by the minister before he/she enters premises. An inspector in the performance of inspection duties may:

- (1) enter and inspect the premises at any reasonable time;
- (2) inspect a vehicle in which such an animal or product or such equipment is being transported or order any such vehicle to be stopped for inspection;
- (3) examine the animal, product or equipment, open any container found on the premises or in the vehicle and take samples or specimens free of charge;
- (4) record or take photographs of the premises, vehicle, animal, product or equipment; and
- (5) require the production of any books, accounts, registers, records or other documents for examination or for the purpose of making copies or obtaining extracts, if the inspector has reasonable cause to believe that they contain information relating to the enforcement of the Act.

It will be some time before these regulations are developed and precedents are set in the courts. In the meantime, it would be advisable for farmers to familiarize themselves with the new law, which can be accessed online: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-54-41-1.html>. The "Codes of Practice" are also available online: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>.

QFA's next "Farm Food Forum"!

This Changing World: Growing Food with more Unpredictable Weather

Hosted by QFA's "Climate of Change" columnist,
Mitchell Beer

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016

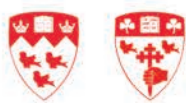
At Community Learning Centres in Shawville, Low,
Lachute, Ormstown, Magog, Richmond and Bury.

For more information, write to qfa@upa.qc.ca
or visit www.QuebecFarmers.org



Macdonald

Reports



Behind the scenes at the annual intercollegiate judging competition

Caitlin MacDougall

Liaison Officer, Farm Management and Technology Program, Macdonald Campus

On January 30, 2016, 84 4-H, college and university participants competed in the 66th Annual Macdonald Campus Intercollegiate Judging Competition and Royal in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. While the competition is run by the students in the Livestock and Judging Club on campus, there are numerous volunteers behind the scenes promoting the continuity of the event year in and year out. Often unnoticed working behind the scenes, they are not always easily identifiable to thank for the contributions they make. These volunteers are Macdonald staff members, and some assist in coordinating the event with students months in advance.



Staff working to tally scores.

A lot of planning goes into the Mac Judging Competition. Starting in October, the club meets to select the classes, the date, the judges and other details. Faculty lecturers Christian Molgat and Caroline Begg have long been involved as coaches of the Judging Club. Since 2013, Caitlin MacDougall, Farm Management and Technology (FMT) liaison officer, has also been active in coaching the team and in event planning.

"In the mid-'90s, when I started working here at Mac, there hadn't been a competition for a few years," notes Christian

Molgat. That was when a group of students revived it, with the involvement of FMT staff. The Judging Competition has been running annually since then, now more than 20 years ago.

In addition to helping ease the transition from one executive committee of the Judging Club to the next, Mac staff transfer knowledge from one group to the next, ensuring that all aspects of planning a competition that regularly welcomes 100 competitors from 4-H clubs, colleges and universities are covered. They ensure that the lunch is ordered, the booklets are designed, the cards are ordered and the bus is reserved for the day.

Other technical, administrative and teaching staff members are also involved in the annual event. Lecturers and professors on campus are regularly asked to assist with making up classes for the competition as official judges. Others take oral reasons from competitors all day, grade or score cards, or simply make sure things are running smoothly.

Certainly, the FMT program has consistently been very actively involved, but staff members from all departments in the faculty have lent their services, time and expertise to the competition, which is the largest of its kind in Canada. The team at the Macdonald Campus Farm has been of great assistance as well, as the animal portion of the competition takes place in the show ring, the original round stone barn.

On the day of the competition, while most students in the Judging Club are participating, a small group of volunteer students and employees set up the classes, coordinate registration, welcome official judges and wait for the cards to start rolling in.

As classes are completed, these volunteers sort, enter and grade the cards, so that the results can be tallied in time for the banquet, which occurs a short three hours after the last class of the competition.

These employees don't spend their Saturday on campus because they have to; they do it because they want to help make the event a success. Although the event is largely student planned, it still requires a lot of behind-the-scenes elbow grease to execute.

Results from the 2016 competition

Twenty teams and four individuals competed in the 2016 edition of the Macdonald Campus Intercollegiate Judging Competition. Teams hailed from Université Laval, University of Guelph, Dalhousie University and, of course, Macdonald Campus. In the 4-H division, there were six teams from the Hatley, Howick, Ormstown, Richmond and Sawyerville clubs.

In the livestock section, participants judged dairy cows, beef heifers, wool quality, laying hens, dairy goats and sire selection for beef cows. In the crops and others section, competitors evaluated honey, Total Mixed Ration (TMR), sewing, market grain, welding and weed identification. The mystery classes were both identification classes: farm safety signs and symbols and bird species and habitats.

In the 4-H division, the top overall individual judge was Jessica Rouleau (Howick 4-H) and the top overall 4-H judging team was Howick 4-H.

In the college and university category, the Dean's Cup for top overall individual judge went to Ariane France, from the Beauties and the Beast team, who is studying Animal Science and Animal Production here at Macdonald Campus. In fact, four of the top five judges were Mac students: Melissa Duncan (Bachelor

degree in Agriculture and Environmental Science, 2016, and Diploma in FMT, 2012) placed third; Matt Baillon (Diploma in FMT, 2018) placed fourth; and Cameron Burns (Diploma in FMT, 2017) placed fifth.

In the team competitions, the Mac team Beauties and the Beast (Ariane France, Melissa Duncan, Carrie Simpson and Bobby Tolhurst) pulled off a convincing win—94 points ahead of the second-place team with 3,290 points for their combined totals. The second place team was from University of Guelph, and third place was from Université Laval.

The Judging Club would like to thank its sponsors who helped make this event possible: The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the Farm Management and Technology Program, the Macdonald Campus Students' Society, the Agricultural and Environmental Student Undergrad Society, Agribands Purina Canada, Holstein Quebec, Valacta, CIAQ, the Ormstown Veterinary Hospital, Evolution Laitière, Meunerie Sawyerville, Meunerie Gérard Maheu Inc. and Belisle.

