

Quebec Farmers' Advocate

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**"People that are really
very weird can get into
sensitive positions and
have a tremendous
impact on history."**

—Dan Quayle

QFA's Farm Food Forums

IMPORTANT FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note that the Forum
planned for January 26 on
Highway Regulations has
had to be switched to
Thursday, February 2.
Same time. Same place.

Low dollar could help throughout 2017



Canada's relatively weak loonie could be a boon to Canadian farmers in 2017. The low dollar means that Canada is more competitive in agricultural markets relative to some of the world's largest exporters.

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

Industry experts say that the low Canadian dollar will mean good things for the nation's agriculture in 2017.

The Canadian dollar—currently hovering around the 75-cent mark to the US dollar—helped the country's farmers out in 2016. The low dollar means that Canada is more competitive in agricultural markets relative to some of the world's largest exporters. It can also translate into dollars for producers whose products are priced in US dollars.

"The Canadian dollar... has been a major driver for profitability in the last couple of years and could have the biggest influence on the overall success of Canada's agriculture industry

in 2017," says J.P. Gervais, Farm Credit Canada's chief agricultural economist.

"There are certainly other factors that could influence Canadian agriculture, such as the global economy, the investment landscape, commodity and energy prices."

Gervais explains that higher demand exists for Canadian agricultural products when the dollar is low. That's good news in a year when there is a higher projected supply in Canada of livestock and crops, and livestock prices are expected to bounce back off the weakness observed in the second half of 2016.

"A lower Canadian dollar makes farm inputs more expensive, but the net impact in terms of our export competitiveness and cash receipts for producers is certainly positive," Gervais said.

"Given the choice, producers are better off with a low dollar than one that's relatively strong compared to the US dollar."

Other industry analysts say that the low loonie could easily have the greatest impact of all trends on the profitability of Canadian agriculture and agribusiness throughout the year. The dollar will no doubt impact the prices Canadian ag producers will get and their farm cash receipts in 2017. A low loonie makes Canadian manufactured food products more competitive in foreign markets, and, domestically, it'll help shield Canadian firms from foreign competition.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



On the cover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Spin-off

Spin-off industries and agrifood, a large part of the Canadian economy, will also benefit from a comparatively weak loonie. Canadian food products are less expensive for foreign buyers, accounting for the huge growth in food processing in Canada over the past few years. A strong Canadian presence in food processing also makes it tougher for foreign food brands to compete for grocery shoppers' money.

"The climate for investment in Canadian food processing is good, given the low dollar and growing demand in the US," Gervais said. He projects that exports of food manufactured products to the US could climb five per cent in 2017.

Business means money

A lower-than-average US per Canadian dollar exchange encourages foreign sales of agribusinesses, too. More than 90 per cent of exports are made to the US.

"The dollar's impact on agribusinesses is complex and not as consis-



According to J.P. Gervais, Farm Credit Canada's chief agricultural economist, the climate for investment in Canadian food processing is good, given the low dollar and growing demand in the US.

tent as it is on producers and food processors," said Gervais. The FCC economist explained that strong farm cash receipts due to a weak Canadian dollar are generally good news for agribusinesses, since they can expect sales to producers to increase with rising revenues.

Global trade will be another big factor for Canadian farms in 2017. Both the Canada-European Union

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership sent shock waves through the industry in 2016—and the surprises are far from over.

Neighbourly "love"

Recently, federal Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay spoke to US state legislators about maintaining strong ties in the agricultural industry

between Canada and the US—perhaps in reaction to Donald Trump's campaign promise to renegotiate NAFTA to greater American advantage.

"The US is our closest friend, partner, and most important economic relationship," MacAulay said. "Working together to identify opportunities for our farmers offers them the best opportunity to succeed, grow our economies, and create jobs."



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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Last Name.....

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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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Canada





Taxed out of house and home

Quebec farmers and the province go head-to-head over land valuation changes

Andrew McClelland
Advocate Staff Reporter

There are only two things certain in farming: taxes and taxes. And some Quebec agricultural producers are wondering if the province will do anything to alleviate the tax burden heaped upon them due to the way the province evaluates the value of their land and farm buildings.

The heart of the issue is the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)'s "Programme de crédit de taxes foncières agricoles"—or the Agricultural Property Tax Credit Program—the system by which the municipal and school taxes that agricultural producers and landowners must pay are calculated.

When Quebec Minister of Agriculture Pierre Paradis announced that his ministry would be changing the way farmland and property was taxed, many farmers threw up their hands in anger and disgust. And Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) President Marcel Groleau was quick to respond.

"The value of agricultural land has increased by 800 per cent over the past 20 years and has doubled in the past five years," said Groleau in an editorial. "One of the reasons for this inflation is the way agricultural land is valued. Applying the same valuation principle for agricultural land as is being used for residential is how the inflation became accentuated."



Quebec Minister of Agriculture Pierre Paradis isn't making friends with Quebec farmers, due to a dispute over the Programme de crédit de taxes foncières agricoles—the system by which the municipal and school taxes that agricultural producers and landowners must pay are calculated.

At the heart of the issue are changes to the program that will take the dollar value of all permanent structures on a piece of farmland into account when calculating producers' municipal tax bill. That means family houses and not just buildings used expressly for farm production and business.

Depending on who you're listening to—worried farmers or the Quebec government—that means the tax bills of

producers will be going up. The UPA says that the majority of its members will have to pay thousands more dollars annually, and MAPAQ estimates that around 300 farmers will be affected by an increase of \$113 per year.

This means war

The situation came to a head at the UPA's general congress at the beginning of December when Minister Paradis addressed a room full of hostile agricultural producers and delegates. Producers held signs that read "Agriculture's contribution to reducing the deficit = \$1.1 billion," and they flocked to the microphones to address the MNA for the Eastern Townships riding of Brome-Missisquoi directly.

Paradis called up his ministry's track record to defend his proposed changes to the Programme de crédit de taxes foncières agricoles, saying that on most controversial issues of the past two years, MAPAQ and the province's farmers have been "speaking two different languages."

"We spoke two different languages on the issue of the next generation of farmers two years ago; we spoke two different languages about maple syrup last year; and we're speaking two different languages this year," said Paradis. "But when I look back in the past, the figures from our department of finance were good regarding maple

syrup production, good for the next generation of farmers, and I have no reason to believe they wouldn't be good this time around."

On December 30, Quebec announced that it had appointed a tax consultant—Luc Godbout of the l'Université de Sherbrooke—to do a study of the effect the new policy would have on farmers. Paradis had earlier said that the new program would only increase costs to farmers by five to ten per cent, but the UPA's math shows it would increase taxes to farmers by up to 40 per cent.

Minister Paradis has said in a statement that the government chose to appoint an independent expert to put an end to the battle of figures that is taking place between the two sides. But many UPA members are not appeased.

"We think it's useless," said UPA-Estrie President François Bourassa. "Not only has the UPA come up with these figures... the Fédération québécoise des municipalités has come to the same conclusion. We see it as stubbornness on the part of the minister of agriculture."

Godbout will submit his report and analysis at the end of February. At the beginning of that month, the UPA could ask its members to prohibit the province's snowmobilers—a lucrative tourist demographic for Quebec—from using trails that cross their land as a pressure tactic.



At the beginning of February, the UPA could ask its members to prohibit the province's snowmobilers from using trails that cross their land as a pressure tactic.



Marcel Groleau
UPA President

The only way to fix the problems with farm property taxes is to create a working group involving the Fédération québécoise des municipalités, the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and the relevant ministries. The UPA's repeated demands for such a group have gone ignored by the Quebec government for several years now. The crisis caused by Minister Pierre Paradis and his farm property tax credit program (PCTFA) reform is twofold: it makes a bad situation worse by increasing farmers' tax burden, but more importantly, in no way does it address the root causes.

The value of farmland has increased by 800 per cent in the last 20 years. In the last five years alone, it has doubled. One of the factors driving this inflation is the method used to assess farm properties. Applying the same assessment criteria to farmland as those used for residential land exacerbates this inflation.

Think about it. These are two very different markets here. Unlike a neighbouring house, neighbouring farmland is often the only means by which farm

businesses can grow. The exceptional opportunity this land represents gives it a unique value that goes well beyond the yield it can generate. However, in comparison to all land sold in the province, purchases of neighbouring land represent just a tiny fraction—and even then, these purchases are by businesses already in operation. The market has also seen the arrival of investment funds, which brings with it added pressure.

In Quebec, most farmland changes hands through intergenerational transactions. Most of the time, this means the properties are not reflected in farmland assessment rolls, as the transactions are done by transfer of shares. In other words, there is no change of owner in the eyes of the municipality. The value of the shares in these transactions is based on the capacity of the business, which is largely determined by the agro-economic yield of the land. In fact, this is the main reason why the land given by transferors always increases in value when transactions are conducted within the family. Over time, these increases kill the business. Let me repeat that: Intergenerational land transfer is not subject to assessment rolls.

Unlike in the residential sector, we can't simply build more land to meet demand. The amount of arable land has a limit. In addition, in nearly 600

municipalities, there is a moratorium prohibiting construction on agricultural land under cultivation (Quebec is the only province with such a moratorium), which further increases pressure. Farmers are paying more and more tax on land they are not even allowed to develop. This effectively constitutes a form of expropriation, yet this is not compensated for in any way.

All of this means that the market value of land, which is established by the assessment roll, is inflated, as only the most expensive transactions are reflected.

