



**CAHRC-CCRHA**

Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council  
Conseil canadien pour les ressources humaines  
en agriculture

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## AgriWorkforce Newsfeed

### *Fil d'actualité sur la main-d'œuvre agricole*

Latest Headlines for CAHRC Partners / *Dernières nouvelles à l'intention des partenaires du CCRHA*

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*Le Fil d'actualité sur la main-d'œuvre agricole est un suivi hebdomadaire des nouvelles les plus récentes préparé à l'intention des partenaires du Conseil canadien pour les ressources humaines en agriculture (CCRHA). Il constitue un service d'information seulement. Son contenu n'exprime pas une position, une opinion ou un soutien officiels du CCRHA ou de ses membres. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont recueillis auprès de diverses sources et sont distribués à titre d'information seulement.*

**POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NEWS TRACKING**

## Industry Perceptions and Awareness

[Wheat sector says feds have too much influence over agriculture](#) Producers in Saskatchewan say the federal government should partner with commodity groups and foundations on agricultural research in Canada and not impose the priorities for that research. This view follows an announcement about the federal government contributing more than \$4 million to the Western Grains Research Foundation to support integrated crop agronomy research. The money will be allocated specifically to target agronomic issues to improve sector profitability, increase carbon sequestration, reduce nitrous oxide emissions, and enhance resilience to climate change and herbicide resistance. [Read more...](#)

[Ontario leads in on-farm direct-to-consumer sales](#) The number of farmers who sell directly to consumers is growing. According to the 2021 Census of Agriculture, one in seven Canadian farms sells directly to consumers. Nearly 25 per cent of those farms are in Ontario. Selling directly to consumers matters because it side-steps many of the middlemen in the value chain with the idea that farmers can make more of a profit. [Read more...](#)

[Lamontagne favorable à une réforme de l'assurance récolte](#) Le ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, André Lamontagne, se dit favorable à une réforme de l'assurance récolte dans le contexte des changements climatiques. De passage à Upton, en Montérégie, en début de semaine, Lamontagne a dit comprendre la nécessité de moderniser le programme d'assurance récolte. « Si on prend la peine de mettre en place des produits et des outils d'assurance pour soutenir nos producteurs agricoles, nous voulons que ces outils soient les plus adaptés à leur réalité, et cela est en train de changer », a-t-il indiqué en entrevue à La Voix de l' HNE. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Nos terres agricoles mal en point sont-elles récupérables ?](#) Les sols connaissent des problèmes de fertilité partout sur la planète. La dégradation des terres a réduit la productivité de la surface terrestre de 23 pour cent, a averti la Plateforme

intergouvernementale sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques. Au Québec, «on sait qu'on est en train de perdre beaucoup de matière organique», explique Marie-Élise Samson, professeure au Département de génie des sols et agroalimentaire de l'Université Laval. Le sol doit être recouvert de plantes autant que possible « dans le temps et dans l'espace » et idéalement de diversité pour rester en vie, disent les experts. D'où la popularité croissante des cultures de couverture. Ces plantes peuvent être plantées avant ou après les cultures principales, ou même simultanément entre les rangs – ce qu'on appelle « culture intercalaire ». [En savoir plus...](#)

[Inside Quebec's crumbling pork empire](#) Pork is big in Quebec. The sector contributes \$3.7 billion to Quebec's economy and employs 38,000 people. Quebec's pork giant, Olymel, processes 80 per cent of the hogs in the province. But the sector, and Olymel by extension, is in crisis. Global demand for pork is down and costs of production are up. Olymel said it has lost more than \$400 million over the past two years on pork. In response, it plans to reduce processing by 1.5 million pigs annually and has shut down or announced the closure of five slaughterhouses. These substantive production cuts will drastically transform the industry for both the processor and the pork farmer. [Read more...](#)

## Immigration and Foreign Workers

[More Anadain agricultural producers denounce 'mass' foreign worker application rejections](#) Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officers are rejecting foreign worker applicants over “family ties” within Canada, despite none of them actually having relatives in the country. This week, the Canadian Mushroom Growers' Association [echoed concerns expressed last week by KT Ranches in National Post](#), claiming chronic and often inexplicable rejections of temporary foreign worker applications by IRCC are creating grief for farmers. [Read more...](#)