Finally, a big thank you goes to the volunteers and members of the Judging Club, especially to Véronique Boyer, the club's president, who did a great job coordinating the competition overall.



The winning team, the Beauties and the Beast, with their ribbons and trophy. From left to right: Bobby Tolhurst, Ariane France, Melissa Duncan and Carrie Simpson.

Crack-ups

Fun with phonics!

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and

finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

Jesús is coming

One night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesús is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard, "Jesús is watching you." In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesús is watching me?" The parrot replied, "Yes."

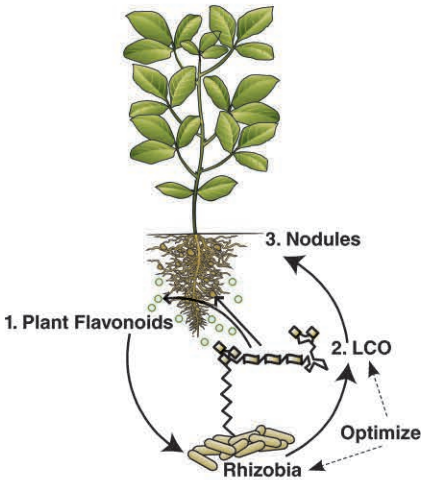
Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said, "That's a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot answered, "The same idiot that named the Rottweiler Jesús."

Advertorial

Higher yield potential with Optimize®

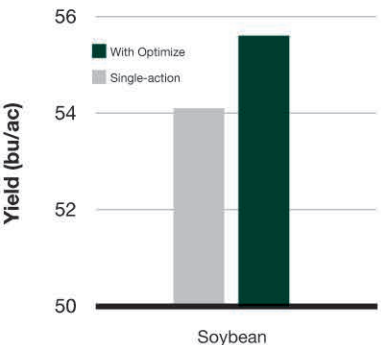
Plants and bacteria talking to each other? Sounds like science fiction, but that is exactly what happens. Like a wink, soybean roots say hello to a specific nitrogen-fixing *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* (*B. japonicum*) bacteria. With a nod back, the bacteria lets the soybean plant root know it is in the area and ready to go to work. This communication is necessary for the soybean plant and the *B. japonicum* bacteria to safely establish a symbiotic relationship. The soybean roots initiate the conversation by sending naturally occurring plant signal molecules called flavonoids out to the root zone, essentially asking if any

B. japonicum bacteria are in the area. When the *B. japonicum* receive the message, they communicate back using an lipochiooligosaccharide (LCO) molecule saying, "yes, let's get together." It is the LCO molecule that drives this critical communication between *B. japonicum* bacteria and soybean plants. There are many bacteria in the soil and not all are beneficial. This LCO signal lets the plant root know that it is safe to allow the *B. japonicum* bacteria into the root. Barriers to this natural process include temperature and moisture stress.



Forward thinking with Optimize

Optimize and Optimize ST are seed-applied inoculants for soybeans, and include a specially selected *B. japonicum* inoculant strain, along with LCO technology. Having LCO technology packaged with the rhizobia in Optimize and Optimize ST helps the communication between the soybean plant and *B. japonicum* happen sooner, regardless of growing conditions. The benefits include improved nodule formation, increased nitrogen fixation, and enhanced nutrient availability to support root and shoot growth. In trials conducted in Ontario and Quebec, Optimize increased yields by an average of 3% compared to single-action (nitrogen only) competitors.



Source: Summary of 29 large-plot independent research trials in Ontario and Quebec from 2010–2011.

Flexible inoculation with two formulation choices

Optimize and Optimize ST are applied to soybean seed by seed companies or retailers to eliminate the need for farm-applied inoculation, and to ensure optimum seed coverage and inoculant performance. Optimize is a great choice for seed companies and retailers who want the convenience of treating seed during the winter months, starting as early as November. Optimize has a 220-day planting window, with specific seed treatment chemistries, allowing seed companies and retailers to spread out the inoculation window:

- Long, 220-day window on the following key seed treatment chemistries: Acceleron® seed treatment technology for soybeans (fungicides only and fungicides and insecticide)* and Cruiser Maxx® Vibrance® Beans
- Convenient sequential, simultaneous, or tank mix seed treatment applications
- Spreads out the workload

With all the benefits of the original Optimize, Optimize ST has a more concentrated formulation with a 120 day planting window. As a seed retailer, the 120 days leading up to planting is a hectic time. That's why Monsanto BioAg is pleased to offer the new Optimize ST formulation. Its more concentrated formula provides:

- Less volume of product on the seed with a reduced application rate – 2.8 fl oz per unit compared to the original formulation of 4.25 fl oz
- Treat twice the number of beans – 400 units instead of 200
- Half the amount of product to store
- More convenient and easier to use than the original formula

To learn more about the benefits of Optimize and Optimize ST, call 1-800-667-4944 or go to optimizeLCO.ca



ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for soybeans (fungicides only) is a combination of three separate individually registered products, which together contain the active ingredients fluxapyroxad, pyraclostrobin and metalaxyl. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for soybeans (fungicides and insecticide) is a combination of four separate individually registered products, which together contain the active ingredients fluxapyroxad, pyraclostrobin, metalaxyl and imidacloprid. Acceleron®, Monsanto BioAg and Design™ and Optimize® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC, Monsanto Canada, Inc. licensee. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2014–2015 Monsanto Canada Inc. 11.15 1699



Young Farmers

Mac student already an ag entrepreneur

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

This year's Annual General Meeting and Information Day held at Macdonald Campus on November 13 included the time-honoured tradition of presenting the QFA's Warren Grapes awards. The awards provide bursaries to agricultural students enrolled at English-language institutions of higher learning.

This year, the QFA awarded Matthew Burns, Shaina Hayes, Shimon Isrally and Andrea Soesbergen—all Macdonald Campus students—scholarships for their outstanding applications to the program. We'll feature articles on each of these gifted students and aspiring farmers over the course of the next few issues of the Advocate. This month, we spoke with Shimon Isrally about his hopes for farming and the future.