But that's not all. The PCTFA also applies to land acquired by real estate developers. The most striking example is the Sœurs de la Charité in Quebec City. The land in that deal was purchased by Cominar for \$195,000 per hectare. These prices are a world away from those seen in agriculture. And the land acquired by developers qualifies for the tax credit until it is rezoned. Obviously, farmers working in the sector are paying the price for this, as the value of their land skyrockets on the assessment roll. And to top it all off, the recent reform erases certain eligibility criteria for the program, making it easier for such developers to receive the credit. All they have to do is generate \$5,000 in gross agricultural revenue per year from all land owned by the same company in order to qualify.

In the wake of these changes, the minister of agriculture reports that there will be 2,500 new participants in the program; these are owners whose agricultural production is currently less than \$5,000 per year, but who could reach this amount in the next three years. This leaves the door wide open to people abusing the program, since MAPAQ doesn't have the resources that would be required to monitor that number of participants. For a government that extols the virtues of administrative rigour, this is a tad surprising.

Furthermore, we currently have two tax collection systems: one for municipalities and one for school boards. The municipal assessment determines the amount that is taxable by school boards. Could these two systems not be combined?

The huge increase in the price of land, and the increase in municipal taxes that comes with it, is becoming a real issue for the future of the family farm. More and more of the net revenue from farm businesses is being siphoned off into taxes with each passing year. With this reform, the average tax cost for farmers will double in the next decade.

Mr. Godbout's analysis won't change a thing. We've been harping on this for years now: farm property tax needs to be reviewed from top to bottom.



Les Producteurs
de lait du Québec

JANUARY 2017

Fixed Price: \$24,000.00

	Nombre	kg de MG/jour
Offers to sell		
Total	133	458.9
Eligible for allocation	133	458.9
Successful	133	458.9
Reserve		
Quantity purchased (-)/ sold (+)		+ 0.5
Offers to buy		
Total	719	6 131.5
Eligible for allocation	718	6 117.8
Successful	718	459.4

Participation on a prorata basis in any unprocessed offer to purchase equal to or higher than 1.2 kg of BF/day.

Centralized Quota Sales System (SCVQ)

ALLOCATION OF OFFERS TO SELL AND TO PURCHASE PER PRICE STRATUM

SALES			PURCHASES		
Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day	Cumulation	Price offered \$/kg b.f./day	Number	Quantity in kg b.f./day
6	9.1		< 24,000.00	1	13.7
127	449.8	458.9	24,000.00 ceiling price	718	6,117.8

ALLOCATION TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

Buyers			
	Number	kg of BF/day	%
Startup Assistance Program	0	0.0	0.0
Holding of less than 12 kg of BF/day	1	0.1	0.0
Reimbursement of startup loans	7	0.7	0.2
Iteration (0.3 kg of BF/day)	717	210.3	45.8
Prorata (4.20%)	635	248.3	54.0
7.51% of the offers have been processed		459.4	100.0
Sellers			
	Number	kg of BF/day	%
Seller who stopped producing 1 or more months ago	0	0.0	0.0
Offers partially processed in the previous month	0	0.0	0.0
Offers in the current month	133	458.9	100.0
100.00% of the offers have been processed	133	458.9	100.0

Jennifer Hayes, new Commissioner

At the beginning of the year, Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced the appointment of Jennifer Hayes as Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC). The appointment is for a three-year term effective January 3, 2017. Jennifer Hayes is a dairy and beef farmer on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula.

The CDC is a Crown corporation established in 1966 to coordinate federal and provincial dairy policies and create a control mechanism for milk production aimed to avoid shortages and surpluses, and stabilize revenues.

The CDC Board of Directors is appointed by the Government of Canada upon the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Hayes to the Canadian Dairy Commission. Jennifer's energy, talent and commitment to the Canadian dairy industry will be an asset to the Commission and her leadership and experience can serve as a model to young women considering a career in agriculture."

Jennifer Hayes is the third generation to farm at PineCrest Farms in

Shigawake, which she co-owns with her father and uncle. Her farm is the most eastern dairy farm on the mainland in Quebec. Ms. Hayes has extensive governance experience as an active member of the UPA (l'Union des producteurs agricoles) and its specialized dairy, beef and local syndicates.

Ms. Hayes holds an MBA from Concordia University and is actively engaged in rural development initiatives in her region. She has a particular interest in policies that strengthen the symbiotic relationship between rural communities and sustainable agriculture. Since 2012 she has acted as a revitalization agent at the MRC of Bonaventure, where she has accompanied rural municipalities in formalizing social and economic development plans, and elaborating essential community development projects. She is a skilled partnership broker incorporating partners from the private sector and multiple government agencies at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels.

Ms. Hayes has two young daughters, aged eight and five, whom she hopes will one day take their place beside her on the family farm.





Jennifer Hayes is a dairy and beef farmer on Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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



The Bulwer branch of the QFA held their annual Christmas party on December 11 at the Bulwer Community Centre. Santa brought gifts for 30 children. Members and friends enjoyed a potluck lunch and the opportunity to have a family photo taken by Christine Robinson.





For 2017, we wish you all...

Much health,
and a little more wealth.

Less concern with electronic trends.
Replace that with more time spent
with friends.

Boundlessness, forgiveness, upside-downness,
calmness. And, please, a lot less
political correctness!

But mostly, for Canada to be left alone,
in a peaceful, mellow Trump-free zone.





QFA annual general meeting

Young farmer optimistic about agriculture

Three aspiring farmers were awarded Warren Grapes Scholarships at the QFA's AGM this year. As part of the awards ceremony, the QFA invited each student up to the podium to say a few words. Last month, we introduced you to Claudia Meganck of Godmanchester, QC, (Quebec Farmers' Advocate, Dec. 2016, p. 5). This issue, we're printing the speech delivered by award winner Mitchell Bazinet at our annual meeting in November.

I was asked to share a few words about my agricultural experiences up to this point in my life.

I was born and raised on a purebred and commercial sheep operation south of Ottawa. We raise 450 ewes along with a cash crop operation and keep a small cow-calf herd. I have always played a role in our family farm operation — everything from field work to feeding to assisting at lambing and calving time. Ours is a fourth-generation family farm, and we focus on good nutrition, good genetics, high lambing percentages and selection of breeding animals with strong conformation and well above average genetic performance indexes. Our sheep genetics have been sold across North America and into Mexico with recent interest from South America also.

My parents have always encouraged me to work on other operations to learn new things and try to adapt them to our own operation. I have worked at neighbouring dairy farms, assisting with milking and feeding the cows, and training new employees. In the fall of 2014, I worked for a custom harvest operation and assisted with

**"My parents have always encouraged me to work on other operations to learn new things and try to adapt them to our own operation."
— Mitchell Bazinet**

loading and unloading trucks, running the drier and doing some land clearing and tiling repair jobs after harvest



Quebec Farmers' Association President John McCart (right) congratulates Macdonald Campus's Mitchell Bazinet on receiving his Warren Grapes Scholarship.

was finished. This was a co-op work experience through my high school. I have also worked with a custom baling operator for the last two summers, raking, baling, tedding, wrapping and

loading, and moving bales of hay and straw. Long hours, long days, hard work — but I love it.

Learning different management styles and practical skills used in different industries has given me a great introduction to all the wonderful opportunities that exist in agriculture today. I am optimistic about the future of agriculture and all the new technology, scientific advancements and possibilities that exist.

In closing, thank you so much for this award.

My education at Macdonald College has already helped me to learn many new skills. Education comes at a cost, though, and this award will assist me with that. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you once again.

GIVE. TO A YOUNG FARMER.



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

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

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

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



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



Emily Southwood
Freelance writer

Like many, Rob MacWhirter didn't realize how much he loved the place he'd called home until he left it. Rob moved away from his family farm as a young adult and stayed away for nearly 20 years. Since returning to run MacDale Farm alongside his father, Gordon MacWhirter, Rob now says he'll work the land until he drops. What speaks to him so much, besides his view across the pasture to the Baie des Chaleurs? He loves being his own boss and coming up with solutions, even when they're not perfect. In farm life, there's always another season.

MacDale Farm is a 40-head beef operation in Hope, Gaspésie. Rob's ancestors were Loyalists of Scottish and English descent. His great-great grandfather came to Canada too poor to buy land and worked in the cod industry for Robin, Jones and Whitman Ltd., originally known as The Robin, Picon Company. Rob's great-grandfather eventually bought the piece of company land that Rob's father, Gordon, was subsequently raised on. Gordon, too, moved away as a young adult, only to return with the bride he'd met at Macdonald College. The couple both became local Gaspé schoolteachers, as well as ran MacDale family farm.

Rob recalls how his father did chores in the morning, went to school to teach and returned home to work some more. Rob, his brother and two sisters pitched in. "It was a good life," he says. "We had clean water and air, drank cow's milk and ate beef, chicken and eggs from the farm." He speaks fondly of working hard on hot summer days, then jumping in the brisk salt water. He was raised in a truly bilingual setting of French and English friends. "I can't believe we survived some of the things we did," he says, recalling riding motorcycles and jumping on unbroken ponies in the snow.

Rob eventually left home to work in Montreal. Missing country life, he moved to Howick in the Chateauguay Valley where he commuted to the city, but the routine wore on him. He purposefully chose night shifts to avoid Mercier bridge gridlock. All the time he was living away, he spent vacations back home haying for winter. "I never really stopped doing it," he says.

Many good returns: MacDale Farm calls family home



Gordon and Robert MacWhirter of MacDale Farm.

Rob returned to the family farm permanently in 2003 to run things with his dad, who now manages the paperwork side of things, while Rob does the bulk of the labour. They converted the farm to organic, but have since given up certification. "The cost of shipping to urban centres ate up all our profit," he says. Nevertheless, he still farms using the same principles—composting manure to kill pathogens and weeds and getting

crops in early. "It's just how I learned to farm," he says. "Waste nothing."

