

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Foreign workers:  
changes still not clear  
Page 3

Report on death in  
Beauce maple bush  
Page 5

100 more cell towers  
ordered  
Page 7

Heated greenhouses  
key in Gaspé  
Page 13

Harnessing methane  
gaining traction  
Page 17

*“Why is it that we do not know the net carbon footprint of agriculture in Canada?”*

– Paul Renaud, CEO, The Lanigan Group, a product and marketing strategy consulting company based in Ontario

## Rural regions hit hard by Debby



COURTESY MUNICIPALITÉ D'YAMACHICHE/FACEBOOK

This overview of part of the town of Yamachiche was taken on Aug. 12, one day after the storm. Flood waters made travel difficult.

## Roads, fields flooded in dozens of Quebec towns

Brenda O'Farrell  
*The Advocate*

Every storm eventually runs out of rain, but dealing with the aftermath is not always pleasant.

That is what many individuals in various rural regions of Quebec were facing earlier this month after the remnants of Hurricane Debby swept across southern swaths of the province Aug. 11, dropping record-setting rainfalls that washed out roads and flooded fields.

In all, about 35 municipalities across Quebec were seriously affected by the storm. That included just over 1,500 homes that had been isolated due water washing out roads, while 344 people were evacuated from their homes, according to a statement posted by Quebec Public

Security Minister François Bonnardel on the social media platform known as X the day after the deluge.

In addition, an unknown number of homes were flood, with many on the island of Montreal seeing their basements fill with water and sewage overflows.

As the damage reports were compiled, about 150 roads in the province suffered major and minor damage by the storm, while hundreds of homes were left without drinking water.

In the two-day period after the storm, provincial authorities reported 52 landslides had occurred, with many located in Laurentian communities, north of Montreal.

See DEBBY, Page 11

## Drilling down into Senate report on how soil should be designated 'national asset'

Brenda O'Farrell  
*The Advocate*

In June, the Canadian Senate's agricultural committee unveiled what many farming sector stakeholders describe as a crucial report that could have long-lasting impact on the future of growing food in this country.

Entitled "Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health," the 160-page report put forward 25 key recommendations, including the landmark proposition: Designating soil as a "strategic national asset."

The recommendations in the study are based on a series of presentations made by researchers, farmers and ranchers during a two-year period.

It has been four decades since the Senate's agricultural committee produced such a substantive report. The last one, unveiled in 1984, promoted key changes in agricultural practices – including the adoption of no-till planting – that has since become an industry aim.

This report builds on that ground-breaking work in the growing context of climate change.

As the report states in its Forward: "As we stand on the dawn of a new era defined by environmental challenges and agricultural innovation, the importance of soil health in Canada has never been more profound.

"Soil is, and always has been more than mere earth beneath our feet; it is the lifeblood of our nation's growth, sustenance, and prosperity. From the vast prairies of the West to the resiliency of the North to the fertile valleys of the East, Canada's soils have sustained generations of farmers, nurtured diverse ecosystems, and supported a thriving agricultural sector that is the envy of the world.

"Yet, the health of our soils is facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, land degradation, and evolving agricultural practices necessitate a comprehensive understanding of soil dynamics, resilience, and management strategies."

But in a country as vast as Canada, soil conditions, climate issues and food production challenges vary. What does the report say specifically about Quebec?

For that answer, excerpts from the report are highlighted on **Pages 12 and 13.**



# Just the facts

## \$447,000 30,763

The average price of a single-family homes sold in Quebec in the first half of 2024. That price is up 7.3 per cent higher than the \$416,500 recorded at the end of 2023 and 51.5 per cent higher than the average price recorded of \$295,000 recorded in 2020.

Source: Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers.

The number of single-family homes sold in Quebec in the first half of 2024.

Source: Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers

## 173

The number of millimetres of rain that fell in Ste. Anne de Bellevue on Friday, Aug. 9, the recording was greater than in any other area in the Montreal region as the province was hit with the remnants of Hurricane Debby.

A total of 157 mm were recorded at Trudeau Airport in Dorval, marking the highest one-day rainfall ever recorded at this site. The previous rainfall record there was 87.6 mm, which was set in 1880.

Source: The Globe and Mail, and The Climate Atlas of Canada

Sources: Environment Canada and the Weather Network

## 221

The number of millimetres of rain that fell in Lanoraie, a town of about 4,750 residents in the Lanaudière region, on Friday, Aug. 9, as the remnants of Hurricane Debby swept across parts of Quebec. It is considered a heavy precipitation day when 10 mm of rain falls in a given location.

## THE ROADSIDE STAND



THE ADVOCATE

Perhaps considered low-key marketing by today's standards, but this one-word sign is all that is really needed to attract passers-by at this vegetable stand in St. Clet in the Montérégie region. One word. One stop. And all items picked that day.



### Mission

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

### Vision

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

### Shared Values

#### Members of the QFA believe in:

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

### Board Members

**Morgan Arthur**, Hinchinbrooke / **Andrew Boersen**, Melbourne / **Matthew Burns**, Cookshire / **Roy Copeland**, Lachute / **John Côte**, Eastern Townships / **Gib Drury**, Vice-president and Treasurer, Alcove / **David Gillespie**, Allumette Island / **Andrew Hickey**, Ouyon / **Chris Judd**, Past president, Shawville / **Patricia Keenan**, Brompton / **Phil Lavoie**, Vaudreuil-Dorion / **John McCart**, President, Grenville-sur-la-Rouge / **Ben Nichols**, Compton / **Amin Ruf**, Stanstead / **Andrew Simms**, Shawville

## Quebec Farmers' Association Membership Application

Last Name.....  
First Name .....  
Address.....  
Phone .....  
Cellphone.....  
E-mail .....

### Price

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:

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

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

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



Signature .....

### Membership includes

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

### Quebec Farmers' Association

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

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



**Quebec Farmers' Advocate**  
Published to benefit the English-speaking agricultural and rural community in Quebec

Vol. 44, No. 7: 2024

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

Legal deposit: National Library of Canada  
Dépôt légal: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec  
ISSN#0714-9518  
Publication Mail No: 40033773

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

Editor-in-Chief Brenda O'Farrell / qfa@upa.qc.ca Graphic Design and Production Zoé Lindsay Sales Director Charles Couture / ccouture@laterre.ca / 450-679-8483 ext. 7290  
Sales Representatives Sylvain Joubert, Marc Mancini

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



## Temporary foreign workers program

# 'Abuse, misuse' must end, 'bad actors' taking advantage: minister

But it's not yet clear how proposed changes to foreign workers program could affect farming operations

**Andrew McClelland**  
*The Advocate*

The federal government announced earlier this month that it is taking measures to crack down on what it calls "misuse and fraud within the system" of the temporary foreign worker program.

That could mean serious changes in Canadian agriculture: in 2023, just over 70,000 temporary foreign workers were employed in primary agriculture industries in Canada, and just over 45,000 worked in related food and beverage manufacturing industries.

While not singling out agriculture, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages Randy Boissonnault spoke out on Aug. 6 against employers taking advantage of the program.

"Abuse and misuse of the (temporary foreign worker) program must end," Boissonnault said. "The health and safety of temporary foreign workers in Canada is a responsibility I take very seriously. Bad actors are taking advantage of people and compromising the program for legitimate businesses."

### Changes and possible changes

The biggest change will be the government enforcing a rule that sets a 20-per-cent cap for low-wage temporary foreign workers. That would mean that low-wage workers that applied through the temporary foreign worker program could make up no more than 20 per cent of a Canadian business' workforce.

So far, that cap does not apply to agriculture. But should Ottawa choose to be more stringent, it could have drastic impact for many Quebec and Canadian farm businesses, many of which rely on workforces made up of foreign workers to pick fruits and vegetables.

The cap also applies to workers enrolled in what is called the "dual intent sub-stream," which applies to temporary foreign workers who intend to apply for permanent residency. While workers hoping to use their work period in Canada as a springboard for permanent residency wouldn't be limited, their employers would be subject to stricter guidelines.

Employment and Social Development Canada says the temporary foreign



Federal Minister of Employment Randy Boissonnault says that "bad actors are taking advantage of people and compromising the (temporary foreign worker) program for legitimate businesses."

worker program is designed "as a last resort for employers to fill jobs for which qualified Canadians are not available."

Under the program guidelines, an employer must pay for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) for approval, demonstrating there is a need for a foreign worker to fill a position for which no Canadian worker or permanent resident is available. Boissonnault says that fee might increase so that further checks and investigations could be made.

Ottawa also says it's looking to implement future changes regarding employer eligibility. An employer applying to the program would have to have a minimum number of years of business operations or make its history of lay-offs known.

Boissonnault's announcement on Aug. 6 could be in reaction to a UN report that denounces the temporary foreign worker program as a "breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery."

That report followed a fact-finding mission conducted by UN observers in Ottawa, Moncton, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver last year and was tabled on July 22.

"The temporary foreign worker program serves as a breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery, as it institutionalizes asymmetries of power that favour employers and prevent workers from exercising their rights," the UN report states.

### Protecting workers

All effected and proposed regulation changes to the temporary foreign

worker program are intended to protect a potentially vulnerable labour force. Employment and Social Development Canada notes that fines for infractions against the program increased by a marked 36 per cent.

Statistics Canada says that between 2005 and 2020, the number of temporary foreign workers in Canadian crop production, animal production and aquaculture sectors more than tripled.

However, few of those workers succeed in gaining permanent residency. Figures show that after five years of work in Canadian agriculture only slightly more than 10 per cent of temporary foreign workers obtain permanent residency. After 10 years since workers were first employed in the sector, the cumulative transition rate reaches only 16.8 per cent.