"I love farming. I really want to be a farmer," smiles Shimon Isrally when asked what made him interested in agriculture. "I always really liked gardening,



Shimon Isrally, a Macdonald Campus student from Montreal, receives his Warren Grapes award from QFA board member Mark Boyd. The QFA's Warren Grapes Fund provides bursaries to agricultural students enrolled at English-language institutions of higher learning.

fresh vegetables, the taste of good food, countryside. So I figured the best way to do it would be to apply to the Farm

Management and Technology program here at Mac."

At 26 years old, Isrally hasn't come to agriculture or to farm studies at Macdonald Campus by the usual route. He didn't grow up in a small community in Quebec's rural hinterlands, and he doesn't have a family farm that's been passed down throughout the generations to which he can return upon graduation.

Isrally was born in Israel and came to Canada with his parents when he was two years old, where they settled in Montreal. In Israel, Shimon's mother had lived on a moshav—a type of co-operative agricultural settlement made up of individually owned farms that sell their products to the co-op. "We went to Israel back and forth. I was there for a while when I was 14," Isrally recalls. "And Israel is a very nice place to visit, but to live there is really tough. Politically it's hard, financially it's hard. And my Hebrew is a little rusty!"

THE REAL STORY OF AG

Give your ag pride a social

Social media provides a powerful and simple channel to

Those of us who work in agriculture – who live and love it every day – have the responsibility to make sure our industry is better understood. Because if we don't, someone else will. And, we might not like what they have to say.

Social media offers many opportunities to tell ag's story. Here are some ways you can start leveraging social media today.

Share and like

Find and follow people from different sectors or areas of the country who you think are helping tell the real, positive story of our industry. You can help spread their great work by hitting the share button or re-tweeting their content.

Find common ground

Think about what someone outside of ag might want to know – walk a mile in their shoes. Speak to issues that matter to them using terms and information that are accessible and responsible.

Use hashtags

Want to share your perspective on #GMO? Or curious about what people are saying about how we care for farm animals? Follow or search relevant hashtags. Look for conversations that you can contribute to. Share your perspective, photos and experiences. Speak from the heart and remember that it isn't about picking a fight – it's about sharing a conversation.

A picture (or video) is worth a thousand words

Share images or videos of your farm or your role in agriculture online to help others see "behind the barn doors."





Isrally is now in his third year in the Farm Management Technology (FMT) program at Mac. "The future will be an exciting time for agriculture, but it will also be a challenging time for agriculture," he commented during his acceptance speech. "A thousand years ago, 99 per cent of the population was farming the land to sustain their own livelihood. In the last couple of generations, farmers have gone from milking a couple of cows, to dozens, hundreds, and even sometimes thousands of cows. If this trend continues, an ever-smaller number of farmers are afforded the responsibility of managing an ever-greater proportion of food production."

Excited about a career in agriculture, Isrally has already branched out as an agricultural entrepreneur. This past summer, he and a friend began growing vegetables on a small half-acre plot of land in Saint-Clet, just west of the Island of Montreal.

"The goal was to experiment a lot and see how much we can learn," Isrally explains. "Because we do learn a lot here in the FMT program, but it's all theoretical, and we wanted to get out there and

make as many mistakes as possible."

And Isrally clearly isn't only interested with the technical side of horticulture and gardening, but the business angle as well.

"We started marketing right away and found 12 families that we supplied fresh vegetables to. We basically broke even, even though we paid ourselves a little money. It's really hard to make a profit in the first few years, but we figured, 'Hey, we're getting course credit for this and we're learning so much!'"

Isrally hopes to work on a larger horticultural or market gardening operation for a few years before striking out on his own in the future. This young farmer has a keen eye on both the global challenges of agriculture and the opportunities facing those just starting out.

"As long as people are willing to pay for a product, there will be a market. As long as people want to buy local or buy organic, there'll be such a market. Sure, there'll always be those mega-farms, but there's also room elsewhere for smaller producers."

Did you see this? QFA on TV!

The QFA is getting out there in the world, defending the rights of Quebec's English-speaking farm and rural communities, and explaining who we are to urban Quebecers, too!



QFA Executive Director Doug Rattray was on television earlier this month, featured on the show "Montreal Billboard" on MATv, hosted by Richard Dagenais, pictured here at left.

MATv is available exclusively to subscribers signed up to Videotron's cable network and high-definition networks, but the episode featuring the QFA is available online here: matv.ca/montreal/mes-emissions/montreal-billboard/videos/4741205565001.

The interview originally aired February 9, but you can also find the link by joining our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/306871089363565.

THE REAL STORY OF AG

life tell agriculture's story



Paula

@DairyFarmer · 2h

"Happiness is a good back scratch...even for cows"

(Cow comfort is one of our top priorities)

#farm365 #farmlife



Keep calm, and advocate on!

Online and off, it can be frustrating to hear misperceptions about the industry we love or to deal with people who misrepresent who we are and what we do. It's important for us to stay calm, keep our cool and focus on answering questions, sharing our stories and experiences, as well as the facts and resources that can paint a more accurate picture of our industry. 🍁



Farmer Tim

August 17 · 🌐

We are going with the grain! After some expensive combine repairs our oats and barley harvest is under way. Its the best crop we've seen in a long time. The combine cuts off the plant and pulls it in so that the seeds can be thrashed from the stalks. The seeds are kept in the combine hopper to be transferred to an other wagon and finally taken to the barn for storage. It will be used to feed our cattle. The stalks and chaff are blown out the back into rows to be baled up and used as straw to bed out cows.



Communities

Promoting agriculture, one child at a time

Audrey Desrochers
Regional correspondent

Every summer, the Ferme Geobastien day camp is crawling with children. Outside, a few kids play ball, while others skip rope. In the barn, the youngest campers are feeding the cow they have adopted for the week. Since 2009, this farm in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines has made it its mission to promote agriculture—to everyone, big or small.