The farm produces all the hay and grain for their cattle. They've attempted several times to grow grain for human consumption but missed the right moisture level by a fraction of a percentage point—a folly that makes Rob chuckle. The herd also benefits from a brewers whey protein supplement from local breweries (a product otherwise dis-

carded as waste) that saves the farm thousands of dollars per year. Although the Gaspésie region has a season that is at least a month shorter than southern Quebec farmlands, MacDale boasts having never lost their crops (even if they do get a tad jealous in spring when others already have crops in the ground).

In his limited downtime, Rob presides as director of the Bonaventure Agricultural Society, Division A, Music Festival—a popular summer folk and country festival. His musical interest extends to playing rhythm guitar and singing in his four-person band, The Landsmen.

When asked what the future holds for MacDale Farm, Rob says he has lots of plans but doesn't care to speculate. His twelve-year-old, highly athletic son, Kade, currently appreciates the physical aspect of farming, but hasn't shown any affinity for the crops or animals yet. "Then again," Rob says, "I didn't take a real interest in all that until my twenties."

For now, only years and life experience will tell whether the precedent of MacWhirter men returning to MacDale Farm in Hope, Gaspésie, will repeat itself for a third time.

Syndicat
des producteurs
de bovins de
l'Estrie



Notice of meeting To all Anglophone bovine producers

An information assembly will be held

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie, 4300 Bourque Boulevard, Sherbrooke

Representatives from the Fédération des producteurs de bovins du Québec will present the main topics.

This is an information assembly. The annual general meeting of the Syndicat will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017.

Your presence is important; you may ask all the questions that you want and this will also be a good opportunity to discuss between ourselves.

Robert Trudeau, secretary

Event

Thirty-third annual farmers conference Eco Farm Day returns with renowned keynote speaker

The 33rd annual Eco Farm Day is coming on February 25-26, 2017, at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall. The day is organized by volunteers of the Ottawa-St Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG OSO). The focus is on practical techniques and management skills that work in our area, with an emphasis on sustainable organic stewardship of land, food and fibre. As a highlight event of the season for organic (and organic curious) farmers, each conference brings new opportunities for learning and building new connections.

livestock, growing crops and managing forests in a symbiotic relation to each other to prevent erosion and ensure water retention and carbon sequestration while still earning profitable returns. Central to his thesis is the well-being of the people working the land, and their ability to increase the monetary value of their property while at the same time providing a legacy of good stewardship for future generations. His practical approach to sustainable farming will appeal to new and veteran farmers alike.

"What's exciting about Mark Shepard is that he dem-

"Participating farmers will be encouraged to not just listen, but bring their case studies to see how their farms can evolve."

This year's theme is "The 3 R's of Organic Agriculture: Restorative, Responsible, Resilient." To fit the theme, we have aptly invited as keynote speaker world renown permaculture educator Mark Shepard, author of *Restoration Agriculture: Real World Permaculture for Farmers*. Shepard's New Forest Farm in Wisconsin is considered one of the most ambitious and mature permaculture projects in the USA. His approach emphasizes the importance of raising

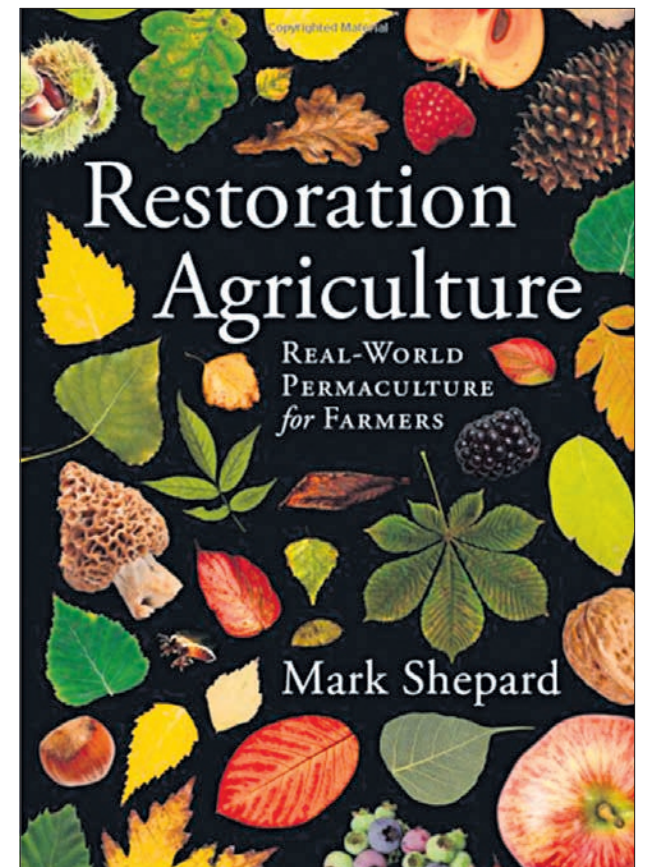
onstrates how permaculture can be economically viable as well as ecologically sound," says Erin Krekoski, a Gatineau area sheep farmer and one of Eco Farm Day's organizing volunteers. "Other permaculture proponents tend to emphasize subsistence. While Shepard includes this idea into the equation, he also views his permaculture farm as a business that needs to support a livelihood."

Other workshops on the Saturday will concentrate on a variety of related topics: Women in Organic Agriculture, Monitoring Fecal Counts in Ruminants, the Importance of Rural Abattoirs, Getting More out of your Greenhouse, Growing and Marketing Switchgrass as Bedding and Mulch, Transitioning to Organic, Biodiversity, Weed Control, Cover Crops, and more.

This year there will also be Sunday programs with separate registration. Mark Shepard will be back to host a full day participatory session. He will be offering practical strategies for designing and implementing permaculture techniques on new and existing farms. Participating farmers will be encouraged to not just listen, but to bring their case studies to see how their farms can evolve — essentially a collaborative consultation and learning experience.

In addition, there will be a full day Introduction to Organic Certification workshop for farmers interested in exploring a transition to organic production and enrolled in COG's Organic Success Project. The Organic Success Project will overcome barriers that prevent farmers from transitioning to organic by assisting them through the transition process with training, demonstrations, consultations, financial support and even busting rampant myths about organic certification. Farmers interested in participating in the Organic Success Project must start by attending this workshop. For more information and to enroll in Organic Success, contact Rachael Muller at rachael@cog.ca or at 1-888-375-7383.

Remember, Eco Farm Day is more than just the presentations. There is also a vibrant trade show with over 30 exhibitors including organic certifiers, input suppli-



The cover of Mark Shepard's book *Restoration Agriculture: Real World Permaculture For Farmers*.

ers, seed dealers, and farm organizations, to mention a few. And don't forget the Saturday organic buffet lunch provided as part of your conference registration. This always gets rave reviews, and adds to the community atmosphere of Eco Farm Day.

Please note that Eco Farm Day is on February 25-26, 2017, the last weekend of the month. Once again it will be held at the Ramada Inn, 805 Brookdale Ave, Cornwall, ON. To register for Eco Farm Day or get more information, visit www.ecofarmday.ca. Updates can also be followed on COG OSO's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cogosochapter and on Twitter at twitter.com/ecofarmday. Email queries can also be sent to ecofarmday@cog.ca and 613-487-2257.



Mark Shepard of New Forest Farm, permaculture farmer, educator and author is keynote speaker at Eco Farm Day 2017.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MARK SHEPARD
AUTHOR OF RESTORATION
AGRICULTURE: REAL
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Measuring for productivity



Phil Lavoie, agr.
Agri-Environnemental and
Bovi-Expert Advisor

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a Happy New Year complete with health, happiness and productivity!

January brings renewed hope and aspirations for a productive new year, or at the very least a better year than the previous one in some regard. This year, it is my hope to assist you in working with agriculture's magic formula, which I wrote about in the November 2016 issue. The magic formula, you may recall, was that productivity is equal to the sum of the genetic potential and the environment, or $P = G + E$. Genetics represents the first step in this formula, be it in the form of animal genetics, seed genetics or soil classification. The key is in understanding that we are unable to change the genetic potential once on farm. What we can do is alter our environment to allow for full genetic expression.

So, what is our next step in improving farm productivity?

First, it is critical to quantify the present productivity. That is to say, how is the farm performing today? In a cropping system, this may be represented by average yields for crops grown (corn, soybean, small grains and forages). In a cow-calf operation, this may be represented by weight gain, calving interval or age at first calving. It is critical that information be recorded to shed light on the areas of productivity in which we wish to improve. To this end, I borrow a slogan from the programme d'analyse des troupeaux de boucherie du Québec (PATBQ) and one I have come across frequently in my readings: Measure it to manage it!

To manage (improve) productivity, we must measure it. This will allow us to manage the performance cycle. What is a performance cycle? It is a process we use to set objectives and plan for improved performance, measure the results, analyze performance, make corrections, and then start the cycle again, always with the objective of improved productivity. A diagram of the process can be seen on this page.



The magic formula: productivity is equal to the sum of the genetic potential and the environment.

In my role as a member of the Bovi-Expert team, I am called upon to make recommendations to improve a farm's situation. This is done by means of gathering information the farm has collected, analyzing the information, formulating solutions and recommendations, and following up to ensure objectives are met. Sound familiar? Probably. Yet all too often as consultants we are faced with a lack of information, which makes it difficult to carry out an adequate analysis of a particular situation. This most often leads to little or no improvement, and everyone involved gets discouraged.

Producers will often seek advice and management tools to support their efforts in improving productivity, yet often they do not get the desired results. The collection or measurement of information is central to the success of this process, but it can be time consuming. However, the energy and time spent on measuring your performance will allow for tighter management of the performance cycle through improved analysis, fact-based decisions and realistic objectives with a solid plan for improvement.