## QFA videoconferences

# Get in on the QFA videoconferences

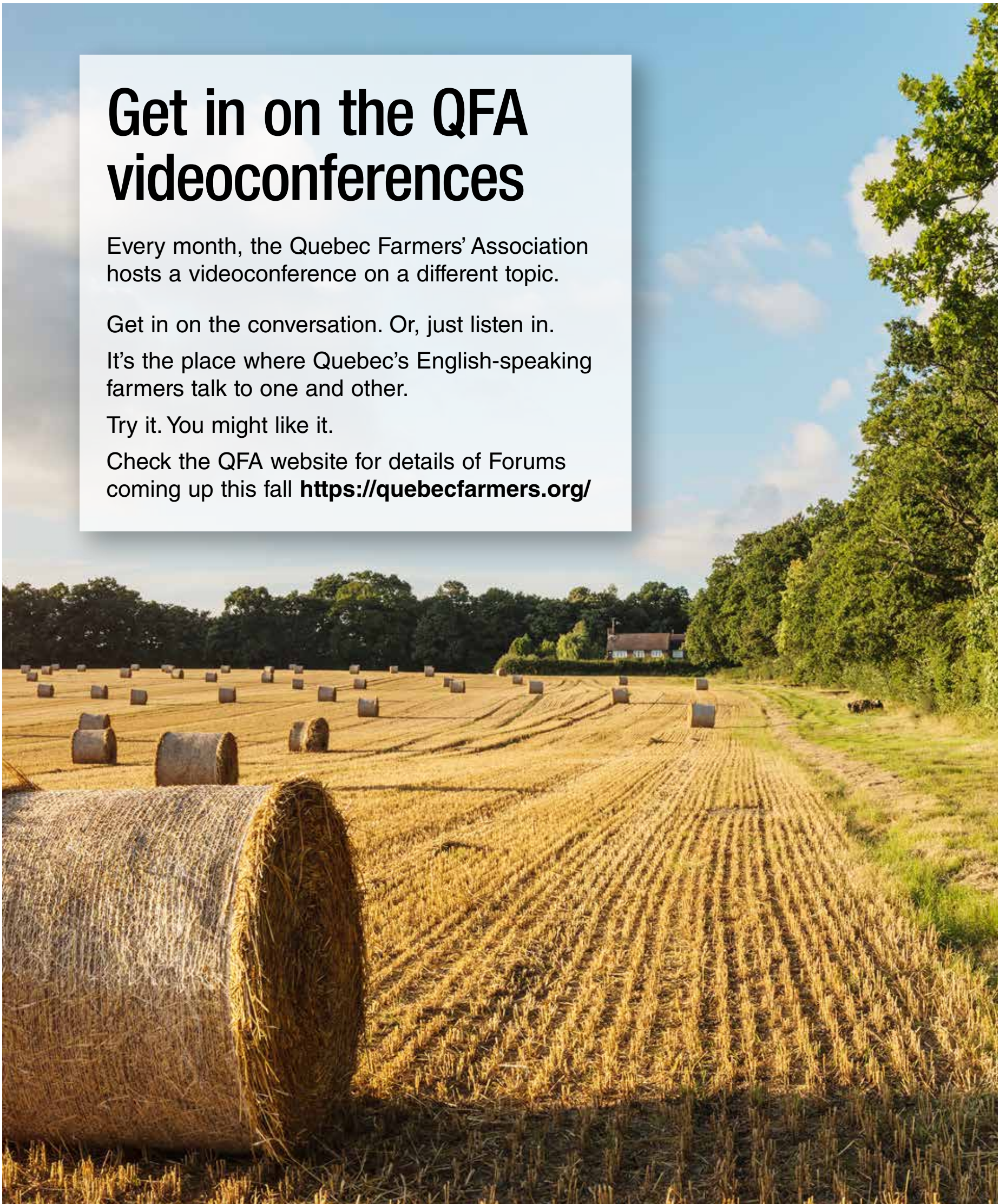
Every month, the Quebec Farmers' Association hosts a videoconference on a different topic.

Get in on the conversation. Or, just listen in.

It's the place where Quebec's English-speaking farmers talk to one and other.

Try it. You might like it.

Check the QFA website for details of Forums coming up this fall <https://quebecfarmers.org/>





# Heated greenhouses key to competing against the grocery store

Gaspé vegetable grower shares his secrets to staking out a livelihood in harsh climate

**Andrew McClelland**  
*The Advocate*

Nicolas Audet knows that great farming technique comes from experience.

But, as this Gaspé-based market gardener, who runs *Ferme la cigale et la fourmi*, is quick to point out, gaining experience is never easy.

"Making good decisions comes with experience, but experience often comes from making bad decisions!" Audet said with a laugh as he shared his experience with participants of a videoconference hosted by the Quebec Farmers' Association on July 24.

"I've made a couple of mistakes in my career – and I've been doing this for almost 20 years. But now, I think I'm starting to make good decisions," he said.

One of the best decisions Audet ever made was getting into market gardening to sell community-supported agriculture (CSA) memberships early in the game. In 2005, he and his partner Melanie started their farm in Carleton-sur-mer, on the south shore of the Gaspé peninsula, where they grow a huge variety of vegetables and herbs. Today, they deliver baskets to over 200 clients.

That started their family – now grown to include four children – on a life divided between the growing season from July to October and spending November to April in the kitchen turning their harvested produce into products for their loyal clients.

"Our main goal is for our kids to live a good life and have fun on the farm," Audet said. "They don't really work on the farm yet, but they can appreciate all the good stuff that comes from living on the farm."

Audet decided to make the investment into using heated greenhouses after he observed that it just made sense from a business perspective.

"If you don't have a heated greenhouse, you're going to have your products at the same time of year as your clients already have them," Audet said. "You're going to have tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers at the same time as your clients who have gardens, so your supply will be high when demand is low."

Nicolas and Melanie started growing in non-heated tunnels in the summer of 2006. But in Gaspé, where summer

nights can easily drop to 10 degrees Celsius, growing in non-heated structures won't produce the size of harvest that can support a CSA business.

"In our non-heated tunnel, we would come up with cherry tomatoes by the 10th or the 15th of August," Audet explained. "So you don't have a big harvest and it's not the best moment."

*La cigale et la fourmi* grows most of its produce in a 30-foot-by-100-foot heated greenhouse made of double polythene. Its foundations and end walls are made of sturdy polycarbonate to hold up against the Gaspé winds, and the 10-inch-by-10-inch cement footings keep the structure stable.

"We also have a garage door, because you have to be able to bring a vehicle in there," Audet said. "And the height of the rafters has to be a minimum of 10 feet if you're going to grow cucumbers and tomatoes."

Audet says one of the keys to success is to seek out a consultant or agronome who knows heated greenhouse production. At the start of *La cigale et la fourmi*, an agronome would visit for several hours every week, advising on cultivar types and production methods.

"For our whole first year, we had an agronome visit every two weeks. It was a huge help! You should definitely look around your region and see what service is available before investing in the greenhouse."

Having a technician nearby who can fix and troubleshoot a variety of problems is essential for operating a heated greenhouse, Audet said, explaining that he was lucky to have a close friend able to do repairs at a moment's notice.

"Of course, the most important thing is what you grow," he said. "That's where your value is. You want to be different from what your clients can get in the supermarket, so that when they taste your tomatoes, they say, 'OK, that's something special.'"

That's why Audet grows "Big beef plus," "Beorange," "Favorita," "Sunpeach" and "Sunsugar" tomatoes – types that aren't as common in grocery stores. And the farm doesn't do things the easy way. If a type of crop is easy to grow, but tasteless, it doesn't end up in clients' baskets.

"Varieties like *Rebelski* or *Sakura* tomatoes are easy to grow, and they're easy to 'read' and know what's going



COURTESY NICOLAS AUDET

*Ferme la cigale et la fourmi* grows most of its produce in a 30-foot-by-100-foot heated greenhouse made of double polythene.

on with them," Audet explained. "But we don't like to eat them, so we don't grow them."

And that's what it all comes down to at *La cigale et la fourmi* – being different from the supermarket competition and being proud of what they do. So

far, it has been a recipe for success.

"That's the main factor for us. Of course, you need the productivity, you need the conservation aspect, but what makes us different? Why do people choose us? Because we have something more special than the supermarkets."



JOHN MCCART, THE ADVOCATE

We have to be prepared for more severe weather. But it is always nice when the storms run out of rain, though.



**John McCart**  
QFA President

As farmers, we are always concerned about the weather. And we like to talk about it.

The main topics of our discussions focus on whether it is too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry. But this summer, the big topic is weather extremes of a new dimension.

Earlier this year, following an exceptionally warm winter with an incredible lack of snow, I was asked by a CBC interviewer what the impact was going into the spring. Were farmers concerned about the lack of moisture during the winter months being a precursor to a dry spring and summer?

I responded yes, farmers were concerned. But, as farmers prefer, we would reserve responding until the spring would actually arrive.

Unfortunately, I was right. The spring turned into a cold and wet disaster. In many parts of the southern province, seeding did not begin until after mid-May, and many farmers were planting into soils that were not ready.

## What can we do about the weather?

The heavy clays took a long time to dry out properly. The exceptions to this were the producers in the northern regions, like Abitibi and Lac St. Jean, where farmers experienced ideal planting conditions.

### It got better

Following planting, the weather was actually good for forages and hay production. The heat mixed with the rain produced super yields.

Over the last month, I could not believe how much green there was on my farm. Everything was being supercharged with ideal growing conditions.

Moisture was not a problem. And, unlike last year, the gentle summer breezes were enough to dry things out. But after the downpour of Friday, Aug. 11th, my area in the Lachute region had received 538 millimetres of rain since the third week of May. Enough is enough!

Every time the weather forecasters call for rain, it feels like we are rolling the dice to see how much will actually fall.

Following last summer's disaster of not being able to make hay, vegetable producers not being able to harvest their crops and prepare for the next, farmers were hoping for something

better this year. It is better, but still not ideal.