The farm is an island in the midst of urban sprawl. Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines is the only town in the area with approximately 80 per cent rural population, according to the farm's co-manager, Isabelle Hardy. "It's important for us to share what farming is like and to allow city dwellers to discover our production methods," she says. "They don't need to drive a hundred kilometers to visit a farm. We're right in their backyard!"

In partnership with the L'Air en fête recreation and camp organizer,



The Ferme Geobastien welcomes nearly 1,000 children annually.

Ferme Geobastien organizes a "Farm-Madness"-themed day camp. Children sign up for a week to learn the basics

of agricultural production. "In addition to our dairy production, we have a horse and laying hens. We also visit the

neighbour's sugar shack and blueberry plantation," Hardy boasts. She and her husband also host daycare day trips.

THE REAL STORY OF AG

We all live off the land.

Let's work together to find **common ground.**



Communities

The children tour the facilities, visit seed-production and milking rooms, and get to see the small animals—a busy day, says the producer. Each year, a thousand children come to play at being farmers. “For many kids, this is their first rural outing,” Hardy explains. “It’s so inspiring to see them run around, lie down in the grass. They’re getting their freedom back.”

Supporting local agriculture

Throughout the year, Ferme Geobastien also makes it a point to share its experience with students from the CFAM agricultural training centre in Mirabel. Hardy points out that the company also maintains a social-media presence, another way to promote farming and to raise awareness among the general population. “We’re proud to share our passion. At the end of the day, when people are happy, when they tell us, ‘thank you for doing this work for us!’, that’s a good pat on the back, and it inspires us to continue,” Hardy says.

A daycare director once told her that, in 25 years of organizing events for children, her visit to Ferme Geobastien



At the Ferme Geobastien, they do their best to introduce children to farming.

was her favourite. “It was like getting a hug. That’s so nice to hear,” the young woman says.

Hardy works hard at promoting agriculture not just for the simple pleasure

of “the thanks and the congratulations.” It’s her way of helping promote local agriculture. “When people go home after visiting the farm, they see their milk differently,” she explains. “If one

day dairy products from the United States or elsewhere find their way into our grocery stores, I hope those people will see the made-in-Quebec label and think of me.”

THE REAL STORY OF AG

Build bridges, don't go under them

Dealing with Internet trolls takes patience and a thick skin

Be it on a social media feed or the comment section of your favourite blog or site, the Internet has become the great equalizer, where anyone can share their point of view. And while most people are looking to engage in respectful conversation, even if they have differing points of view, there are people known as “trolls” who are only looking to disrupt and criticize. Bolstered by the relative anonymity of hiding behind a keyboard, these trolls’ main objective is to disrupt conversation with often hurtful and off-topic content. They can be a frustrating part of any online conversation, but it’s a little easier when you have a strategy to deal with them.

Here are some things to consider:

Don't engage

Trolls are looking for attention. They crave it. Don't give it to them.

Stick to the facts

It's not always clear that someone is a troll at first. If you suspect someone you're engaging with is a troll, keep your comments to a minimum and stick to stating your case. Usually trolls will reveal themselves in their response, then you can simply move on.

Don't take it personally

Trolls want a negative reaction and to do it, they will resort to some very hurtful tactics. Take it for what it is and don't let it get to you.

Look to the moderator

When all else fails, most sites will have some sort of channel to report offensive comments or users.

Unfortunately trolls are a reality of having an open dialogue. But if you remain positive and patient, you can keep the trolls under the bridge where they belong. 🍁



Climate of change



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

New infrastructure priorities set the right tone for future agri-food strategy

The new federal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau may be able to create a moment when it delivers much-needed infrastructure support to farms and rural communities, while helping to sharpen Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s focus on climate change resilience and preparedness.

That outcome is by no means assured. But a targeted boost through Ottawa's soon-to-be-unveiled infrastructure investment plan could deliver economic stimulus to rural communities, while opening the door to some new thinking as AAFC opens consultations on its next five-year strategic plan, *Growing Forward 3*.

To get it done, all the feds would have

to do is take some of the thinking that is already swirling around the infrastructure plan—worth nearly \$125 billion over the next decade—and apply it in a slightly different way and a slightly different context.

Delivering local benefits

The broad lines of the government's infrastructure plan are reflected in Trudeau's mandate letter to Infrastructure and Communities Minister Amarjeet Sohi, which calls for a ten-year plan to "ensure both immediate increased investments in infrastructure and long-term, predictable funding" for provincial, territorial and municipal priorities. Those priorities would fall under the headings of transit, social infrastructure, like afford-

able housing, and green infrastructure, including "climate resilient infrastructure like flood mitigation systems, and infrastructure to protect against changing weather."

At first glance, it reads like a plan that is tailor-made for large urban centres.

transit, a long-held dream for towns like Wakefield, Quebec, located within plausible light rail distance of Ottawa-Gatineau.

Rural communities can certainly benefit from clean energy development under the plan. Just ask the estimated

A targeted boost through Ottawa's soon-to-be-unveiled infrastructure investment plan could deliver economic stimulus to rural communities.

But not if you tilt your perspective just a bit. Rural communities need affordable housing, seniors' facilities, rec centres, child care centres, wastewater facilities and transportation corridors—even

ten per cent of Ontario farmers whose solar panels deliver annual revenue from electricity sales, serving as second cash crops when commodity prices fell a couple of years ago.

THE REAL STORY OF AG

Learn more

AgMoreThanEver.ca is filled with resources to help you be an advocate online or off.

Here are just a few:

Webinar: How to use social media to tell ag's story

Social media guru Megan Madden will tell you everything you need to know to join the ag and food conversation online. She'll help you decide which tools are best for you – and show you how you can get in on the ag and food conversations happening online today.