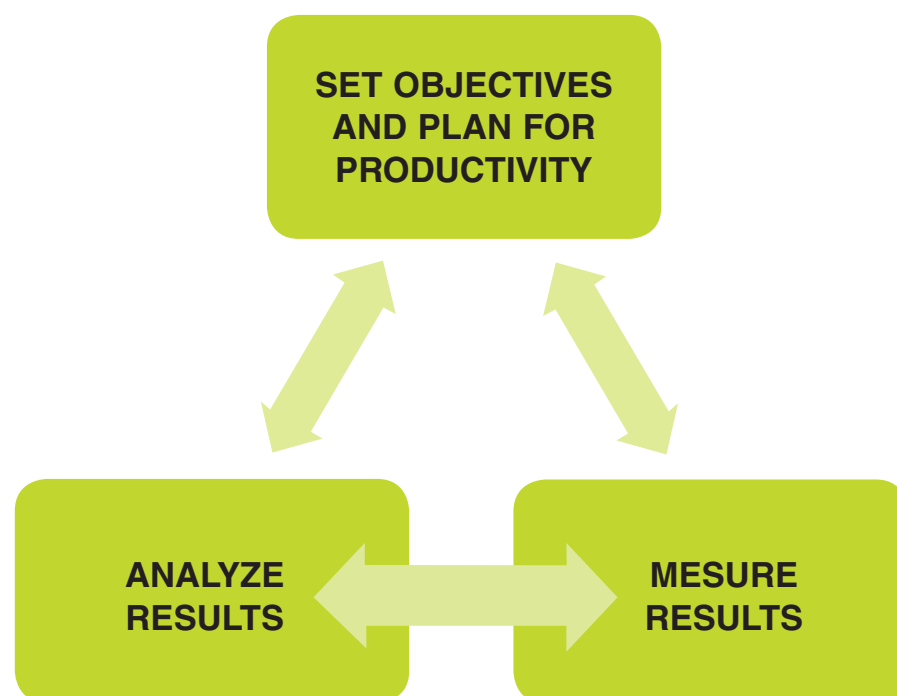
So what to do now?

If your interest is in improving your farm's productivity, start by making the decision (or New Year's resolution) to measure the criteria that will allow you to determine your present performance in the areas you wish to improve. Once this second step is completed, then you will be in a position to analyze the results and make decisions that will

allow you to set realistic objectives and form a solid improvement plan. This, in turn, will start the process to ensure that the genetic potential is able to be expressed and improved productivity achieved.

Still unsure of where to start? Talk to your advisor. If you do not have an advisor, I may be able to help you through this process. Give me a call, and let's work towards improved farm productivity together!

THE PERFORMANCE CYCLE



A performance cycle is a process we use to set objectives and plan for improved performance, measure the results, analyze performance, make corrections, and then start the cycle again, always with the objective of improved productivity.

Organic

Conference on organic and non-GMO grains

Ramzy Yelda, Chief Market Analyst
Producteurs de grains du Québec

In mid-November of last year, I attended a conference on organic and non-genetically modified (non-GMO) grains in Minneapolis. The organic industry in the United States presents a host of issues, opportunities and challenges similar to those we see in Quebec. Demand for organics is increasing steadily, and there is plenty of momentum south of the border. The future looks bright over the medium term. Though organic grains have traditionally been intended mainly for human consumption (soy), the industry is expecting a marked increase in demand for animal consumption (corn).

However, this rosy picture could use a little nuance. For instance, although the US demand for organic grain outstrips supply, prices still fell in 2016. This is due in part to lower prices for conventional grain: the organic price is determined by taking the price on the grain exchange and multiplying by a factor of two to three, depending on the grains in question and specific market conditions.



Demand for organics is increasing steadily, and there is plenty of momentum south of the border.

Also, the volume of imported organic grain, chiefly from India, Turkey and the Ukraine, is increasing rapidly and poses some serious competition to American grains. Conference participants spoke of unfair competition resulting from a higher dollar, lower freight costs and doubts about the validity of organic certification in those countries.

Furthermore, a number of people pointed to the lack of transparency in

pricing, including the representative from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), who admitted she had difficulty keeping up with a niche market that is relatively illiquid and highly regionalized. Price posting sites have been created, but these are not very reliable because the numbers are based on voluntary reporting. Also, it seems more appropriate to talk in terms of the American organic markets, in the

plural, rather than a single American organic market. Effectively, price fluctuations and logistical constraints differ widely depending on whether one is located on the west coast or the north-eastern United States, which are the two leading organic markets.

The development of the non-GMO sector concerns those in the organic industry. The new law on GMO product labelling could lead to a considerable increase in the offer of non-GMO products. Non-GMO products sell for a higher price than those in conventional markets and lower than those in organic markets. Certain organic consumers could be tempted by this line of products that is perceived as "healthy" and cheaper than organic. The absence of standards and certification regarding the "non-GMO" designation is sending ripples of worry.

Interestingly, I noticed that several conference attendees used certain concepts interchangeably that are actually quite distinct, such as organic, non-GMO, identity preserved and sustainable. Little wonder that there is confusion among consumers.



POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR
Table de développement
de la production biologique

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

Beef

New move-out register

As part of the implementation of the strategic plans for cull cattle and dairy calves, the Quebec Cattle Producers (PBQ) are introducing the Move-Out Register for Cull Cattle and Dairy Calves.

This practical, user-friendly tool is designed to help dairy producers optimize:

- preparation of cull cattle and dairy calves for market;
- liaison with their transporter; and
- tracking of information regarding move-out.

Use of the register is voluntary. Producers can receive a copy free of charge by contacting the PBQ or at their annual regional meeting.



Help your loved ones quit smoking

No one can push smokers to quit, apart from the smokers themselves. The decision must be made by the person who smokes, for their own reasons, and in their own time. While pressure from friends or family rarely works, there are ways you can help make a smoker's quitting process a little easier.

For more information and tips on how to help your loved ones quit smoking, go to: healthycanadians.gc.ca. Click on the "Healthy living" section, and then go to "Smoking and tobacco."

Would you like to quit smoking?

Here are some resources to support you in your own efforts. Just type the following into your search engine:

- Government of Canada's "On the road to Quitting: Guide to becoming a non-smoker"
- Health Canada's "5 Stages to Quitting"
- Government of Canada's "Benefits of quitting"
- Government of Canada's "Quitting smoking for young adults"

Canada



Leilak Anderson
Certified Arborist
Advocate Arboriculture Columnist

Ice storms

Last week, following the first ice storm in January, I was called by an urban farmer to come at dusk to clear some trees that had been weighed down by ice and had shut down the power to his farm. Hydro would not restore power until his service line was clear. Though the panicked farmer worried about the well-being of his animals, I couldn't respond until the following morning to ensure working safely with daylight.

The '98 storm devastated the power grid by ice buildup on transmission lines and towers. Hydro responded by rethinking foundations for towers to prevent collapse, but wouldn't entertain the idea of putting more lines underground because of the price tag. The ice storm in January 2015, which left 155,000 Quebecers without power, and the most recent storm this year made their marks with ice-covered tree limbs falling on residential power lines. And while in recent years Hydro Quebec has ramped up vegetation maintenance near power lines (including spraying pesticides to prevent growth), their mandate only covers main power—which leaves residential service lines the responsibility of homeowners.

Is your farm prepared for a power outage? Do you have a plan for getting

In recent years, Hydro Quebec has ramped up vegetation maintenance near power lines, but their mandate only covers main power—which leaves residential service lines the responsibility of home owners.

Ice storms, trees and hydro lines present a serious conundrum for Quebec farmers. This most recent ice storm left 66,000 Quebecers without power, hitting the Laurentians and Western Quebec particularly hard. This doesn't compare to the 1998 storm that left millions without power in Eastern Canada for extended periods, but it does give us a reminder about how often our area is affected and what we can do about it.

water to your animals or keeping "must-run" equipment going? Though we are ultimately at Hydro Quebec's mercy to get back on the grid if main power is affected, you can take proactive measures by planning ahead and ensuring that all of your service lines are clear of vegetation. And if you see those private contractors hired by Hydro sleeping with their boots on the dash of their truck, give their tire a kick and tell them to get back to work!



Cutting branches before they get too close to distribution lines is a difficult, dangerous and costly operation.



Here is my foreman Alex clearing a residential service line following the early January 2017 ice storm.

Leilak is the 2016 North American tree-climbing champion and proudly represents Quebec in the international arborist scene. Leilak runs a tree-care company in the Outaouais and National Capital Region. When he's not climbing trees, he's a volunteer firefighter. You can read more of his articles at www.leilak.info

Grains



Don't forget to report your yield to the Financière agricole du Québec. This requirement starts with the 2017 crop year.

The January USDA supply and demand report

While not bullish, the USDA January report is fairly positive. Even though they remain at record-high levels, US corn and soybean yields have been reduced for the final estimates.

The US corn-harvested area is reduced by 100,000 acres and the yield is down by 0.7 bu/acre – as a result, the corn crop stands at 15.148 billion bu (Gbu), down 78 million bu (Mbu) from December. The USDA's carryout forecast of 2.35 Gbu in 2017 is down by 48 Mbu. The season-average projected price is \$3.10 to \$3.70 FOB farm, up 5 ¢ from last month.

The US soybean yield is reduced from 52.5 to 52.1 bu/acre—the production final estimate is down by 54 Mbu at 4.307 Gbu. Ending stocks are

down by 60 Mbu since last month at 420 Mbu. The projected price is up by 5 ¢ on average at \$9 to \$10 FOB farm.

Worldwide wheat supply and demand (S&D) is heavier—production is up by 1.5 million tons (Mt) and stocks gain 1.1 Mt. However, the international S&D is somewhat improved for corn, while it's basically unchanged for soybeans despite a 2 Mt-increase in the Brazilian production forecast.