### How can farmers weather these storms better?

Farming practices have changed dramatically over the past few decades. The number of small dairy farms with diverse crops, which could handle all types of weather challenges, has dropped dramatically. Much land has gone over to grain and cereal crops. The result of this means that ideal drainage on a farm is a necessity.

The window for planting and harvesting seems to be getting smaller, so to get around these events, the machines have gotten a lot bigger and seem out of reach to a lot of producers.

The whole infrastructure surrounding farms must also be properly managed. Water courses must be maintained, roads must be able to handle the flash floods, beaver dams must be controlled, river banks must be properly maintained to control erosion, the list goes on and on!

Farmers are not alone dealing with the weather. Homeowners and municipalities are not having a fun summer.

How many times has Montreal seen flooding on streets and expressways?

Following the Aug. 11 deluge,

there were numerous posts on social media about the damages being caused to roadways, culverts and bridges. Unfortunately, many homes are falling victim to these events as well. Basements were flooded throughout the Montreal region.

I am sure that insurance companies cringe every time there is a weather event. Houses all have finished basements now, so every claim is huge, and the effects will ripple throughout the industry.

Wildfires, ice storms, flooding, wind storms – it seems Mother Nature is fighting back and trying to win.

Farmers and homeowners are going to have to be smarter and take proactive measures to make sure that we are not always on the losing end of things. Reliance on safety programs through MAPAQ and La Financière must be in place. Both good drainage and irrigation need to be in place to protect high-value crops. Generators are an absolute must on farms, and now, it seems, households as well. Field layouts and new house construction must take weather events into account.

Unfortunately, a 100-year event is now happens every 10 years or so. And we must be prepared for it.

# Grocery code of conduct, AgriRecovery top agenda at Ag ministers' meeting

**Andrew McClelland**  
*The Advocate*

Canada's agriculture ministers announced the introduction of a grocery store code of conduct, improvements to the AgriRecovery program and a levelling of the playing field between local and imported products at a meeting in Whitehorse this summer.

The annual summer gathering of federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers allows the country's top agriculture decision-makers to come together and, hopefully, harmonize regulations and programs across all levels of government.

This year's meeting, held from July 17-19 in the Yukon capital, yielded the announcement of \$1.2 million towards the creation of a "Grocery Code Adjudication Office."

This grocery store code of conduct will operate as a non-profit organization funded by dues collected from grocery supply-chain stakeholders. The Grocery Code Adjudication Office will act as a referee and publicly report violations of the code.

"This will definitely bring more predictability, transparency and fairness among the (supply) chain, and a mechanism to resolve conflict," stated Quebec Agriculture Minister André Lamontagne, who has been

instrumental in bringing about the creation of the code in the wake of food price increases.

At the meeting, ministers announced that Loblaws, Sobeys, Metro, Walmart and Costco had agreed to abide by the code, which should come into effect in June 2025. Sobeys operates IGA stores in Quebec.

## Level playing field

Lamontagne also advocated for harmonized regulations between local and imported products, saying Quebec products have to compete with American and other imports while living up to more stringent environmental and health regulations.

"Our agricultural and processing businesses are facing more and more constraints and are constantly making efforts to meet environmental and social requirements," said Lamontagne, adding that he is pleased with the commitment of his fellow ministers of agriculture to support Quebec's request to explore ways to ensure that imports meet standards equivalent to those that apply to local products.

## Risk programs

Lamontagne and other provincial agriculture ministers also made recommendations to improve AgriRecovery, the federal and provincial governments'



Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of Agriculture at their annual conference in Whitehorse, Yukon, with Quebec's André Lamontagne at far right. The ministers announced that all major Canadian grocery stores had agreed to a "grocery store code of conduct" to curb unfair price increases.

aid framework designed to help producers get back on track after adverse weather and crop failure.

Ministers stated that within the context of climate change, AgriRecovery needs to be made to work faster and take into account that different types of production need different types of support.

"We don't think it's productive across the country to have a program have to fire up and be specialized each time," said John Streicker, minister responsible for agriculture for the Yukon. "We're looking for something to be more

predictable across the board."

Lamontagne also said he was pleased with an action plan submitted by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Pesticide Management, stating that he is in favour of weaning Quebec producers off synthetic pesticides and promoting alternative methods of pest management.

The 2025 annual meeting of ag ministers will be held in Manitoba and chaired by Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn.

# 100 new cell towers will eliminate 'cellular deserts'

Quebec bolsters its plan to improve communications in regions

**Andrew McClelland**  
*The Advocate*

Work has begun on the Quebec government's project to build more than 100 new cellphone towers in regions of the province that have poor reception or no signal at all, representing an investment of \$170 million.

Premier François Legault made the announcement earlier this summer, noting that the first phase of the CAQ's high-speed connectivity plan built 79 cellphone towers by the spring of 2024.

"I am very proud of the work accomplished so far to improve cellular coverage and I am delighted to be able to offer all residents, no matter where they are, a quality of life that lives up to what

we have the right to expect in Quebec," said Legault in an official release.

The plan seeks to address the danger of not having cellular reception in some of Quebec's most remote areas, including a lack of reception for 9-1-1 and other emergency services.

On the North Shore, portions of routes 138 and 389 are still beyond the reach of any cellular network.

In 2022, a 22-year-old woman from the Minganie MRC (north of Anticosti) discovered she was outside any zone of cellphone reception following a near-fatal car accident. The incident highlighted the need for a speedy construction of new cellphone towers across the province.

"In 2024, it is unthinkable not to have a cellular network across the entire

territory of Quebec," said Legault in an announcement made on June 28. "It is a matter of the safety of citizens and visitors, but also of the dynamism and economic development of the region."

In 2022, the provincial government mapped out what it called "cellular deserts" in Quebec, determining that anywhere from 400 to 700 antennas would be needed to eliminate these dead zones.

Under phase 1 of Quebec's high-speed internet and special connectivity plan, 84 new cellphone towers were projected to be built. The government's latest announcement adds an additional 100 towers to the overall project plan, and will extend coverage in the regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Mauricie, Estrie,

Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Chaudière-Appalaches, Laurentides and Centre-du-Québec.

"The regions that will benefit from this new infrastructure will quickly see the difference," said Gilles Bélanger, MNA for Orford and parliamentary assistant for high-speed Internet and special connectivity projects. "Where their citizens could feel isolated, we are improving daily communications. For both leisure and work, this extended cellular coverage will make life easier for those in the areas concerned."

The vast majority of the cellphone towers will be constructed by Videotron, Sogetel Mobilité, and TELUS. Quebec says construction is expected to be completed by 2027.

## Trends in agriculture



NASTYAOFLY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

During the COVID pandemic we saw the quality of our air improve as car, truck and airplane travel was dramatically reduced.



**Chris Judd**  
*The Advocate*

# What kind of world do you want to pass on?

Let's look at how things have evolved.

### Air, water, food are constant necessities

Clean air, clean water and safe food have always been paramount to our future.

Protection from the elements, provided by clothing and shelter, have made life more enjoyable.

Learning to work together with friends, the invention and use of tools, and the ability to plan ahead in order to survive different weather and hardships helped mankind get through attacks by wild animals, enemies and severe weather conditions.

Most early conflicts in our world were caused by a drought or flood in an area. The area that did not have enough food would either steal food or attack the neighbouring country that had abundance in order to control its food.

For the last few decades, the areas of the world with the largest oil reserves have been the richest and became the

target of other countries who covet their oil reserves.

### Growing ability in an asset

Now, we are fast approaching a time when countries with abundant clean water and growing conditions for abundant crop growth will become the most coveted countries. As our climate becomes hotter and drier, and we resist stopping and reversing climate change, we will witness a new reason for war.

When COVID-19 forced us to cut back on fossil-fuel use by drastically reducing automobile, truck and airplane use, we witnessed our air quality improve greatly. Now, recent unprecedented increase in wildfires, floods and other more severe weather events have us wondering about the severity of climate change.

Any old farmer will tell you that an increase in "heat units," which is a way of determining which varieties of corn can successfully mature in an area, now allows farmers in areas like Pontiac county, at the western limits of

Quebec, to successfully grow grain corn and soybeans where their parents and grandparents wouldn't even dream of planting those crops.

### Stop blaming cows

There are still a few environmentalists who blame cows that burp and fart dangerous gasses with destroying our clean air. They need to be reminded that mammals have been on this Earth for thousands of years, but when the planes were grounded and automobile traffic slowed down, air quality miraculously improved.

As the ice caps melt at both ends of our world, the oceans gradually rise and threaten all shorelines and buildings close to the seas, maybe we should think about vacationing closer to home. Eventually, "tela-transport" will eliminate the need for other modes of transportation. But that's in the future – if we can keep this old world alive until then.

What kind of a world do you really want to pass on?

What would you be proud to pass on to your descendants? What would you want the world, your country or town to inherit?

Let's be honest. In the past, not every leader has been looking very far ahead.

When we look back, we quickly notice that greed and control have too often been decisive factors in many decisions, and different religions and languages have been used as excuses.

But we have chosen our leaders. Apathy and not bothering to think about our future or taking the time to vote must always be remembered.

I have mentioned before that we should take a close look back before making any decision that could affect our future – and the future of generations to come. My smartest mentors have said, "In a crisis situation, go to the top first."



## Interest rates continue to cause financial strain on Quebec farms

**Brenda O'Farrell**  
*The Advocate*

Higher interest rates in the past two years has had a negative impact on Quebec farms, with almost 20 per cent of producers seeking relief in the form of suspending repayment on capital, according to a survey by the Union des producteurs agricoles released earlier this spring.

Increasing costs, including higher interest rates compared with a few years ago, are pushing farming operations to the brink, making it more difficult to maintain financial viability, UPA officials explained as the results of its survey were unveiled.

A total of 3,552 farmers participated in the online survey, conducted by the provincial farmers' union between March 25 and April 22.

Fifty-two per cent of respondents said they are at risk in 2024 of not meeting their financial obligations, an increase of 11 per cent compared with last year, when the UPA asked the same question.