Video: The power of social media in Canadian agriculture

Lyndon Carlson, a driving force behind Ag More Than Ever, recently sat down to chat about the power of social media in an agricultural context with our partners at the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR). In this podcast, Lyndon outlines how we as an industry can leverage the power of social media to tell our story.

Webinar: How to get in on the tough ag and food conversations

Andrew Campbell talks about the importance of using social media to foster a positive perception of the industry – and shows some real-life success stories. He also covers how to deal with some of the not-so-positive dialogue out there. It's not always easy, but it's important – and everyone can do it.



Climate of change

And there's a powerful precedent for ensuring that rural centres get their share of the pie in any federal infrastructure program. More than a decade ago, when then-prime minister Paul Martin appointed a national policy panel on infrastructure investment, it was deliberately named the External Advisory Committee on Cities and *Communities* to signal that rural voices would be heard. Unless anyone can convince you that all the needs in your smaller city or town have since been met (in which case I can offer you a great deal on prime swamp-land...which I found on the Interwebs), the precedent should still hold.

Charting a different course

The new infrastructure dollars should begin flowing just in time to chart a different course for the next edition of the government's agriculture and agri-food strategy.

Growing Forward 2 is in effect through March 31, 2018, and discussions are already under way to shape the plan that some stakeholders are referring to as *Growing Forward 3*. Some early tangible successes with local infrastructure



Rural communities need affordable housing, seniors' facilities, rec centres, child care centres, wastewater facilities and transportation corridors—even transit.

projects could shine a light on program options that seem to have been given short shrift in the 2013-2018 plan, with its focus on the business of agriculture rather than the communities and ecosystems on which that business ultimately depends. That's not to say the business supports aren't needed and worthy. But the pri-

orities taking shape around the federal infrastructure program point to the other essential ingredients that make a rural economy strong and protect it from future climate risk. By changing the conversation now, bringing new money to the table, listening to community voices and building solutions from the ground

up, the feds could set the stage for a much more robust approach to food and agriculture strategy.

Mitchell Beer is president of Smarter Shift in Ottawa and curator of The Energy Mix, a thrice-weekly e-digest on climate change, energy, and the low-carbon transition.

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Grains

What's in store for income security programs?



The president of the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) sent a letter to all grain farmers informing them that a vote is likely to take place in the coming weeks on whether or not grain, corn and soy crops should remain under the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance (FISI) program. The vote comes in the wake of agriculture minister Paradis's announcement last December regarding future enhancements to the Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus programs. Because the FISI program was not enhanced, the minister offered affected sectors the option of leaving the FISI program, which would open up access to Agri-Québec and Agri-Québec Plus.

The PGQ will continue voicing its concerns to the various government agencies involved in order to give producers an income security program based on the true costs of production, one in which losses can be measured,

combined with an investment program.

In any event, a response must be submitted to the Financière agricole du Québec by June 30, 2016. It looks likely that the farmers to be affected by this move will be invited to participate in a vote to be organized by the PGQ in the coming weeks. The decision as to whether the FISI program should be maintained as the primary income security measure must be made collectively, meaning that producers cannot choose whichever program they prefer on an individual basis. If it comes to a vote, the option chosen by the majority of producers will apply to all producers of the crop concerned.

Given the magnitude of the issue at hand, the PGQ is embarking on a tour across the province. The tour is intended to support producers and provide them with all the information they need to weigh the factors involved in mak-

ing this decision, which will have major implications for all.

For further details on this important issue, please visit www.pgq.ca/choix-programmes (in French only).

Launch of new commercial practices guide for grains

The Groupe de concertation du secteur des grains du Québec (Quebec grain sector focus group) is proud to present its new commercial practices guide for grains produced in Quebec. The objective of the guide is to promote grain marketing in Quebec in accordance with standards established and approved by the grain industry. The overall goal is to improve commercial transactions, eliminate misunderstandings and propose a method to help resolve any misunderstandings that arise. To view the guide, visit www.pgq.ca.

Neonicotinoids: Preliminary report from PMRA

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published the preliminary results of its re-evaluation of neonicotinoid pesticides. The re-evaluation, conducted in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, looks at the value of corn and soy crop treatments as well as the effect of the active ingredient imidacloprid on pollinators.

The results indicate that the value of corn seed treatments is \$74.2 to \$83.3 million (Canadian dollars). The figure for soy is \$37.3 to \$51 million. The preliminary results also indicate that the use of treated seeds does not carry any risks for pollinators. However, exposure to seed dust containing neonicotinoids may lead to risk.

The PMRA plans to publish these documents in their entirety, including appendices, on January 18, 2016. This date marks the beginning of a 60-day public consultation period. The final decision regarding the re-evaluation will be published in December 2016.



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.

GESTALAB

How to get full benefit from the test

Jean Durocher
veterinarian, dairy herd
health coordinator

Julie Baillargeon
agronomist, research project and
technology transfer coordinator

Both authors are part of the Valacta
R&D department.

No pregnancy test is perfect. That's as true for GESTALAB, a pregnancy detection test conducted on milk samples, as it is for ultrasound. Learning as much as you can about the tool, however, will enable you to make the best use of it, depending on the situation.

There are three ways to use the GESTALAB test: 1) to detect pregnancy from 28 days post-breeding, 2) to confirm pregnancy from 60 to 90 days, or 3) for a late pregnancy confirmation before drying off. The following information will help you to better understand the features of the GESTALAB test in these circumstances.

1-GESTALAB: To detect pregnancy as early as possible!

The goal of a pregnancy test is to identify open cows and take action as soon as possible. It may seem strange, but the level of PAG*, the protein that indicates pregnancy, is higher at 30 days of gestation than it is at 60 days. Consequently, results may be interpreted differently depending on when the test is done.

Accordingly, if the test result shows a PAG level below the threshold value for pregnancy diagnosis (ELISA value < 0.10):

- between 28 and 45 days post-breeding: the report will indicate the cow is "open."