In conclusion, the US had record-high corn and soybean crops, Brazil is expecting a record-high soybean harvest, and world stocks will increase in 2017 for the three major grains. Still, the US S&Ds are not as bad as expected and world grain demand remains robust.

Grain farmers face mandatory yield reporting in 2017

Starting in the 2017 crop year, farmers covered by the crop insurance program offered by the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) will be required to report their yield to the FADQ every year, even if no damages are incurred.

A large number of producers fail to report their annual yield. If historical data are missing for certain years, the FADQ has no choice but to compensate for the lack of data by assessing yield. This method, while adequate under the circumstances, could put you at a disadvantage by lowering the probable yields used to determine your coverage. The FADQ is currently working to develop tools to make this task as simple as possible for producers.

Grain producers defend financial incentive for SRDI before the RMAAQ

The Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) received an invitation from the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec (RMAAQ) to publicly defend the project to create a financial incentive that encourages participation in the information collection and dissemination system (SRDI). The defence took place in a public hearing on December 20.

In this meeting, the PGQ presented evidence and submitted extensive documentation to lay bare the facts pertaining to this project. The other parties in attendance, who were accepted by the RMAAQ as stakeholders, also took the floor to express their view on the matter. The process could not be finalized that day, as the cross-examination of the parties opposed to the project was not completed, nor were the closing arguments.

The next hearing is scheduled for January 27, 2017. A decision will be handed down at the end of this process, but no precise details were given as to the date by which the RMAAQ will give its answer.

The financial incentive project was proposed in accordance with a resolution that passed by a majority at the PGQ's 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM).



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.

Protecting your health for the future

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

When we talk about safety, we often talk about immediate consequences. For example, getting too close to a running power take-off can result in immediate and often catastrophic consequences. It's important to talk about preventing these life-altering incidents, but it's also important to talk about how exposure to things in your environment can affect your health weeks, months or even years down the road.

We make decisions daily that can affect our future selves. We've all taken a minute to either thank or criticize our past selves for things we've done or not done. Why not set yourself up for a healthy future?

There are environmental exposures that occur on and off the farm that can affect our hearing, our respiratory function, and our bones and joints. This advice isn't meant to capture all of these hazards, but is intended to get you to start thinking about what you're exposed to.

One of the most wonderful human functions is hearing. The boom of a well-placed slap shot, the hum of a finely-tuned engine and the pure laughter of a baby are all small joys that we enjoy when our hearing is optimal. Unfortunately, many people experience hearing loss due to noise exposure. This loss is entirely preventable. (If you've already lost some hearing, keep reading – you can retain what you have.) But you have to make a commitment to make some changes. Here are some easy tips to protect your hearing:

- Recognize when you are being exposed to excessive noise. This isn't always easy. Sometimes you might not expect a task to be noisy, but if you can't carry on a conversation with someone three feet away without yelling, it's a good idea to remedy the situation.
- Control excessive noise. Maybe you need a new muffler on that equipment?
- Create a noise barrier. Close the window to your truck or tractor.
- Select the quietest tool or equipment to do the job.
- Select the best and most effective hearing protection for you. Earplugs and earmuffs work only if you use them consistently and correctly.

Breathing is a good thing. On this, everyone can agree. Keeping our respiratory health in tip-top shape means being aware of the hazards that occur



Some of the most common respiratory hazards include: grain dust, crop protection residues, waste and waste byproducts from insects and animals, and exhaust and fumes from equipment and tools.

on the farm. Unfortunately, farmers and farm workers have the potential to be exposed to a tremendous variety of respiratory hazards. Some of the most common respiratory hazards include: grain dust, crop protection residues, waste and waste byproducts from insects and animals, and exhaust and fumes from equipment and tools. The

We have to remind ourselves that although we may not immediately feel the effects of bad decisions, they can damage our health and vitality in the future.

health consequences from exposure to these respiratory hazards is long and complicated and varies in severity from mild to catastrophic. Keep these tips in mind:

- Decrease the generation of dusts and gases by improving management procedures or through engineering controls. An example would be reducing the distance the grain falls when

unloading. A short fall means less dust.

- Remove any contaminants that are in the air. Have good ventilation!
- Use the right kind of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job. Make sure the PPE fits, is comfortable and, most importantly, wear it! And replace it once it becomes dirty or worn.

(These tips do not take into account confined spaces that are very hazardous and require extensive training and equipment to enter safely.)

Creaky bones, sore knees and hips, and achy backs are all too common in the farming community. Farmers start out young and strong, but eventually all that repetitive lifting, kneeling, stooping, twisting and shovelling catches

up, resulting in conditions like arthritis, repetitive strain injuries, tendonitis, muscle inflammation and chronic pain.

- Try to vary your posture, especially when bending over or when your hands are over your head.
- Practice good lift hygiene. Lift properly and keep the load close to your body. Ask for help for heavy loads or use a mechanical solution.
- Use proper, well-maintained tools for the task. Let the tool do the work, not your body.
- Limit your exposure to vibrations. On older tractors, use vibration-dampening seat cushions. Take breaks from types of equipment that cause your body to vibrate.

It's easy to forget that each thing that we do can affect our health in the future. We have to remind ourselves that although we may not immediately feel the effects of bad decisions, they can damage our health and vitality in the future. For more information about farm health and safety, please visit casa-acsa.ca.



VALACTA – Dairy Production Centre of Expertise

The kerchief revolution

Anne-Marie Christen

Ukraine Project Coordinator, Valacta

Since October 2014, Valacta has been working to set up a milk recording service in two dairy oblasts in Ukraine: Dnipropetrovsk in the west and L'viv in the east. This major undertaking, in partnership with SOCODEVI, a network of cooperative and mutualist organizations that shares its knowledge and technical expertise with partners in developing countries like Ukraine, is literally a cow-by-cow effort.

Ukraine is one of Europe's breadbaskets, with prime farmland and recognized expertise in wheat production, but dairy production is an entirely different story. While the dairy herd improvement program here in Quebec is compelled to innovate and reinvent itself to meet the needs and expectations of an evolving industry, the situation in Ukraine is such that the milk recording reports provide critical and unhelped-for information for herd management.

A bit of history and a snapshot of the Ukrainian dairy sector

After the fall of the communist regime in the early 1990s, the large state-run agricultural cooperatives, called kolkhozes, were closed, with the livestock and farmland divided among the workers. Today, these farmers cultivate their small plots of land to produce cabbage, potatoes, corn and dill for household consumption. Their one or two cows are housed in a small dimly-lit building, with no ventilation, alongside a pig and a few hens. In winter, the cows



Étienne Tremblay and Joane Blais, from Valacta, with the group of technicians from Dnipro.

are fed pumpkins and blackened hay. They are hand-milked to provide milk for daily needs, and a white cheese is produced for household consumption. Surplus milk (raw) is sold on the market in recycled water bottles: 2.5 to 3 grivnas per litre (about 16 cents). Farm size varies widely, from the household farms mentioned above to small farms with 10, 30 or 50 cows, to large-scale operations, with 400, 800 or a few thousand cows, predominantly housed in old dismal concrete kolkhozes. But, remarkably, 75 per cent of the volume of milk produced in Ukraine comes from the very small family farms, run by babouchkas (elderly women) wrapped in aprons and flowered kerchiefs.

Our commitment, our expertise

Valacta's mandate is to provide support and training to two teams of dairy

technicians until 2018. These teams will, in turn, use that knowledge to help local dairy producers improve their production. Our commitment is structured around three main themes:

- translating and using our tools, such as Lac-T, Ration'L and our Vision2000 reports;
- setting up two laboratories for milk quality analysis and, soon, GestaLab; and
- providing training to two dairy production technicians on various topics, including forage quality, mastitis, herd management, housing and comfort, and customer-centric service.

Our experts transfer their knowledge through classroom and on-farm training sessions, which could not take place without the invaluable collaboration of dedicated interpreters. As we become better acquainted, the producers are

able to better articulate and define their needs. Farm visits tell us a great deal about their priorities and their mastery of the concepts. Producing good quality forage, reproduction, feeding, and milk quality all present challenges to these producers, but the biggest hurdle is the absence of a decent milk price that would enable them to reinvest in their farms. The machinery base dates back to the Russian occupation, veterinary services are either nonexistent or based on outdated methods, and, other than Danone Ukraine, no milk processors are prepared to invest in quality. This paints a sombre picture, but hope for better days resides in the upcoming generation of motivated producers and the continuing contribution of financial and human resources to the project by many countries, including Canada and SOCODEVI.



A former kolkhoze has been refurbished with new fenestration and ventilation.



This rugged farm is home to 16 cows of various breeds, 11 that are currently hand-milked by two women who deserve our utmost respect.

VALACTA – Dairy Production Centre of Expertise



Portrait of the Ukrainian dairy industry

- Population: 42.8 M
- Number of cows: 2.14 M
- Annual milk production: 10-12 M tonnes
- Average production per cow: between 2,500 and 3,500 kg
- Average milk price: \$0.29/L (varies from \$0.16/L for small farms to \$0.35/L for large farms)
- Main indigenous dairy breeds: Ukrainian Red-and-White, Ukrainian Black Pied, Ukrainian Whiteheaded, Red Steppe

Sources: Eurostat 2015, Infagro, FAO 2013 and unverified data



Robert Berthiaume also offered training sessions on forage quality to local producers.

One solution: Dairy cooperatives
The main goal of this project is to set up village dairy cooperatives to increase income from milk production and raise the standard of living for these communities. Small milk tanks, from 300 to 800 L, are installed in the villages and managed by a producer appointed by the board of the cooperative. This volume of milk is sufficient to make it worthwhile for a processor to come and collect it. Unfortunately, only Danone Ukraine offers a quality premium, \$0.03/L, when the SSC is below 400,000. Nonetheless, this small incentive is enough to spark a desire to improve quality.