Among the hardest hit, the survey shows, are operators of small farms and producers in more remote areas, where transport represent higher costs.

## OUTSTANDING IN ITS FIELD



THE ADVOCATE

Under a brilliant summer sky on a quiet rural road stands a shed. Nothing more. Alone and all right, it holds its place silently. There is no one around. On the outskirts of the small village of Très St. Rédempteur in Montérégie, it stands out in its field, as if it owns the place and its surroundings.

## Quebec issues \$35,000 in fines to individuals, companies breaking forestry rules

**Frederic Serre**  
*The Advocate*

The Quebec government this month released its list of 14 individuals and businesses that violated the province's forest management and environmental regulations so far this year, detailing each offence and fines imposed.

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts published the names of companies and individuals who have violated the *Forest Act* and the *Sustainable Forest Development Act* by not respecting the sustainable development of forests on government land on its website earlier this month. This publication covers judgments rendered between Jan. 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024.

The list of offenders includes the names of four individuals and 10 corporations who committed 25 offences for which fines totalling \$35,340 were imposed. The individuals received fines totalling \$3,200, while the corporations received fines that totalled \$32,140.

The province's investigations looked at the size and distribution of cutting areas; the development of infrastructures that enable the crossing of watercourses; soil protection; and the regeneration and protection of fragile environments and wildlife habitats.

# Commission issues report following death of worker in Beauce maple bush

**Frederic Serre**  
*The Advocate*

Farms across Quebec that carry out forest management work are being urged to improve employee training and equipment in the wake of a fatal accident last December on an agricultural property in Ste. Marie de Beauce, which was investigated by the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST).

The commission issued its findings July 9 into the accident that claimed the life of a worker from Ferme Noël

Maheux et fils Inc. on Dec. 8, 2023.

On the day of the accident, the worker was at the company's maple bush, thinning and clearing the forest with a chainsaw. As he began felling an ash tree, it became entangled with the top of a maple tree as it fell. To free the ash, the worker began cutting the part of the tree that hinged at its stump. The ash tree fell on the worker, who was rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The CNESST investigation identified three causes of the accident:

- The worker's positioning near the ash exposed him to a sudden fall

of the tree.

- The absence of an escape route from the ash felling area deprived the worker of any exit when the tree fell.
- Lack of precision in the execution of the directional notch, the hinge and the felling cut resulted in the ash falling in the wrong direction.

Following the accident, the CNESST required Ferme Noël Maheux to train workers in directional felling, provide them with personal protective equipment for forestry work requiring the use of a chainsaw, equip the company's chainsaws with safety equipment, use

compliant vehicles that are adapted to the work environment and equipped with adequate protection for the driver during forestry tasks.

To prevent such an accident from happening again, the CNESST said it will inform the Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and the Producteurs et productrices acéricoles du Québec of the findings of this investigation, so that they can make their members aware of the dangers associated with forest management work.

## Editorial



GORODENKOFF/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



**Brenda O'Farrell**  
QFA Advocate

# No need for eligibility certificates in health care

It is still not clear whether Quebec anglophones need a certificate of eligibility to receive health services in English. While we wait for the clarification of the clarification on that one, here's a question: Is there a name for the syndrome that allows a person to be shocked at the same time as not being surprised?

It is happening more and more often. There should be a name for it.

CBI-BSIC Disorder, perhaps: Can't Believe It, But Saw It Coming Disorder. It is characterized by an overwhelming sense of disbelief accompanied by frustration, outrage, feelings of being unwanted. In young people, it is also said to instill a need to explore housing and employment options in other provinces.

There is yet no effective treatment for this condition. Its symptoms come and go, as we attempt to build an immunity to it. Being proactive, like sending your kids to school in French,

becoming fluent in a second language and genuinely enjoying the unique character of Quebec does not protect you from bouts of this condition. It often strikes when you least expect it, like in mid-summer, when nothing political usually happens.

Lucien Bouchard  
talked about  
not needed  
language  
tests in 1996.

And while English-speaking community representatives await an appointment with the Quebec Health minister to discuss the situation, those who wrestle with the effects of this disorder worry.

For those of you who have lived with this syndrome for some time, you will remember back in 1996 – almost three decades ago – when then-Premier Lucien

Bouchard famously said: "When you go to the hospital and you're in pain, you may need a blood test, but you certainly don't need a language test."

Well, that helped, but it obviously just masked the underlying conditions that festered, and would eventually return.

They resurfaced when Bill 96 was proposed. They intensified when it was discovered that the federal government would not effectively put up a fight to prevent the misuse of the Notwithstanding Clause to bypass any protection against the legislation afforded by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. What do you do when remedies are withheld?

Ultimately, we need a cure for this syndrome anglophones are suffering from. How can we stop being shocked but not surprised? Over and over again.

### What is the cure?

Which brings us back to the central question: How will English-speaking Quebecers be treated by the health-care system in the future?

Who would have thought that not having a doctor would be the least of our problems?

Eligibility certificates – and whether they are required to obtain health-care services in English or who can actually obtain one – is not the issue that needs to be debated. These certificates are symptoms of a much larger problem that has been ignored for too long. And that problem is political leaders do not view all Quebecers as equal.

And it is not just François Legault's CAQ government. It is the provincial Liberals as well. They have shown themselves to be ready to look the other way when the English-speaking community suffers a blow. At first it was insults, like voting to condemn the use of phrases like "bonjour-hi." But we have skipped way past mere insults.

A society with different classes of citizens is not the target we should be aiming for.

It's time to focus on the real problem. And to start, perhaps the Liberals need to clearly condemn the new regulations issued by the Quebec Health Ministry on July 18 that outlined when health-care service providers can use a language other than French.

You need to correctly diagnose the problem before you can cure it.

# Aftermath of Debby

From Page 1

In all, according to Environment Canada, 157 millimetres of rain fell at Dorval airport during the storm, surpassing the previous record of 93.5 mm set in November of 1996, while a whopping 173 millimetres of rain was recorded in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, which not only set a new record, but ranked as the second-highest deluge recorded in the province during the storm.

The most intense rainfall in the province was recorded in the town of Lanoraie in the Lanaudière region, north of Montreal, where 221 mm of rain overwhelmed the tiny municipality of less than 5,000 residents.

Several municipalities declared states of emergency in a wide-range of regions. These

included Chelsea in the Outaouais region; Roxton Pond, near Granby; Louiseville, west of Trois Rivières; and several towns in the Laurentians and Lanaudière area, like Rivière Rouge, La Macaza and St. Lin-Laurentides.

In towns like Yamachiche, on the north shore between Louiseville and Trois Rivières, flood waters left the centre of town under water, with vehicles unable to travel its streets.

Many growing areas in a number of regions were still flooded days after the storm, with everything from fields of corn and soybeans being partially swamped, to strawberry and raspberry growers reporting losses

It could take weeks, possibly months, for the extent of all the damage is known.



JOHN MCCART, THE ADVOCATE



TOWN OF CHELSEA/FACEBOOK



THE ADVOCATE



THE ADVOCATE



THE ADVOCATE

1. Runoff covered the road and washed out the ditches in Chelsea in Outaouais.
2. This corn field in St. Clet was affected, as water accumulated.
3. Water covered part of this concession road in the Lachute area.
4. Water in flooded fields came right up to the road in Les Cèdres in Montérégie.
5. This is what some fields west of Montreal looked like after the heavy rains.

## Senate report



# What Senate report on soil says about conditions in Quebec

The following is an excerpt from Canadian Senate's agricultural committee's report issued in June:  
*Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health.*

### Quebec

According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, between 2018 and 2022 the top three crop and livestock commodities by average farm cash receipts for Quebec were: dairy (\$2.6 billion), hogs (\$1.6 billion), and poultry (\$898 million).

Several witnesses told the committee the main threats to soil degradation in Quebec are soil erosion, low soil organic carbon, decline in agricultural land, and water resource management.

The Union des producteurs agricoles and the Producteurs du grains de Québec said agricultural soils in Quebec are under stress from factors that can jeopardize their medium- or long-term fertility.

UPA president Martin Caron cited problems with soil erosion and loss of organic matter, but also said that a growing number of producers are implementing solutions.

Caron stated the federal government has a role to play in fostering the adoption of best practices in soil conservation. Caron explained that while intense and specialty production systems have many benefits, especially in terms of volumes produced, these same systems also present challenges when it comes to

sustainability.

For example, Caron said a long rotation with several types of crops has many advantages over a rotation with only two crops, such as corn and soybeans in Quebec; however, the short-term profitability of these two crops is more attractive to farmers who specialize in growing them. Other crops that can be introduced are usually less lucrative.

Caron added that practices that provide long-term benefits for soil health and the environment – such as green manures and cover crops – pose short-term profitability issues for producers. Green manures are field crops that are planted within a rotation to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil and can include legumes and non-legumes. The barrier to change for producers in Quebec is that during the transition period revenues are lower, expenses are higher, and the benefits of healthier soils have not yet been reaped.

Another constraint for producers is learning how to manage greater complexity on farm, such as acquiring new knowledge, trial-and-error experimentation, and adjusting practices to specific situations.

Caron told the committee that the

UPA is carrying out various soil-health initiatives, including collaborating with AAFC, to promote the adoption of better farming practices in Quebec.

“The most important thing that would be of value to this report is to have ethics embedded in it based on the use of food land soil as a privilege that comes with responsibilities.”

– Don Lobb  
 farmer and life-long soil advocate

Caron also mentioned that the Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment conducted a study at the request of the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ). The final report will provide a diagnosis of the health of agricultural soils in Quebec. The UPA submitted requests to the MAPAQ for an

assessment/overview of the condition of soil health throughout the province, specifically a carbon neutral assessment. With the clay soils in Quebec, soil compaction must be considered, and more research is needed on this aspect.