To compare the reliability of the milk detection test, we conducted a trial on Quebec dairy farms in conjunction with veterinarians who use ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis. The results show that between 28 and 45 days of gestation, the reliability of the GESTALAB test (99.6 per cent) is equivalent to that of an ultrasound examination (99.2 per cent). So, in both cases, a negative result means that the producer can take immediate action with the same level of confidence.

- after 45 days post-breeding: the report will indicate that the cow is "probably open."
- After 45 days of gestation, the prob-

ability that a cow is truly open based on a negative test result decreases somewhat. This is referred to as the negative predictive value. In this situation, the GESTALAB report will indicate "probably open" and will recommend that the cow be examined by a veterinarian to confirm the result.

Why use GESTALAB before 45 days of gestation?

- To reduce the number of days open (the average economic loss is estimated at \$4.50/open day)
- To use the test more efficiently, since it provides an accurate diagnosis
- To better document the incidence of embryonic mortality in the herd

2-GESTALAB: To confirm pregnancy between 60 and 90 days post-breeding

Most veterinarians recommend that a pregnancy detected by an early test be confirmed, regardless of the technique (ultrasound or GESTALAB) used for that first test. The goal is to identify the cows that have lost an embryo.

Between 60 and 90 days of gestation, a cow with a PAG level below the diagnostic threshold (ELISA value < 0.10) is reported to be "probably open" and should be examined by a veterinarian.

The inconvenience associated with a "probably open" result is, however, less restrictive in these circumstances, since most of the cows are pregnant.

3-GESTALAB: For a late confirmation of pregnancy before dry off

A pregnancy confirmation test is sometimes done before dry off to avoid any unpleasant surprises. Many producers, particularly those whose animals are



"Since my cows are in open housing, I find this a really practical tool because it saves me time and makes my work easier," says Ferme Lanormande owner Claude Normand.

*PAG (pregnancy-associated glycoproteins)

PAG is an acronym that refers to pregnancy-associated glycoproteins, molecules that are secreted by the placenta and released into the maternal circulatory system. The GESTALAB test enables us to detect PAGs and use that information as a pregnancy indicator in cows.

housed in free-stall barns, see the benefit of this practice. Ferme Lanormande, in Victoriaville, for example, has been able to reduce the handling time for their herd of 153 milking cows by using GESTALAB.

"Since my cows are in open housing, I find this a really practical tool because it saves me time and makes my work easier," says farm owner Claude Normand. "The veterinarian initially diagnoses pregnancies around 30 days. Then I have the pregnancies confirmed at around 100 days and again before dry off."



At Ferme Fertily, in Sainte-Thècle, Francis Tessier and Stéphanie Gagnéux use GESTALAB between preventative medicine visits to quickly identify open cows in their herd of 30 milking Holsteins. "At each veterinarian visit, we identify the cows that will be tested with GESTALAB before the next visit," Mr. Tessier explains.



Why share the GESTALAB results with your veterinarian?

"By sharing information with my veterinarian, I can manage herd reproduction more efficiently." –Francis Tessier, co-owner of Ferme Fertily
"To choose the best approach for each cow, the information on the GESTALAB report needs to be included in the animal's health records. It also helps us make the best decisions for the herd as a whole." –Dr. Yves Caron, Clinique vétérinaire Saint-Tite

Basic guidelines to help you take full advantage of GESTALAB

1-Provide the breeding date

Because the test results are interpreted according to the stage of gestation, you can increase the accuracy of the test interpretation by providing us with a breeding date that can be entered in the database.

2-Follow the milk sampling protocol

In a conventional milking system, carry-over of residual milk from the previous cow has little effect on the GESTALAB result, as long as milk recording procedures are followed. With a robotic milking system, consult your Valacta technician or advisor before using GESTALAB.

3-Share the information with your veterinarian

By sharing the information contained in your GESTALAB report with your veterinarian, you can optimize the reproductive management of your herd.

GESTALAB is an additional tool you can use to optimize reproduction in your herd. Don't hesitate to get all the information you need and use GESTALAB to its fullest potential.



Cookin' with the Advocate

Potato and Cheese Soup



Ingredients

3 TBSP butter
 1 lb onion, chopped
 ½ lb carrots, roughly chopped
 2 lbs potatoes, peeled and cubed
 4 cups vegetable stock
 2 cups whole milk
 3 ounces cream cheese
 3 ounces 1 to 3-year-old cheddar cheese
 Salt and pepper
 Dill (optional)

In a large pot, melt butter. When foaming, add onions and cook until they are translucent. Add the garlic and cook 1 more minute. Add the carrots and potatoes and cook 5 minutes. Add the stock and let it simmer until the vegetables are very tender. Homemade stock is best, but a low-sodium, good-quality stock cube may also be used.

Purée the vegetables with the cream cheese and milk. Return to the pot and heat gently, stirring in the cheddar cheese. Add salt and pepper to taste. The amount of salt will vary depending on the amount of salt in your stock and cheddar cheese. I find it useful to start with ½ tsp. and then add more in ¼ tsp. increments as needed. You can then mark down the total amount so that you know how much to add for your own situation the next time. When serving, you may sprinkle with dried or fresh dill.

This thick winter soup is adapted from "Very Creamy Potato-Cheese Soup" found in the *Moosewood Cookbook* by Mollie Katzen.

Adapting to this winter

Cynthia Gunn

QFA's Food Writer

Is it or isn't it? That is the question these days when it comes to record-breaking warm weather and unusual weather events. This year, the excuse of El Nino (the abnormal warming of the sea surface waters of the equatorial Pacific and the ensuing disruption of weather patterns) is allowing for sighs of relief, for surely, this warm winter is attributable to the effects of this year's strong El Nino. In the hearts of even the most ardent naysayers, however, doubt must be lurking.

In our neck of the woods, a heavy blow was given to the naysayers last weekend: the hockey tournament at the winter carnival had to be cancelled due to poor ice conditions. This was a first in its more than fifty-year history. Emergency meetings were called. Could the carnival go on without the hockey?