Pasture improvement
In village areas, most of the cows graze all summer in community pastures, which are grasslands so old they haven't seen a harrow in decades! In the spring of 2016, Valacta and SOCODEVI joined together with a plan to enhance the quality of these pasture lands. Robert Berthiaume, a forage systems expert at Valacta, provided training for the dairy technicians, who were then to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a cooperative of their choice. Now that the grasslands have been successfully restored, the next step is to improve grazing management during sensitive periods and ensure access to sufficient quantities of clean water.
The babouchkas in kerchiefs will soon be ready to hand over the reins to their children. Our hope is that this new generation of producers will be eager to seize the opportunities afforded by milk recording to improve the quality of life of their families and their communities.



Jean Brisson, our nutrition expert, goes over Lac-T reproduction reports with the farm owner and three technicians from L'viv.



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 – Highway Regulations - Farm Machinery on the Road

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

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

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

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Marrakech UN climate change conference

Canada can pick up where UN climate talks left off, help small-scale farmers

By Faris Ahmed, Geneviève Talbot

The Paris Agreement set the stage in 2015: agriculture and food matter to climate change. The Committee for World Food Security sent the same message to the world during its October meetings, that the climate is changing, so should our food. Agriculture was one of the important issues to be discussed at the UN climate change conference in Marrakech late last year, COP22, the "COP of action." What happened?

Agriculture is strongly linked to climate change. Agricultural production is responsible for 11 to 13 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. This is the second major emitter globally, after the energy sector. The agricultural production impact on global warming varies depending on the agricultural model applied. Industrial agriculture and small-scale family farming are not on an equal footing when it comes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The effects of global warming are not comparable either, since small-scale family farming is mainly practised in countries most affected by climate change. Those differences must be reflected within climate negotiations. Unfortunately, at COP22 they were not.

In fact the negotiation on agriculture collapsed at COP22 with parties being unable to reach a common agreement. The Group of 77 developing countries asked for investment in adaptation measures while developed countries, through a European Union proposal, talked about mitigation (and not adaptation) measures. It was a deaf dialogue. The future of agriculture negotiations within the formal set-up of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remains uncertain.

This void leaves an interesting space for Canada to be a leader in the next agricultural negotiations, to be held in May 2017.

While the negotiation collapsed, other private initiatives in the agricultural sector flourished during the second week in Marrakech. The 4 per 1000 initiative, as well as Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, which is headed by Canada, are some examples of solutions in the agricultural sector that are proposed by states and corporations from the agri-business sector in order to fight climate change.



Agriculture is strongly linked to climate change. Occidental countries have to bring stronger support to southern countries in order to help them to fight climate change.

We welcome new initiatives, but it is important to remind political leaders that in the fight against climate change, the agricultural model and agricultural

practices that are promoted matter. It strengthens communities' resilience and ability to cope with climate shocks, giving them more options to respond, as well as enhancing their capacity to

maintain a diverse food supply and build rural economies, stay on the land, and feed their families. ly cost-effective, and at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as other strategies. That's why we are asking the Canadian government to increase its

"There is no better investment in development than through agriculture, as it yields benefits across many other aspects of development."

World Bank figures show that small-scale family farmers—almost 1.5 billion people, including 500 million landless peasants—represent more than half of the world's labour force. In the Global South, small family operations make up about 85 per cent of all farms and produce 60 per cent of the food consumed worldwide, while occupying only 20 to 30 per cent of arable land.

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada and USC Canada are asking the Canadian government to be a true leader in the fight against climate change and to financially support small-scale ecological agriculture practised by hundreds of millions of small-holders farmers. This kind of farming is based on agricultural biodiversity and time-tested knowledge of that biodiversity.

maintain a diverse food supply and build rural economies, stay on the land, and feed their families.

So far, Canadian investments in climate finance schemes are not enough. Canada has not reached a balance between adaptation and mitigation funding, which is strange for a country that has proclaimed itself as a climate leader.

There is no better investment in development than through agriculture, as it yields benefits across many other aspects of development: food security, health and nutrition, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and gender equality (as the majority of the world's small-scale farmers are women), in addition to climate adaptation and GHG reduction.

The World Bank estimates, for example, that investing in agriculture is high-

financial support for small-scale ecological farming through its climate finance.

If Canada takes seriously its international engagement on climate change, this means that we should be active in the agricultural scene and work with the more than 500 million small-holder farmers in Africa and around the world. Their direct role in adapting to and mitigating climate change cannot be overlooked, and in fact is essential to finishing the race.

Faris Ahmed is a director of policy and campaigns for USC Canada. Geneviève Talbot is a research and advocacy officer for Development and Peace-Caritas Canada.

Please note that this article was first published in The Hill Times. You can view their homepage here: hilltimes.com



Mitchell Beer
President, Smarter Shift

How Growing Forward III can support post-carbon agriculture policy

Just as QFA members are planning their 2017 seasons, and just in time for consultations around the federal Growing Forward III initiative, the broader agriculture sector is beginning to come to grips with its role in climate change.

The momentum was diffuse but still obvious during the most recent United Nations climate summit in Marrakech. Sadly for everyone at the conference, November 9 had been designated Farmers' Day at COP 22, until the day's discussion was completely overtaken by the unexpected political cataclysm that unfolded that morning in the United States. (You can blame Vladimir Putin. Everyone else is.)

“Successful farming as the centrepiece, carbon reductions as the “co-benefit”—is a great way to build a wider conversation with producers who are sick of hearing about climate change.”

But as the Pulitzer Prize-winning *InsideClimate News* (ICN) pointed out early this year, the sector still received a lot of attention in Marrakech, with at least 80 scheduled sessions that focused on the connection between agriculture and climate change. For Canada, that activity leads to two what's-next questions:

How can a 30,000-foot focus on climate and agriculture find its reflection in federal policy through Growing Forward III?

And how can those policies be crafted to support a broader sustainability effort on farms of all sizes, including the mid-sized operations that are often at greatest risk of being swallowed up by larger agri-business concerns?

How agriculture can help counter climate change

The great thing about this conversation is that it carries benefits in two

directions. The *InsideClimate News* post begins with the long-overdue recognition of the role of agriculture in building the climate solutions we need.

“Agriculture has really lagged,” Craig Hanson of the World Resources Institute told ICN. “Considering it contributes 13 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, and 24 per cent of net emissions with land use change, it's surprising it's taken so long....But it's finally happening.”

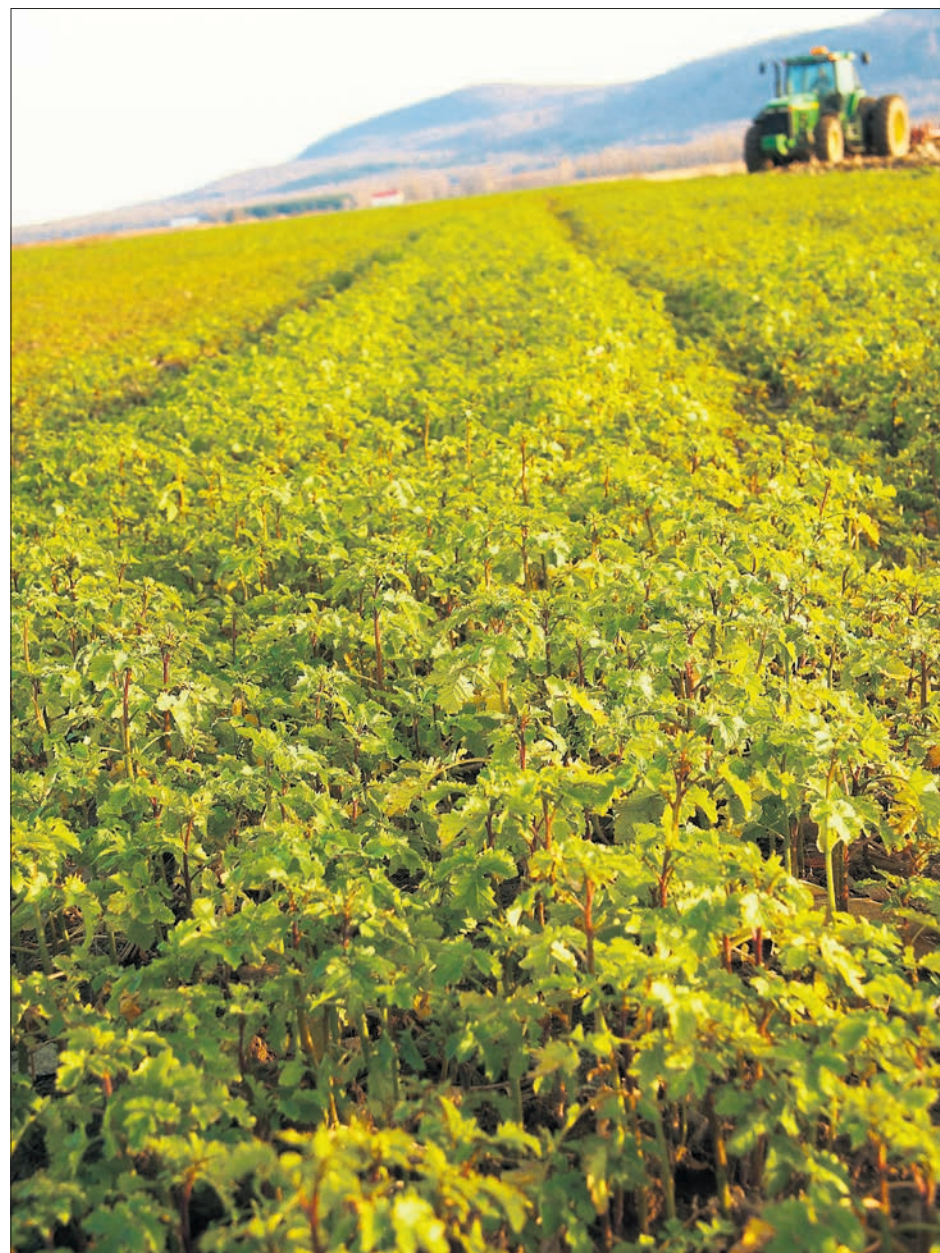
When climate research began focusing on agriculture about a decade ago, ICN notes, the accent was on deforestation to make way for products like palm oil—a legitimate, pressing concern, but one that is more pertinent to emerging economies than developed countries like Canada. But even so, “agriculture emerged as ripe for action. It is existentially linked to a country's very survival and increasingly under threat.”