Catherine Lefebvre, president of the Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec, said that climate change is causing increased costs and decreased productivity for vegetable producers.

Catherine Lessard, deputy general manager of the Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec, told the committee that over 50 different vegetable crops are grown in Quebec, most of which production occurs in the Montérégie and Lanaudière regions, where the climate and soils are favourable. Both regions, however, are located near Montréal and subject to urban pressure. Recent projections show a 22-per-cent population increase in the municipality of Jardins-de-Napierville, and 18 per cent in the Montcalm regional county municipality. Lessard said that “measures to preserve agricultural land are essential to ensure that exceptional soil is not used for other purposes.”

Annual sales of vegetables in Quebec reached \$500 million in 2020, which is

## Senate report



similar in value to Quebec maple syrup, yet, Lessard said, that research in the vegetable sector is underfunded in comparison to other sectors.

For example, Lessard said that while soil health is one of the subjects of the Living Labs Quebec project, jointly funded by AAFC and the UPA, it does not include the vegetable sector.

“Due to the diversity of crops and production models, soil health improvement techniques for vegetable production are less documented, and our producers do not know the techniques that are documented very well.”

Lessard said public funding is essential to meet this challenge, and to improve soil health in general. In this respect, restoring financial support for the AgriScience clusters research projects to 75 per cent would be a step in the right direction.

For the time being, Lessard said only soil health projects focusing on carbon sequestration are eligible for subsidies of more than 50 per cent.

### Conclusion

After two years of digging deep, the committee learned that soil is at risk and that soil degradation occurs in every region of Canada.

The committee also heard about and saw firsthand the valuable work that Canadian farmers, ranchers, and growers are doing – supported by agronomists, academia, industry, and the provinces and territories – to improve soil health and be sustainability leaders. We believe that Canadian agriculture and agricultural soils offer solutions for mitigating the effects of climate change and addressing food security in this country.



ANTONELLO/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Pork production in Quebec ranks among the top three livestock commodities when measured by cash receipts.

In line with AAFC's What We Heard Report: Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, the soil study witnesses urged the Government of Canada to:

- acknowledge regional differences related to climates, soil types and beneficial management practices;
- apply an economic and social lens for policies and programs;
- better recognize and compensate the early adopters for their sustainable practices;

- encourage scientific and technical innovation; and,
- enhance soil data collection, soil data management and soil knowledge transfer throughout the country.

Enhancing, protecting and preserving agricultural soil now and for the future must be a priority of the Government of Canada and all Canadians and it must be built into land-use planning policies.

At our final hearing, Don Lobb, a farmer and life-long soil advocate,

reminded the committee – and all Canadians – that “The most important thing that would be of value to this report is to have ethics embedded in it based on the use of food land soil as a privilege that comes with responsibilities.”

With its work in the preparation of this report, your Senate committee has tried to fulfill its responsibilities, and we hope that the recommendations we make will enable others to do the same.



## Climate of change



**Mitchell Beer**  
President, Smarter Shift

# B.C. growers facing fierce, heart-breaking climate change realities

Fruit growers in British Columbia are getting a devastating, front-line view of what happens when climate change becomes the unforeseeable, uncontrollable force that brings an end to an established business and, potentially, a beloved way of life.

"After ongoing drought conditions and a devastating cold snap in January, fruit farmers across the Okanagan have been dealing with the devastating impacts on their crops for months," B.C. news outlet *Kelowna Now* reported in late July.

Then, with "profound sadness," the B.C. Tree Fruits Cooperative announced it was shutting down.

"The co-op, which represents over 330 local families, says the shuttering of operations is due to 'extremely low estimated fruit volumes, weather effects and difficult market and financial conditions,'" the media report stated.

B.C. Tree Fruits had been in operation since 1936. But the shutdown was so sudden that some farmers showed up this season to deliver as usual to their co-op warehouse, only to be told their product would no longer be accepted.

On Aug. 13, with more than \$58 million in debt and liabilities, the co-op announced it was seeking creditor protection, saying it was now "non-compliant" with its loan agreements with CIBC.

"A statement from the co-operative issued Monday said the decision to file for creditor protection stemmed from the group's 'liquidity crisis,' with some fruit crops damaged by 'unusually severe' weather this year identified as 'the final tipping point' in a series of factors," The Canadian Press reported. "In mid-January, the (B.C.) Interior saw several days of frigid temperatures that killed off active buds in trees that had only just begun to recover from the 2021 heat dome and had gone through a harsh winter in 2022."

In late July, Jennifer Deol of There and Back Again Farms in Kelowna said the region's farmers were "reeling" from the co-op's announcement. She had already pulled all her fruit trees out of the ground after the cold snap. Now, she told CBC in an interview, she was just two weeks away from her grape



MAX LINDENTHALER/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

There are benefits to farmers who shift their practices and reduce their input costs with measures that also reduce their emissions. But, we are starting to see, that for some producers, like those growing peaches in B.C., the speed of climate change means they are losing the race.

harvest. The clamshell packaging was ready to go, complete with the familiar B.C. Tree Fruit logo. And she had no idea how or where she would be able to sell her crop.

In a 10-minute interview with CBC, Deol was sharply critical of a co-op that, she said, had management problems and seemed to have lost contact with its members. In the moment, she didn't mention the climate extremes that have been chipping or blasting away at the co-op's viability for years. But here are a few things we know.

First, the 2021 heat dome that killed more than 600 people in British Columbia, on top of the severe crop damage, would have been "virtually impossible" without climate change, according to an attribution study at the time.

Second, climate change is about extreme conditions of all kinds, not just global warming. So while it's still true that not every weird or wacky weather event is directly attributable to climate

change, the successive rounds of killer cold are consistent with a global crisis that is making dangerously bad conditions of all kinds more frequent and severe.

There's something else to share that connects the dots in this story.

At the United Nations' COP23 climate summit in Bonn, Germany, in 2017, Doel was a member of the Canadian observer delegation. Although the process at UN COPs is unfailingly glacially slow, the impacts of climate change on farming and rural communities are a continuing discussion point, with such deeply severe implications for local economies and jobs, food security, equity and human rights.

Although Doel didn't mention climate impacts in her CBC interview, she didn't have to. She's living those impacts in real time. Despite her attempts to drive down climate pollution in the first part of her career, she is now suffering from the effects as that climate pollution is now burning her

livelihood to the ground.

And her experience shows with gut-wrenching clarity that taking action on climate change, that actually getting this transition done, is not about sacrifice. It's about opportunity and gain, and doing all we can to avert the kind of loss and pain that so many farm producers are now going through.

There are tangible, powerful benefits to farmers who shift their practices and reduce their input costs with measures that also reduce their emissions. But sometimes, it gets a lot more visceral. Sometimes, the cost of climate change is that you lose it all.

And the benefit of pushing for faster, deeper carbon cuts with everything we've got is that anyone gets to continue operating any kind of farm at all.

*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.*



**Paul J. Hetzler**  
ISA Certified Arborist

# Harnessing farm methane gaining traction

Whether or not its precise definition is at the tip of our tongues, we all get the drift of what biogas means: there's biology involved, and the result is gas.

If you're ever on the same flight as the national sauerkraut-eating team on their way home after taking gold at the Paris Olympics, the biogas will be unmistakable. And inescapable. More common (and less fictional) examples of biogas include cows' belches and the bubbles that swarm to the water's surface if you waded into a marsh.

Composed chiefly of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) at concentrations that range from 50 to 60 per cent, biogas can be used in place of natural gas for home-heating and to fuel internal-combustion engines to generate electricity.

## 28 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>

Formed by microbes under anaerobic conditions (oxygen-free), methane is a greenhouse gas more than 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in Earth's atmosphere. Methane is valuable when harnessed and put to good use, but makes the world hotter when it's released into the air. This is one of the reasons it's crucial to "harvest" biogas that is naturally released by landfills and manure pits.

Methane itself is colourless and odourless, but biogas is not pure methane. In that context, one generally finds methane in the company of dodgy pals like hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), which is responsible for the rotten-egg smell of farts and swamp gas. Not only is hydrogen sulfide a stinker, at high levels it's toxic and flammable as well.

Another contaminant is ammonia, which forms corrosive nitrogen oxides. In addition to being greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides cause or worsen the symptoms of emphysema, asthma and bronchitis when we breathe them in. Landfill biogas is frequently tainted by siloxanes found in lubricants and detergents. Siloxanes are also hazardous to breathe. Before biogas can be used as fuel in commercial engines to generate power, these impurities must be filtered out.

## Generates heat and electricity

Even if biogas did not yield perks like heat and electricity, we'd still have to extract it from landfills to keep

the darned things from blowing up. Methane accumulates in landfills as organic matter decomposes in oxygen-deprived conditions underground. This led to a spate of biogas explosions, some quite destructive, in landfills across the U.S. and Europe in the 1960s through the 1980s.

Although such events are less frequent now, landfill fires and explosions continue. Recent cases in southeast Calgary in 2022; and Orillia, Ont., and near Vernon, B.C., earlier this year; are reminders that even though biogas can generate electricity for us, not everyone has gotten the memo on the need to manage it.

Biogas is often made in something called a methane reactor, or digester, which "digests" animal manure, sewage or household garbage anaerobically. The resulting methane, which would otherwise have been released to the atmosphere, is collected and used for heat, electrical generation or other applications.

In addition, digester-sourced biogas, which is higher in methane and lower in impurities than landfill gas, can be injected into the natural-gas grid or compressed into liquid and shipped to world markets.

## Quebec ships biogas

The first large-scale biogas project in the country began when the Trans Québec & Maritimes Pipeline started shipping biogas in 2003 from a landfill near Ste. Geneviève de Berthier in the Lanaudière region. According to StatsCan, the number of biogas ventures in Canada rose twofold between 2010 and 2020, and is expected to double again by 2025.