Catastrophe was diverted: adaptation saved the day. Broomball and other games blossomed on the ice. In fact, some thought it even more fun without the hockey tournament. Regardless, things were not as they should have been, and it was one more needle on the mounting pile of necessary adaptations to changing climate patterns. While the impacts were not as serious as those wrought by drought and other severe events, the loss of traditional winter sports can have a very real effect on the social fabric of our communities.

It seemed only right that the soup I was requested to make for the hungry hordes created by broomball, sleigh riding and other strenuous activities, like the very competitive egg toss, should at least be made with local ingredients, thus minimizing one tiny little bit more of CO2 being emitted in the transport of ingredients from afar. Winter is always limiting when tasking oneself with using local ingredients, and I was granted the role of vegetarian soup-maker, which limited things even further.

There was only one real choice, therefore: potato and cheese soup. My own garden was a miserable showmanship of "grow your own" last summer, the only surplus produced for the winter months being garlic and green beans. Thankfully, I am surrounded by farmers who do this for a living, so in the late fall I had turned to them to fill in my gaps and had at hand what I required. The cheddar cheese in my fridge is produced just south of Ottawa; there is a good chance that most if not all of the butter is produced from Quebec milk and that the organic milk is one of the 38 million litres produced by one of the 101 producers (2013 statistics) somewhere in Quebec. And, well, the cream cheese would just have to go in the pot, local pedigree or not.



Leilak Anderson
Certified Arborist
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

In last month's article, I talked about the importance of dead and declining trees. I mentioned the symbiotic relationships that trees have with mycorrhizae—fungi that give nutrients to surrounding plants in exchange for sugars—and I would like to expand a little on the role of mushrooms as an important farming tool.

When I see a tree with mushrooms, it is a clear sign of decay. But this isn't a negative thing; mushrooms play a critical role in a forest. They are the ultimate pioneers: fungi were the first organisms to grow on land because of their ability to break down rock and produce soil. In addition to a mushroom's powerful ability to decom-

Mushrooms: A farmer's friend

pose other life forms, it has amazing absorption power. For instance, by spreading a pile of woodchips and covering it with mushroom spawn, you can create a very effective filtration system to protect watersheds from septic systems or livestock, decreasing contaminants present in the water by as much as 100 times when tested before and after.

Not only can mushrooms prevent water pollution, they can absorb incredibly toxic materials from the ground, including oil spills and heavy metals. Top scientists and mycologists are devising plans for Fukushima, Japan, in order to decontaminate radioactive wastelands and restore soil, which will in turn attract insects and birds (whose waste includes native seeds) and will ultimately begin a new life cycle.

Farmers can introduce fungi manually to increase crops yields. Best yet, mushrooms that act as pesticides are just as effective as chemical technology, but have none of the side effects to plants and peo-

ple. If you are interested in learning more about the use of mushrooms for farming, you can look up world-renowned mycologist Paul Stamet, who wrote *Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World*.



Mushrooms produce chemicals that can either attract or repel insects: fungi are also very effective pesticides.



Fruiting bodies on trees are a sign of decay, but this is not a negative thing in a forest.



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QFA joins campaign to help isolated seniors

The Quebec Farmers' Association is pleased to announce it is partnering with national organization HelpAge Canada on an awareness and action campaign to address seniors' social isolation. Reaching Isolated Seniors Everywhere (RISE) was launched in the Fall of 2015 to help Canadians of all ages, cultures and regions become aware of the impact of loneliness and social isolation on their older family members, friends and neighbours – and to take action.

“Isolation is very much a real issue for our community,” says QFA Executive Director Dougal Rattray. “People living in rural communities are not always at the forefront of society’s priorities. In recognizing that a significant proportion of our rural community is of a more senior generation, it is our duty to make sure they are cared for, and this partnership expresses that commitment.

In Canada, nearly a million seniors are socially isolated and don’t participate frequently in any social activity. We hear regularly about how our population is aging and how the number of Canadians 65+ will likely double over the next 25 years. But what we don’t hear about as often is how so many older people are isolated and rely on a pet or TV for companionship. “Belonging to the linguistic minority where many of our more senior community are less equipped with French-language skills only compounds the issue,” Rattray added. “This is a proactive stance that our directors feel is important to address.”

QFA’s involvement in the RISE campaign is connected with its work in organizing horticultural therapy for rural seniors, through its “Seniors Gardening Project” which is intended to expand in the coming years. “I urge readers to consider the RISE campaign spectrum seen opposite and if there is someone you know who you feel might be in need of support, go visit or phone them; or if you feel it is a serious situation, call the hotline. Imagine what might happen if you don’t.”



Is someone you know becoming invisible?

REACH OUT AND CONNECT WITH AN OLDER PERSON

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

RISK FACTORS | INDICATORS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION

Personal

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

Health

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

LEVEL OF RISK

PERSON HAS 3+ RISK FACTORS

1 POTENTIAL RISK

PERSON HAS 5+ RISK FACTORS

2 MODERATE RISK

POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

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

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



Do not let a senior become “invisible”

Living situation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• low/unstable income• living alone• location (urban, rural, remote)• no friends or family nearby• change of residence• living in unsafe neighbourhoods• being anonymous to neighbours• minimal participation in social activities, volunteering, outside groups (church, club)• being a caregiver	Changes in... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• physical health (bruising, weight loss, weakness)• mental/emotional health (fear, confusion)• personal hygiene/appearance• personality/routine (withdrawal, poor diet)• appearance of home (neglect, cleanliness)	Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of affordable, accessible transportation• loss of driver's licence• lack of awareness/access to community services• challenges re. technology• limited assistance with routine activities (shopping, meal prep)
3 SERIOUS RISK <small>PERSON HAS 7+ RISK FACTORS</small>	4 IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED <small>PERSON HAS 10+ RISK FACTORS</small>	

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

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

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

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

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

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Rural Community Better Together



REGIONAL EVENTS

Eastern Townships

Richmond 4-H Dance

Music by Slightly Haggard

When: March 26, doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Where: Salle Ste. Famille, Richmond

Cost: \$8. Tickets available at the door or in advance from Devin Keenan (819 826-1377) or Carly Morin (cm_6768@hotmail.com).