Agriculture “has to adapt to climate change, but also has a huge, unrealized potential to mitigate climate change,” ICN adds. “That can happen through farm practices like soil carbon sequestration through cover cropping, or by making existing farmland more productive and efficient.”

How climate action can help agriculture

ICN's Georgina Gustin reports that the risks to agriculture—drought and flooding, higher nighttime temperatures and invasive species—are driving discussion through the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance. Its focus is “to promote the idea that certain production techniques are not only better for the environment, but also for farm productivity.”

That approach—successful farming as the centrepiece, carbon reductions as the “co-benefit”—is a great way to build a wider conversation with producers who are sick of hearing about climate change, or may still not believe it's happening. “There's a lot of fatigue with the negativity on climate change,” said Thomas Driscoll of the US National Farmers Union. “Agriculture and climate change is exciting because there's a lot that can be done. Doing the right thing for the climate can save farmers money.”



Cover cropping is one production techniques from many that are not only better for the environment, but also for farm productivity.

But that points to an important caution. While climate response in any sector or community has to start where people are prepared to take action, the best solutions won't always be the ones that save the most money fastest. Farming depends on ecosystems that are stable over the long haul, and with climate change, stability depends on pretty much total decarbonization by 2050.

Developing post-carbon policy

So while there's lots to be done in the short term that fits Driscoll's necessarily pragmatic frame, producers must also begin mapping out the long-haul strategies to reduce their energy- and

chemical-intensive inputs, rethink their practices, possibly rebalance their product lines and customer base, and, by improving the deeper economic sustainability of their operations, deliver deeper greenhouse gas savings.

If Growing Forward is true to its name, at a time when the federal government has just successfully championed a national climate plan, its leadership team should be eager to put climate futures at the centre of the policy process.

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.

Society

A voice for animal agriculture

Kayla Hultquist
hultquist@whminer.com

A lot has changed in animal agriculture over the last century. One hundred years ago nearly half the population was farming, while now less than two per cent of people are employed in agriculture. The landscape once dotted with small family farms has transformed into larger more commercialized farms to meet the demands of the growing population. Fewer people working and growing up on farms means that fewer people are educated about agricultural practices, which raises questions and concerns about how food is being raised. These concerns aren't necessarily meant to raise havoc on the industry but are legitimate questions because they simply don't know the answer. It's our job as agriculturalists to educate these people in a positive way and make sure that the industry as a whole is following safe and humane practices that once explained cannot be denied as ethical ways to raise animals.

The growing population and the dwindling number of people working in agriculture has led to bigger farms, and with that a negative connotation that bigger farms mean less care for animals. Although farmers may not spend as much time with each individual animal, technology has improved so that farmers can easily identify animals in need of additional care. This technology, along with advanced genetics, has allowed farms to increase production and make their farms more efficient so that the two per cent involved in agriculture today can feed the other 98 per cent.

Educating the public can be a daunting task. You may think that you can't make much of a difference, but if everyone in an agricultural occupation could educate just five people and those five people could educate five more people, 62 per cent of the population would have some knowledge about agriculture. Knowledge of agriculture can be spread in various ways, from a phone conversa-

tion, to a farm visit, or a conversation at the grocery store, but as long as it is done in a positive light, more than likely that person will begin to understand agricultural practices and appreciate the hard work and dedication that farmers put in to feed the world. There may be some people that are unwilling to change their views no matter how hard you try to explain to them the reasoning behind agricultural practices, but this is a very small number. The best thing to do is to not argue with these people. Focus on the people who are willing to listen and learn and kindly thank the ones who aren't for their comments and move on.

It is important that a dialogue remains between consumers and farmers as more and more people become removed from agriculture. Consumers want to know where their food comes from (can you blame them?) and by asking questions about agricultural practices, farmers are driven to maintain high standards when it comes to raising their animals.



Consumers want to know where their food comes from (can you blame them?) and by asking questions about agricultural practices, farmers are driven to maintain high standards when it comes to raising their animals.

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

"Consumers want to **understand who we are and what we do.** The best person to explain this is **a farmer.**"

Natacha Lagarde, Advocate
Maple Syrup Producer

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Macdonald

Reports



Success for students at 2016 Regional Dairy Challenge in Glen Falls, NY

Caitlin MacDougall

Liaison Officer, Farm Management and Technology Program

On November 3-5, 2016, nine students from the Farm Management and Technology (FMT) program at Macdonald Campus represented McGill while competing against students from 12 other colleges and universities at the Northeast Intercollegiate Regional Dairy Challenge hosted by SUNY Cobleskill in Glen Falls, NY.

The group of third-year students was made up of Greg Bohemen, Justin Bohemen, Josée Bourdon, Jodie Crack, Olivia Howard, Jessie Leblanc-Ykema, Pat Levac, Claudia Meganck and Derek Oliver. They were accompanied by lecturers Christian Molgat and Caroline Begg.

The Regional Dairy Challenge places students on mixed-university teams of four or five individuals to analyze all aspects of a working dairy operation. Teams assessed the dairy's facilities, nutrition, financials, reproduction, animal health and much more. Together, they collaborated on a team presentation that detailed their observations and suggestions to a panel of judges and participating farm families.

This is all completed over the course of two days, while also allowing opportunities to tour additional farms, take in workshops, and network with industry professionals and students from across the Northeastern United States and from the University of Guelph in Ontario.

Building communication skills

One of the take-aways for Derek Oliver, from Perth, ON, was that "I learned how to interact and problem solve with a group of teammates from different schools who I have never met before, which builds a lot of social character."

Likewise, Greg Bohemen from Ormstown, QC, said that he "got to learn how to get along with four complete strangers, coming from four different schools and ways of thinking, and try to collaborate together to bring the presentation in front of the judges.... Also, this is more of a life learning experience in the sense that we're left alone to prove our spot within the teams while staying respectful."



Back row left: Derek Oliver, a third-year FMT student, was on the team that received the Don Rogers Platinum Award for highest honours for the best presentation at the Northeast Regional Dairy Challenge.

Analytical thinking

The differences between Canadian and US benchmarks, priorities and units of measure were also elements that the Mac students had to absorb to tailor their analysis and teamwork to the appropriate audience.

"I learnt about a new mentality to look at things, since in the US it is very different than here in Quebec. They are very focused on employees per cows and cost to produce 100 lbs of milk. It was a little more difficult since their

units of measurement were not the same as ours, and they also have different mentalities than us. For example, we are focused on environmental issues much more than they are," stated Jodie Crack, from Clarenceville, QC.

Management training in FMT program

When asked if students felt prepared going into this competition, Oliver replied, "many of the courses in the FMT program have helped push us

towards becoming better farm managers and problem solvers, and in this competition you must think like a manager in order to see the bigger picture and make appropriate changes to improve the bottom line of a business."

Oliver and his teammates certainly accomplished their goal to successfully analyze and recommend changes for the assigned farm. His team, sponsored by Progressive Dairy Solutions Ltd., placed first out of eight teams for Farm 2. His team also received the Don Rogers Platinum Award for highest honours for the best presentation of the event.

Bohemen said that he felt well prepared despite the challenges of using different units. The program "definitely gave us the tools necessary to analyze our given enterprises both financially and physically, management-wise." Bohemen's team placed second out of the eight teams assigned to their respective farm.

Networking with peers

The highlight of the trip, unanimously, was the opportunity to meet fellow students that share a passion for dairy farming and agriculture and tour American farms. "My favourite part of attending the Dairy Challenge was meeting new people and visiting different farms in the US," said Crack.

Oliver offers his advice to students who are interested in dairy: "I would definitely recommend others participate in the Dairy Challenge because you meet a lot of great people and you get to see some amazing farming operations in a completely different setting that has interesting and unique approaches to management in comparison to what we are used to here in Canada."

2017 NAIDC

Of the nine students who participated in the regional challenge, a team of four students will head to California to represent McGill University at the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in the spring. They will work as a team, competing against the most prestigious universities in North America.



Representing McGill University at the Regional Dairy Challenge were (left to right): Pat Levac, Christian Molgat (instructor), Greg Bohemen, Jessie Leblanc-Ykema, Josée Bourdon, Claudia Meganck, Justin Bohemen, Olivia Howard, Derek Oliver, Jodie Crack and Caroline Begg (instructor).



QFA celebrates 60 years

QFA is celebrating its diamond anniversary this year, and we have a wealth of old photos sitting in the vault. Not wishing these to remain unseen, every month of our jubilee we will be publishing a collage of bygone days.

To encourage our sense of community, every month we are offering readers one free membership every month for the best story that tells us about one of the images. Stories will be entered into a draw to receive a free membership and the story will be published in forthcoming issues of the *Advocate*.

To share your story and be entered into the draw, please contact us: qfa@upa.qc.ca or 450-679-0540 Ext. 8536



Turn up the beets!