In its essence, a methane digester is an air-tight vessel that is filled with animal manure, food scraps, spoiled hay or other cheap, abundant organic waste. Since plenty of bacteria are already in the organic matter, you don't need to supplement them. The only element that's missing is time. It can take anywhere from five to 90 days for methane to "ripen," depending on the type of vessel, what you put in it and, of course, climate (digesters work faster in Vancouver than in Nunavut). In large-scale digesters, new material is continually moved through the vessel, whereas backyard setups need to be periodically cleaned out and recharged. The residue



KLETRVSHUTTERSTOCK.COM

The Canadian Biogas Association lists funding sources available to farmers who want to start making biogas.

left over when the process is done is typically used for fertilizer.

## Methane digesters generate revenue

These days, livestock farmers are being encouraged to install methane digesters as an additional source of income or to offset heating costs. Digesters reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and manure processed in a digester retains more nitrogen than manure stored in open-air lagoons. It's not brain surgery, but there is a learning curve, as well as labour inputs. The Canadian Biogas Association ([https://biogasassociation.ca/resources/funding\\_and\\_incentives](https://biogasassociation.ca/resources/funding_and_incentives)) lists funding sources available to farmers who want to start making biogas. Further information can be found at <https://farmingbiogas.ca/>

Digester technology works on a very small scale as well. Backyard units that run on household waste are common in developing areas of the world, and

are gaining traction in western Europe. The Chinese have been involved with methane digestion since about 1960, and in the 1970s, roughly 6 million home digesters were given to Chinese farmers. Home digesters are popular in India, Pakistan, Nepal and parts of Africa. In Germany, Europe's foremost biogas producer, the government gives incentives and subsidies to farmers and others to help them adopt digester technology.

Rural residents can buy home biogas kits online, as long as local regulations don't prohibit their use. If you're handy, instructions for making your own backyard methane digester are available.

Biogas technology is growing as a discipline at many universities. If you've eaten too much sauerkraut, you'll just have to let digestion run its course. Away from others, please.

*Paul Hetzler is an ISA Certified Arborist, and a former Cornell Extension educator.*



CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

Countries most impacted by hunger are the ones that have the least access to financing.

# World still far from hitting zero hunger target by 2030

## New UN report claims 757 million experienced hunger in 2023

*Canadian Foodgrains Bank*

As the world continues to grapple with the effects of conflict, climate and economic instability, new figures from the United Nations show up to 757 million people globally experienced hunger in 2023.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, released in July, shows that global hunger shot up during the COVID pandemic, and has remained at high levels for the past three years. One out of 11 people in the world continue to be impacted by hunger and, startlingly, more than 2 billion people have trouble affording nutritious food on a regular basis.

"It's heartbreaking to see the

number of people globally who are experiencing hunger remaining so high, despite the efforts that local partners around the world are investing into turning the tide on this crisis," said Andy Harrington, executive director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. "The world must step up to end global hunger for the 757 million people whose daily reality includes not knowing where their next meal will come from."

While the number of people going hungry increased in Africa last year, it's encouraging to see fewer people are facing hunger in South America. This is largely due to investments by South American governments into social safety nets, showing that policy

choices can be effective in reducing hunger.

But the degree of hunger faced by certain communities could trigger bigger problems in these countries and their neighbours. Hunger can lead to political instability and can increase conflict and migration across borders, as people take desperate measures to meet their family's needs.

This year's UN report highlighted a significant gap between global humanitarian needs and the financing needed to implement robust, efficient programming. The countries most impacted by hunger are the same countries that have the least access to financing.

Harrington says he wants to see governments, private sector companies

and non-government organizations working together in a more concerted effort with the support of Canadians to fill those gaps as we approach the 2030 deadline for zero hunger.

"If the world hopes to live sustainably in terms of our food system, we must wake up to the reality that funding for humanitarian work in the face of rising needs should be re-assessed," Harrington said.

"If we can ensure investments are both increased and prioritized to the places where people are being most impacted by hunger, there's still time for us to make a significant impact on decreasing these numbers – as we've been able to do before," he added.



# Getting local milk in the U.S. not as easy as you would think

**Bridget Craig**

*William H. Miner*

*Agricultural Research Institute*

In the keynote address at the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Centre summit this spring, a representative of the New England Food Systems Planners, Holly Fowler, discussed a proposal known as the New England Feeding New England plan and the role dairy can play in that plan.

The goal of the plan sounds straightforward – to feed 30 per cent of New England with food produced, harvested or caught in New England by the year 2030.

The execution will be altogether less straightforward, however.

Closing in on the halfway mark of the decade, New England is still largely reliant on the national and global food system for most of the foods people eat. The region can capitalize on value-added or boutique foods as a sort of agritourism commodity, but these foods aren't often a significant contribution to food security.

The plan involves an analysis of what is called the "unchanged diet" and the "resilience diet."

In essence, the resilience diet involves reduced consumption of sweeteners, fats and oil, and proteins to some degree, while capitalizing on foods that are more commonly grown in New England, which includes increased consumption of fruits, vegetables and some seafood.

## Dairy is locally produced

The foremost opportunity we were presented with was a refocused dedication to the dairy food system in New England, to capitalize on one of the more significant agricultural specialties of New England.

Within this plan, the regional self-reliance coefficient (RSR) describes the relationship between mean production and mean consumption of a food item.

Between 2010 and 2019 in New England, 9.3 billion pounds of milk were consumed, out of which 4.1 billion pounds were produced in the region. This means that the dairy food group has an RSR of 44.6 per cent, well over the 30 per cent required for this plan.

Fowler explained that our existing reliance on regional dairy production is a cornerstone of this plan. New Englanders who purchase milk and other dairy products for their own



TORWAISTUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Getting institutions, like schools and hospitals, to use local dairy products is a challenge.

home already contribute significantly to their regional economy by doing so – but the home isn't the only place we eat.

## Supplying institutions not easy

An increased use of regional dairy products in full- or partial-service restaurants could expand the current market in the area, but the plan recognizes the underdeveloped market of anchor institutions. Anchor institutions, often large public organizations like universities and hospitals, feed hundreds of people a day, usually in cafeteria settings. Fowler explained how, even when local anchor institutions display a desire to sell local milk, they struggle with finding the right supplier.

Dairy farms in New England tend to be smaller than their counterparts across the country, and if they are processing their milk on farm and selling directly to anchor institutions, they might have less inventory and variety

than a national supplier.

Grade schools make up a significant portion of the anchor institution list: about one-quarter of the total institutions in New England are public K-12 schools. Since 2010, schools have been required to provide low-fat milk in accordance with the federal *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Restricted access to whole milk in formative years may impact a child's perception of dairy products for the rest of their life, but this law also makes local procurement of milk for schools a great challenge. It is simply more realistic for a small or medium-sized farm processor to make whole milk.

The New England Feeding New England team, along with bipartisan support throughout the country are working to overturn the low-fat milk requirements. If local anchor institutions could capitalize on local processors for their milk and other dairy

foods, they could supply their patrons with a healthy and delicious product while supporting the regional economy.

While working towards the goal of feeding 30 per cent of New England by 2030 may seem like a daunting goal, this initiative could mean a renewed support of the dairy industry from the top down. If policy-makers prioritize getting local milk into anchor institutions, like schools and hospitals, the potential market for dairies in the area could expand significantly.

It will be interesting to see how the next six years of legislature, farming, and eating within New England look.

*The Miner Institute, based in Chazy, N.Y., conducts practical research on the dairy-crop interface, equine reproduction and management, and environmental conservation. Its research activities combine a global perspective with a regional application.*



# The Quebec Farmers' Association is only as strong as its **membership**

It's time to renew your membership. Reminder cards will not be mailed out. So we are asking that you clip out the form below. Fill it out and send your cheque in the amount indicated and mail it in.

**We are counting on your support.** Show your pride in being part of Quebec's English-speaking community. **It only cost \$68.99.**

As soon as we receive your cheque, we will send you:

- ▶ A **10% card** to use on all purchases at **L'Equipeur (Mark's Work Warehouse)** throughout the year
- ▶ A letter explaining the benefits of being a member
- ▶ Updates on QFA's online Farm Forums

## Membership Application

Last name ..... First name.....  
 Address ..... Phone.....  
 Fax ..... E-mail.....

### PRICE

Agricultural or forestry producer, rural resident or retired farmer:  
 1 year \$68.99 [\$60 + \$3 GST (5%) + \$5.99 TVQ (9.975%)]  
 2 years \$137.97 [\$120 + \$6 GST (5%) + \$11.97 TVQ (9.975%)]  
 My cheque is enclosed, payable to "Quebec Farmers' Association"  
GST No. 107 867 814 RT 001 QST No. 100 611 322 9 TQ 001

### 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

Signature.....  
 Date.....

### Quebec Farmers' Association

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

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

# The Quebec Farmers' Association would like to thank English-speaking farmers who have opted to renew their membership.

By supporting the QFA, you ensure that the *Advocate* arrives in your mailbox every month.

**Here are just a few of members who recently renewed.  
Your support makes a difference.**

**Stewart Abbey**, Ste. Anne de Bellevue

**Shelley McGarry**, Val des Monts

**Doreen Tryon**, Magog

**Sidney Jones**, Howick

**Phil Lavoie**, Vaudreuil-Dorion

**Doug Anderson**, Ste. Martine





# Controlling milk quality and bacteria on the farm

## Dr. Elouise Molgat

DVM, Veterinary Adviser, Lactanet and

## Dr. Phil Meadows

DVM, Technical Services Veterinarian, Boehringer Ingelheim

### What is milk quality?

It seems like a simple question, yet with no simple answer, and that is because the definition of milk quality will vary between segments of the industry.

For dairy producers and advisers, milk quality often relates to on-farm parameters like the somatic cell and bacteria counts, whereas for dairy plants it might relate to control points and processing aspects. At the end of the chain are dairy consumers, for whom milk quality corresponds to milk “qualities,” like sustainability, animal health and welfare, environmental friendliness and packaging.