Hatley 4-H Club Fundraising Dance

Music by Slightly Haggard

Open to: General public, including youth under 18 (accompanied by an adult)

When: April 9, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Where: Salle Burrough's Falls (Stanstead East)

Cost: \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Advanced tickets available from Hatley 4-H members or Wyatt Johnston (wyatt.johnston@mail.mcgill.ca).

Sawyerville 4-H Dance

Music by Slightly Haggard

When: May 28, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Where: Cookshire Fairgrounds

Cost: \$ TBC. Tickets available at the door

Info: Kendra Parnell

(819-889-3275 or kendraelly@gmail.com)

MONTÉRÉGIE

Ormstown 4-H Skating Day

Open to: 4-H members, family and friends

When: Wednesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Huntingdon Arena

Cost: Skating is free. Lunch will follow with fee of \$2 per slice of pizza.

Quebec 4-H Innovative Ag Tour

Open to: 4-H members aged 13-25 and juniors from the host club

Date: March 18-20

Location: Hosted by Howick 4-H Club

Cost: \$60

Register by: February 20, 2016

Tour the various farms and agribusinesses of the host region, learn about best business practices and innovations, and gain a firsthand understanding of the successes and challenges faced by producers in the agriculture and agri-food industry.

Info: quebec4-h.com/innovative-ag-tour or contact Chelsea (agliaison@quebec4-h.com)

Ormstown 4-H Square Dance

Competition

Music by the Neil MacKay Band

Open to: Participation in the competition is open to 4-H members.

General public admission fee: \$6 for ages 9+, \$3 for 8 years or younger

When: April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Recreation Centre, Ormstown

Info: Janice Barr (barrneal26@outlook.com)

PONTIAC:

Quebec 4-H Provincial Rally

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

General public is welcome to spectate.

Date: July 21-24; show day is Saturday, July 23.

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

Cost: \$60 includes one project; \$20 for additional project entries

Register by: June 1, 2016

4-H members will demonstrate various livestock and life skills projects, competing as individuals and as teams. An awards banquet on Saturday evening will recognize achievements. Theme: Hollywood. Community volunteers and sponsors are

welcome to contribute.

Info: quebec4-h.com/rally or contact Chelsea (agliaison@quebec4-h.com)

QUEBEC 4-H ASSOCIATION

Job Opportunity - Public Relations Assistant (Summer Employment)

The PR Assistant will promote Quebec 4-H at various regional fairs as well as liaise between the provincial office and local clubs. A driver's license and vehicle are required. Position is available contingent on funding from Canada Summer Jobs program.

Open to: Students aged 15 to 30 years and returning to school in August or September

When: May 30 or June 6 to August 21, with the possibility of the following three weekends

Info: For full details, look for the "Job Opportunities" link on the home page (www.quebec4-h.com).

Apply by: March 15, 2016, to jobs@quebec4-h.com

Note of Thanks

Thanks to Canadian farmers, 66 rural charities and non-profits, including school lunch programs, sports facilities, service clubs, parks and playgrounds received \$2,500 grants from the Monsanto Fund as part of the 2015 Canada's Farmers Grow Communities program. The Quebec 4-H Association was one of the recipients selected in November 2015 for its work providing personal development opportunities to rural youth. Other Quebec recipients were the Lacolle Curling Club, Franklin Elementary School, École Sainte Marie Vallées-des-Voyageurs and Fondation Sécuriferm. The Canada's Farmers Grow Communities program has opened again

for 2016 with a deadline of September 30. Info: www.canadasfarmers.ca.

4-H CANADA

Merial 4-H Boxback Program

Value: \$10 for each Ivomec® and Eprinex® Pour-On box label returned to Merial

Deadline: February 29

FARMERS, please save your boxes to give to a local 4-H member to help raise money for their club. CLUBS, collect the empty boxes from 2.5L, 5L and 20L packs of Eprinex® or Ivomec® Pour-On and mail the filled-in labels to Merial to fundraise \$10/label for your 4-H club. Envelopes must be postmarked by the deadline. You can now also return Eprinex® or Ivomec® plastic jugs for recycling and receive between \$2 and \$12.50.

Info: ivomec-4h.com

Scholarships

Scholarship applications will open on March 1, 2016. Scholarships are an excellent way for 4-Hers to supplement the cost of a post-secondary education and access resources and networks that will be invaluable throughout their academic career and beyond. Being offered this year: Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.)

TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarships

CIBC 4-H Post-Secondary Education Scholarships

John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarships

Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship

Weston Family 4-H Agricultural Scholarships

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers 4-H Scholarship

For more information: 4-h-canada.ca/GrantsScholarships%26Awards

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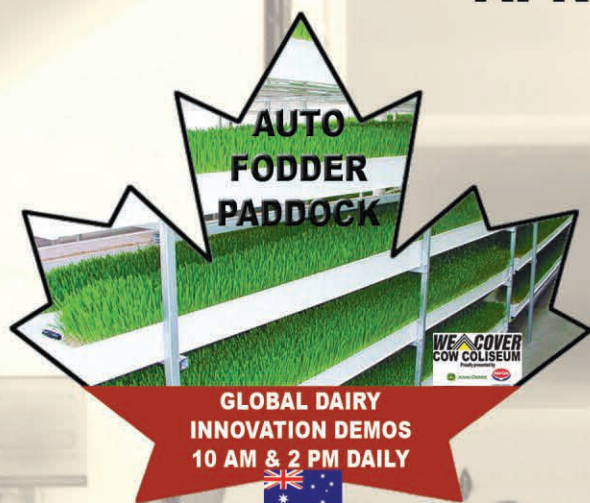


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