Cynthia Gunn
QFA's Food Writer

It happened one night, as these things do. A civilized meal with a few old friends, yawning at 11 p.m. And then the Christmas present comes out: a turntable.

They're having a bit of a comeback, these things, even available at Canadian Tire and the likes. So that's how it happened. One minute we're dining on lamb chops, green beans and beets, and the next thing you know the fifty-year-olds are dancing to the Clash and Bronski Beat, and harmonizing shamelessly and poorly with Crosby Stills and Nash until 4 a.m. I swear it's partly on account of the beets, which must have given us a power boost. Indeed, if there had been any left I might have had seconds at 2 a.m., when the more sensible of my two hosts suggested that it would be the sensible thing to go to bed now. We replied by asking her to pick the next album.

Beets are a perfect example of how keeping things simple, while adding just a little step or two, can make a dish so tasty and special. Let's face it, the most arduous part of cooking beets is scrubbing and peeling them, all the while trying to keep your hands from being stained to a deep magenta. After that it's a cinch, and so are these.

Called Harvard beets, they are served in a slightly sweet and sour sauce. Apparently, this is a classic in the beet world, especially in New England. I lived in New England for three years. How had I never heard of them?

Incidentally, I was wondering why, no matter how much you scrub them, beets retain that "earthy" taste, or smell, that essence that is cause for devotion or disgust of these nutritional powerhouses. The answer is geosmin, a sesquiterpenoid (do you know what this is?) metabolite produced by soil living bacteria, a few fungal moulds and, you have it, beets. We call this smell "earthy" because the geosmin-producing bacteria are so abundant and are the cause for the smell of freshly turned or moistened soil. These complex bacteria grow like fungal moulds as a mycelium of branching thread-like hyphae, playing a very important part in the recycling of vegetable matter. Like fungal moulds, they reproduce by sending up aerial hyphal branches that bear spores. Geosmin is concentrated in the spore covers of the streptomyces bacteria. Humans, like most organisms, are extremely sensitive to geosmin, even in very low doses. There are indications that some insects, such as millipedes, may find geosmin off-putting, while earthworms and many other soil-dwelling invertebrates are attracted to it.

Under acidic conditions, geosmin decomposes into odourless compounds, which may explain why this recipe is so popular. It's worth a try, isn't it?

Cynthia is a researcher and writer, covering issues related to environment, heritage, tourism and food. She runs a small catering business and lives in Western Quebec with her two daughters and husband. She holds a MA in Geography.

Harvard Beets



CYNTHIA GUNN

Ingredients

- 2 lbs beets, washed
- 1/4 - 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup cider, wine or white vinegar
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 Tbsp. corn starch
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 small red onion, sliced very thin (optional)

Preparation

Prepare beets by roasting in a covered pan in a 400-degree oven for one hour, or until just tender. Peel when cool and dice into large chunks. Meanwhile, sauté onions over low-moderate heat in 1 Tbsp. butter and 1 Tbsp. olive oil until soft. Whisk in cornstarch, sugar, water and vinegar. Bring to a boil. Stir in diced beets, salt and remaining butter and warm through when ready to serve.

Crack-ups



Labour Regulations

Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Manitoba. The Manitoba Labour Board claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent.

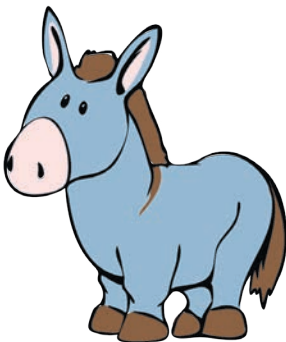
"Well," replied old John, "there's my ranch hand who's been with me for three years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90 per cent of all the work around here.

He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night." "That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit," says the agent. "That would be me," replied old rancher John.

Prize Donkey

Sid was travelling down a country road in his native Yorkshire, England, when he saw a crowd of people gathering outside a farmhouse. It was a cold November afternoon, so he stopped and asked Farmer Ellis why such a large crowd of men was gathered there. The farmer replied, "Jo's donkey

kicked his mother-in-law and she died." "Well," replied the man, "she must have had a lot of friends." "Nope," said Farmer Ellis. "We all just want to buy his donkey."





4-H Quebec News

Working to make your dreams come true

Gail Griffith

4-H Quebec

My name is Gail Griffith, and it is a privilege to be your new 4-H Quebec executive director. I am thankful for the warm reception and support, and the firm foundation laid by my predecessor, Lorelei Muller.

Working with youth is nothing new to me. I have worked in the social services field for over 15 years. I have held positions as a program coordinator, child care worker and case worker. However, what is different for me is to work in an organization with over 400 trained leaders. It gives me goose bumps every time I think about youth, 6- 25 years of age, empowered to make their dreams come true and create positive change in the world! We are a powerhouse!

In my previous career, I worked in the child welfare system in Florida, advocating for abused, abandoned and neglected children. One of the greatest crises in the world is children who believe in their hearts that nobody cares and that they have no value. This belief impedes their personal growth and prevents them from reaching their potential.

It warms my heart, and I beam with pride, knowing that at 4-H Quebec we have over 400 youth across the province who are making strides daily to develop a sense of purpose, responsibility, skill mastery, positive values, leadership, and planning and decision making skills. I wish to thank all of our 4-H leaders, volunteers, staff and partners for investing your time and resources into the lives of our 4-H'ers. You create opportunities for our youth to build confidence, improve positive self-esteem, discover their passion and understand that we "learn to do by doing" (4-H motto). I believe that it takes a village to raise a child, and I am humbled to be part of such a strong community.

To learn more about 4-H Quebec, please visit www.quebec4-h.com or, better yet, come see our youth leaders in action at our Provincial Square Dance Competition held on **February 12, 2017**, in the Centennial Centre on the Macdonald Campus of McGill University. General admission is \$5, and \$8 will get you admission and lunch. For more information, please call **514-398-8738**. Thank you for your support!

Wishing you good health, happiness and success in 2017!



The new 4-H Quebec executive director, Gail Griffith.



Rural Community Better Together



QUEBEC 4-H ASSOCIATION

Online Auction

With the help of various businesses and families, 4-H Quebec raised over \$1,600 to support members in attending provincial and national events, such as the Global 4-H Network Summit. Interested in supporting 4-H youth through engaging fundraisers? Contact Allison at office@quebec4-h.com.

Provincial Square Dancing Competition

An opportunity to support our youth and have a great time! The event takes place on February 12, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Macdonald Campus, in the Centennial Centre. General admission is \$5. For \$8, you get general admission and lunch.

Sustainability Days

Thanks to funding from Agrium, 4-H Quebec will coordinate Sustainability Days to help bring Journey 2050 programming to clubs. Staff members are available to introduce clubs to the online game and will help members get started on their own sustainability journeys by bringing the supplies they need to complete a proj-

ect chosen by the club. To find out more or to book your Sustainability Day, contact Julie at program@quebec4-h.com.

Ormstown Square Dancing Competition

This year, the Ormstown competition will take place on April 1 at the Ormstown Rec. Centre. The club looks forward to welcoming clubs from across Quebec for this lovely tradition! Contact Janice Barr at barrneal26@outlook.com for more information.

Innovative Ag Tour

Hosted in Richmond from March 17-19, 2017, this event is a chance for 4-H Quebec members between the ages of 13-25 from across the province to travel together by bus to visit various farms and agribusinesses in the region. Over the course of the weekend, they learn innovative agricultural practices, feeding techniques, business practices, architectural possibilities and more.

Provincial Rally 2017

Hosted in Hatley from July 27-30, 2017, this event showcases our members' 4-H proj-

ects from across the province. Including a competitive livestock show and public speaking and live skills competitions, this is an event not to be missed!

Kids Helping Kids

Collect aluminum drink can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and ask a 4-H'er in your community to pass them along to a 4-H Quebec staff member any time. Tabs will go to Ronald McDonald House for sale to aluminum to recyclers, helping to fund their facilities where families can stay near their children while they're in the hospital.

4-H CANADA

Nominations for National Volunteer Leader of the Year

Deadline: January 31, 2017. Volunteer leaders truly are the lifeblood of the 4-H program. Nominate yours today! The winning leader from every province will receive a \$100 cash prize, as well as a chance to be chosen as 4-H Canada's National Volunteer Leader of the Year and receive a prize package of a \$1,000 cash prize and a trip to the Global 4-H Network Summit from July 10-14, 2017, in Ottawa! There is also a bonus if a lead-

er wins at the provincial level – a pizza party is also given to the winning leader's 4-H club. Visit 4-h-canada.ca/NVLYA for more information and nominate a leader today on apply.4-h-canada.ca.

Global 4-H Network Summit

The 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit, July 11-14, is the opportunity for 4-H youth, leaders and professionals from 70 countries around the world, representing 7 million youth worldwide, to gather in Canada's national capital city of Ottawa at an exciting time when celebrations are underway for Canada's 150th birthday. 4-H Canada is proud to host this important event, as we come together to share experiences, learn from each other and celebrate the successes of the 4-H global movement through positive youth development. Register with the 4-H Quebec office by contacting Julie at program@quebec4-h.com. For more information about 4-H programming and events, contact 4-H Quebec: program@quebec4-h.com or 514-398-8738.

QFA Membership

Are you a QFA member?

Files show that there are around 1,500 English-speaking farmers paying their dues to the UPA. ALL 1,500 receive the QFA's *Advocate*. Despite this, only one quarter of potential members give money for production of the *Advocate* and to help support other services. Please consider becoming a member. Your support goes a long way.

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

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- 3.9 l (238 CID) on the Farmall 95N and 105N

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Farmall 95N	95 (71)	82 (61)	53.4 (1.4) - MFD
Farmall 105N	104 (76)	92 (68)	53.4 (1.4) - MFD

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