Artificial intelligence technologies, such as ChatGPT, can internalize the key messages from the various milk quality resources found on the web to formulate a complete and impartial answer to this question. Interestingly enough, the three main elements of the AI answer are: 1) the importance of maintaining strict standards throughout the chain, 2) that raw milk quality on-farm is the primary factor determining the quality of milk products, and 3) the necessary implementation of effective milk quality control measures.

Consequently, milk quality starts at the dairy farm, with regular raw milk quality control measures and standards. The raw milk bacteria load, measured using an instrument called BactoScan™,

being one of them, and one for which the industry has recently taken initiative with more frequent testing.

Raw milk contamination by undesirable bacteria and other microorganisms can make milk unsuitable for processing and is often responsible for spoiled or deteriorated dairy products. A high bacteria count is an indicator that production practices and/or milk handling on farm lead to raw milk contamination. But where do bacteria enumerated by the BactoScan™ come from?

Milk contamination can occur at any stage of the milk production process: in the cow's udder, during milking, when milk is stored in the bulk tank, and so on. To make it easier to target where or when bacterial contamination happens, the source can be illustrated in relation to the udder as follows:

### Outside the udder:

Bacteria are naturally present on teat skin, but also in the farm's environment, associated with manure, soil, bedding, water, etc. Anything that comes in contact with teat ends can transfer bacteria into the milk during milking. With good hygiene and management practices, contamination from the cow's environment is limited, stable and generally within the standards.

### Inside the udder:

Milk produced by a healthy cow naturally contains beneficial bacteria, such as lactic acid bacteria, which contribute to the production of high-quality dairy products. On the other hand, a sick cow can shed undesirable bacteria in her milk, hence the importance of screening

for diseases in the herd, such as mastitis via the somatic cell count (SCC). Although certain bacteria can cause a significant spontaneous rise in the bacterial count of bulk tank milk, contamination from inside the udder is rarely the main cause of a high bacterial count.

### After milk is harvested from the udder:

Contaminated milking equipment, wash failures or problems, and improper milk cooling are the most common causes of bulk tank milk contamination leading to an increased bacterial count.

While bacteria contamination originates from one of the three sources listed above (outside, inside or after the udder), there is often a combination of different points of contamination. And to add to the complexity, raw milk will be contaminated by different types of bacteria and microorganisms that will grow under different conditions.

Most bacteria growth will be slowed down at refrigeration temperature, justifying good and efficient milk cooling after milking, and storage at required refrigerated temperature (maximum 4°C). However, psychrotrophic bacteria, commonly referred to as “cold-loving bacteria,” are capable of growing at refrigeration temperature. Meaning that from the moment these bacteria enter milk they will keep growing, and even more at marginal temperatures.

Although they will be removed by pasteurization, most of these bacteria will have produced heat stable enzymes that further degrade dairy products. Thermotolerant bacteria are another group that can be problematic, as they tolerate

very high temperatures and, therefore, survive pasteurization.

The bacteria profile of milk, also known as the microbiota, is unique to each dairy farm, and it reflects its environment, its application of good management practices, the herd health status and equipment maintenance practices.

Knowing what type and load of specific bacteria are present in milk can provide some insight on the source of contamination and the cause of a high bacteria count.

For example, thermotolerant bacteria rarely originate from inside the udder. The good bacteria naturally found in milk and most mastitis bacteria are not thermotolerant. So, a high load of thermotolerant bacteria would indicate either contamination before the udder, generally associated with poor pre-milking hygiene, or after the udder, generally associated with dirty equipment or worn rubber parts.

Complementary testing via bulk tank milk cultures and specific microbiological test can be done in most laboratories for this purpose. A Preliminary Incubation Count (PIC) and a Laboratory Pasteurization Count (LPC) can be performed to evaluate the load of psychrotrophic and thermotolerant bacteria, respectively. Other complementary tests that can be done directly on farm are presented in Table 1.

There is no standard protocol for reducing milk bacterial counts on all farms. You must explore potential sources and critical entry points of bacteria specific to your farm – outside the udder, inside the udder and after the udder.

**Table 1. Troubleshooting and tackling bacteria on-farm**

Source of bacterial contamination	Control points	Possible solutions	Contacts for support
Outside the udder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cow cleanliness scoring</li> <li>Teat cleanliness scoring (pre-milking)</li> <li>Teat-end scoring (post-milking)</li> <li>Visual evaluation of the in-line milk filters</li> <li>Water test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing sufficient clean and dry bedding</li> <li>Focusing on cow cleanliness</li> <li>Applying adequate udder preparation and milking hygiene</li> <li>Providing high-quality silages and forages</li> <li>Providing good quality drinking water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herd veterinarian</li> <li>Milk quality adviser</li> <li>Herd nutritionist</li> </ul>
Inside the udder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCC data</li> <li>Payments tests (bulk tank)</li> <li>DHI</li> <li>Clinical mastitis incidence</li> <li>Occurrence of other disease events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigating udder health</li> <li>Investigating general health, immune status, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herd veterinarian</li> <li>Lactanet dairy production adviser (DPA)</li> </ul>
After the udder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TTR alarms</li> <li>Assessment of equipment condition</li> <li>Wash and slug analysis</li> <li>Chemical volumes and concentrations</li> <li>Water test</li> <li>Dipper cleanliness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure efficient cooling following each milking</li> <li>Ensure proper milk storage temperature</li> <li>Ensure sufficient hot water capacity</li> <li>Manually wash the sample dipper after every use, store in a clean area, and sanitize before use</li> <li>Perform a wash analysis, that includes a wash slug analysis, via dealership</li> <li>Perform required equipment maintenance or replacement</li> <li>Have a satisfactory water analysis, treat as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment dealer</li> <li>Bulk tank cooling technician</li> <li>Milk quality adviser</li> </ul>

# USDA bearish on soybeans in August, neutral for corn, wheat

**Ramzy Yelda**

Senior Market Analyst

Producteurs de grains du Québec

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's August supply-and-demand report is bearish for soybeans, while rather neutral for corn and wheat.

U.S. acreage is up for soybeans, while down for corn and wheat. The yields of all three crops are up.

**For corn:** Acreage is down from 91.5 million acres (MA) to 90.7 MA. Yield hit a record-high 183.1 bu/acre, up from 181 bu/acre. Production is up by 47 million bushels (MBU), at 15,147 MBU. Despite the increase, the level

represents a 1.3-per-cent decline compared with last year. Yet, it is the third highest level of production. Exports are up by 75 MBU. The average farm price is down by \$0.10/bu at \$4.20/bu compared with \$4.65 in 2023/24.

**For soybeans:** Acreage is up from 86.1 MA to 87.1 MA. Yield is up from 52 bu/acre to 53.2 bu/acre. Production is up by 154 MBU, at 4,589 MBU, a 10.2-per-cent increase compared with last year. Exports are up by 25 MBU. Stocks are up by 125 MBU, at 560 MBU in 2025 compared with 345 MBU in 2024. The average farm price is down by \$0.30/bu, at \$10.80/bu compared with \$12.50/bu in 2023/24.

**For wheat:** Acreage is at 46.3 MA, down from 47.2 MA. Yield is up, at 52.2 bu/acre from 51.8 bu/acre. Production is down by 26 MBU, at 1,982 MBU. Again, despite the increase, the

level represents a 9.4-per-cent increase compared with last year. Stocks are down by 28 MBU, at 828 MBU in 2025 compared with 702 MBU in 2024.



## Celebrating 50 years in a big way

The Producteurs de grains du Québec will be marking the organization's 50th anniversary in 2025. The Jean de passion beer has been developed exclusively for the occasion. The beer is a traditional blond made entirely from Quebec-grown barley and hops, and brewed with the same passion that has collectively driven our grain producers for half a century.

As the label says: "Jean de passion is the proud representative of thousands of grain producers – passionate individuals who work with tireless energy, enthusiasm and pride to feed Quebec."

Jean de passion was developed in close partnership with Domaine Berthiaume in St. Jean sur Richelieu in the Montérégie region.

The inaugural tasting of Jean de passion beer will take place at the presentation of results of the Tournée des Grandes Cultures du Québec (TGCQ), on Aug. 26 at Domaine Saint-Simon. It will be served again on Sept. 8 at Entreprises Julien Cousineau, a farm located in Les Cèdres in the Montérégie region, as part of the Portes ouvertes sur les fermes du Québec event organized by the Union des producteurs agricoles.

Members of the public can also get their own Jean de passion beer at any time by buying directly from Domaine Berthiaume or any other legally authorized retailer.



The Producteurs de grains du Québec are launching their own beer to mark the organization's 50th anniversary. It is made of 100-per-cent Quebec-grown barley and hops.

## Tournée des Grandes Cultures du Québec

Once again this year, the PGQ is helping to organize the Tournée des Grandes Cultures du Québec (TGCQ). This year's edition is set to take place on Aug. 22 and will cover the regions of Montérégie, Centre-du-Québec, Rive-Nord (from Laurentides to Mauricie) and Estrie.

For more than 10 years, the TGCQ has provided the opportunity to collect field samples from Quebec's main corn- and soybean-producing regions. Each year, more than 400 samples are used to assess upcoming fall harvests.

Producers, advisers and other agricultural stakeholders are invited to register now to join the sampling teams.

All participants in the TGCQ will receive free admission to the presentation of results at Domaine Saint-Simon on Aug. 26. This year's event will be one of the most festive, with a highly engaging lineup of events. In the afternoon, participants will be able to check out info booths and demonstrations on various potential uses for drones. This will be followed by the traditional lectures and the official presentation of TGCQ results. Finally, attendees will cap off the day with an excellent food truck meal that they can enjoy with a Jean de passion beer in celebration of the PGQ's 50th anniversary.

For all details and to register for these two events, please visit the TGCQ website at [www.matourneeqc.com](http://www.matourneeqc.com).

## Portes ouvertes sur les fermes du Québec

Portes ouvertes sur les fermes du Québec, a day-long event organized by the Union des producteurs agricoles, is on Sunday, Sept. 8, at Entreprises Julien Cousineau farm, 1065 Chemin Saint-Férol in Les Cèdres in Montérégie, where the PGQ team will be manning a booth. Enjoy free popcorn, buy yourself a Jean de passion beer, enter the draw to win a gift basket featuring local products, receive some promotional items to take home with you, and take in the grained-themed programming.

## PGQ website gets makeover!

The Producteurs de grains du Québec are very proud to launch the new version of the organization's website. It now features a space geared toward the general public, where people can learn more about the work that grain producers do all across Quebec. Check it out now at [www.pgq.ca](http://www.pgq.ca)



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.





## Pomegranate Dressing



CYNTHIA GUNN, THE ADVOCATE

Pomegranate salad dressing is similar to a balsamic dressing, but with its own flavour. It can also be drizzled over roasted vegetables.

### INGREDIENTS

**3 tbsp Pomegranate molasses**  
**2 tbsp red wine vinegar**  
**1 tbsp Dijon mustard**  
**1 tbsp honey**  
**½ tsp salt**  
**½ cup olive oil**

### PREPARATION

Put molasses, vinegar, mustard, honey and salt in a food processor. Gradually add oil in a stream until emulsified.

Taste and add more salt if desired.

Refrigerate for up to a month.

I tried making this without going through the process of emulsifying. It really didn't want to mix, as you can see from the picture. It is worth the effort of getting out the food processor to emulsify the oil.

Source: Slightly adapted from Bon Appetit, March 2014.

## Everything old can be new again

So why not try this 'exotic' twist to add zip to salad dressing

**Cynthia Gunn**

QFA's Food Writer

It was a most unusual fad to have gripped 10-year-olds. Ten-year-old girls, to be more precise. And being that it happened during a time that pre-dated social media by decades, pomegranate-mania could have been confined to our school alone, even our class. However far and wide it reached, the pomegranate was a pretty good fidget toy.

Did we buy them ourselves with our own allowance, or money earned raking leaves?

I don't remember. It seems unlikely that our parents' would have indulged such an extravagance; pomegranates were downright exotic. But they would have had them at the Asian corner store just two blocks from the school where we would walk to buy other essentials for 10-year-olds, like Bubble Yum and shoestring licorice.

After peeling back the leathery skin, the rows of jewelled seeds were exposed: layer after layer, nestled under their membrane blankets, which kept each new layer fresh for the next day. You could make a single layer last hours, picking out one jewel at a time and popping it into your mouth when the teacher's back was turned.

Many decades later, pomegranate is back in my circle.

Of course, it never went away if you hailed from parts of the world that regularly include it in their cuisine. The Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity explains that the people of the Middle East commonly use pomegranate molasses to flavour everything from stews to fish and salads.

Historically, pomegranate molasses was produced in the mountainous regions of the Middle East, where the cool climate was unfavourable to citrus trees, but where pomegranate thrived. Pomegranates were also among the main symbols of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Pomegranate juice has an age-old reputation for boosting fertility and, well, amorous feelings. There are many different types, some being sweeter than others. It is the sour varieties used to make pomegranate molasses.

Pomegranate in its liquid form now sits on my pantry shelf instead of tucked in an old school desk. A little fed up with the same three salad dressings – ranch, Greek and the mighty Caesar – I finally made a point of sourcing pomegranate molasses to make a new dressing. It is similar to a balsamic dressing, but with its own flavour. People say it's especially good drizzled on roasted vegetables. A few more weeks and these should be available at the market.

For those of you who didn't watch your squash and even zucchini plants rot in the garden this soggy summer, you don't even have to wait. Then again, I bet it would be good on roasted potatoes. Those, thank goodness, not just survived, but thrived under this new climate of ours.

Pomegranate molasses could be your new kitchen friend, too.

*A former caterer, Cynthia Gunn now runs a window-restoration business. She restores pre-1950s wood windows, preserving their beauty and inherently durable old-growth wood, and creating superior energy-efficiency with high-end weather-stripping. She still cooks and bakes for her family in West Quebec.*



# The Classifieds

**YOUR COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE**  
REACHING ALL OF QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING FARMERS

Book your ad today!

**RATES:**

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

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

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

**BEST VALUE:** Members receive 3 classified ads FREE.

## FOR SALE

Horse hay, small bales first and second cut. Timothy/Brome mix. Also available: round wrapped bales, semi dry, and 3x3x7 dry square bales. Dunham area. Text: 514-952-8178.

Case 780D loader backhoe with extendahoe: This big brother to the CASE 580 is ready to work for you with only 6,000 hours. The two-yard loader and extendahoe are matched to the CASE turbocharged 124 hp six cylinder (4x4). Filters and fluids replaced. Interested? Call (819) 459-3411 or email [wakefieldkindling@gmail.com](mailto:wakefieldkindling@gmail.com) \$24,900.

Antique horse-drawn farm equipment, including a McCormick Deering hay sickle, a one-blade plow, two discs, a potato cultivator, rake and a couple other objects. In overall very good condition, just need to replace the wooden tongues on almost all that have them. Pictures can be sent. Please contact Janice at 514-944-9280.

## SERVICES

QCNA offers a one-order, one-bill service to advertisers. Call us for details on reaching English Quebec, and through classified ads French Quebec and every other Canadian province and territory. 819-893-6330.

## HELP WANTED

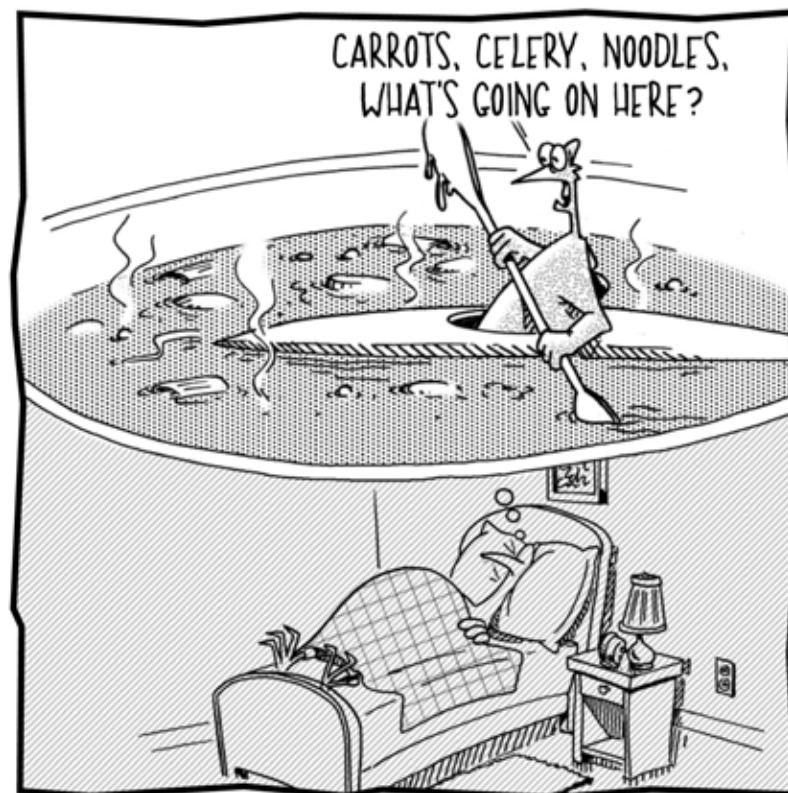
Want person to contact animal farmers about our new lower cost natural animal vitamins, [pure@bell.net](mailto:pure@bell.net)

## FOR QFA MEMBERS

**DO YOU NEED SOMETHING TRANSLATED?** Translate English to French or French to English. No job is too big or too small! QFA members automatically get a 10% discount with additional rebates available to return customers. Call us at 450-679-0540, ext.8536 or e-mail: [qfa\\_translation@upa.qc.ca](mailto:qfa_translation@upa.qc.ca)

**10% DISCOUNT ON MARK'S WORK WEARHOUSE SELECT ITEMS** – The discount card is sent with your welcome pack on receipt of your membership payment. Items eligible for discount include: Dakota Work shirts and pants, cover-alls, overalls and coats; All Carhartt merchandise; DH Merchandise – Jeans, shirts, knits and polar fleece wear and coats; All WR coats – winter underwear and all CSA approved footwear.

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



CHICKEN NIGHTMARES

**Armin G. Ruf**  
[www.haflingerman.com](http://www.haflingerman.com)

Remorques neuves & usagées  
**À VENDRE / FOR SALE**  
New and Used Trailers

Tél.: 819 876-7326  
Cell: 819 823-2705  
courriel : [arminruf@sympatico.ca](mailto:arminruf@sympatico.ca)  
120, rue Maple Street  
Stanstead, Québec J0B 3E0

# QFA OFFERS TRANSLATION SERVICES



ADVERTISEMENTS



REPORTS



PRESENTATIONS



WEBSITES & SOCIAL MEDIA



PRESS RELEASES & NEWSLETTERS

## FRENCH-ENGLISH AND ENGLISH-FRENCH TRANSLATION

- Anyone can use it!
- QFA members get 10% off automatically
- Free quotes
- 5% discount for UPA affiliates (e.g. producer groups, regional federations, local syndicates)

CONTACT [QFA\\_TRANSLATION@UPA.QC.CA](mailto:QFA_TRANSLATION@UPA.QC.CA)

# The QFA has a new website!

Quebec farming news

Events you might be interested in

Details about upcoming online Farm Forums

Information about the Quebec Farmers' Association

**IT'S ALL THERE.**

<https://quebecfarmers.org/>

**Check it out.**

Let us know what you would like to see there.

Contact us by email: [qfa@upa.qc.ca](mailto:qfa@upa.qc.ca)

Contact us by phone: 514-246-2981