[Jamaican migrant workers sent back from Ontario farm after exposing conditions](#) Jamaican migrant workers were sent back to the Caribbean from a farm in

Ontario earlier this month after holding a one-day strike in protest of their workplace conditions, prompting the Canadian government to review the circumstances of their early departure. The workers arrived in Canada in the spring and were initially scheduled to remain at a produce farm in southwestern Ontario until the fall but were sent home on Aug. 8., at least two months ahead of schedule. [Read more...](#)

[Temporary foreign workers sent home early, one stays in N.B. to speak out](#) Temporary foreign workers who lost weeks of work during a slow lobster season are speaking out against a Canadian system that bars them from finding other jobs when the employer who hired them has nothing for them to do. Lobster processing workers in New Brunswick are struggling this year with low catch and a weather-shortened season. When there's no lobster to process, local New Brunswick employees have employment insurance, savings, and other work. The hundreds of temporary foreign workers brought to work in fish plants have to just sit and wait, said worker Francisco Javier Montaña de Dios. [Read more...](#)

## People, Wages and Workplace Culture

[Imani farms producers named Ontario's outstanding young farmers](#) Stewart Skinner and Jessica Kelly of Imani Farms in Listowel are Ontario's 2023 Outstanding Young Farmers. Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer award recognizes farmers who exemplify a passion for industry, innovation, and community while deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from the operation. [Read more...](#)

[Saskatchewan livestock producers to receive drought support](#) Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced up to \$70 million to help livestock producers deal with challenges due to drought. Eligible producers will receive up to \$80 per head to maintain breeding stock for beef cattle, bison, horses, elk, deer, sheep, and goats. Funds will come from the federal-provincial AgriRecovery program and will be administered by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp. [Read more...](#)

[No timeline on when P.E.I. will be able to export seed potatoes: MacAulay](#) Canada's new agriculture minister says he can't lift a ministerial order banning seed potatoes from leaving Prince Edward Island just yet. Lawrence MacAulay spoke about the potato seed ban with CBC News Wednesday, as the federal Liberal cabinet retreat was taking place in Charlottetown. The minister, who represents the P.E.I. riding of Cardigan, said there's nothing he would like more than to lift the order, but there are steps he needs to take before he can do that. [Read more...](#)

## Automation and Technology

[Research to reduce avian influenza impact](#) After 1.4 million [birds were culled on Alberta farms](#) in 2022 due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus, a consortium of agriculture groups is funding research at the University of Calgary aimed at lessening the [disease's impact](#) during any future outbreaks. Results Driven Agriculture Research, Alberta Chicken Producers and Egg Farmers of Alberta awarded \$733,801 to avian virologist Dr. Faizal Careem to lead the research. The project is expected to help define effective, science-driven biosecurity procedures and [outbreak](#) control measures. [Read more...](#)

[Ontario port gets \\$2 million to upgrade grain drying system](#) The Port of Johnstown will receive \$2 million towards the purchase and installation of a new grain dryer with heat capture and air recycling features that will minimize fuel consumption by roughly 20 to 40 per cent. The reduction in fuel use will result in an estimated 344 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, annually. Funded through the Adoption Stream of the Agricultural Clean Technology Program, the project will expand local producers' ability to dry grain more efficiently, move grain to market sooner, and reduce the risk of grain spoilage experienced in previous seasons due to limited drying capacity, says Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. [Read more...](#)

[Canada outdoor farm show features robotics and AgTech](#) With AgTech being a special focus at Eastern Canada's largest outdoor farm show from Sept. 12-14, 2023, farmers

attending Canada's Outdoor Farm Show can expect to see lots of new products and innovative technology over three days. "Demand for food production continues to grow, and there are increased opportunities for agricultural products and equipment that can improve farm productivity," says Doug Wagner, director of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show and Discovery Farm Woodstock. [Read more...](#)

[Vérifier l'authenticité des aliments biologiques avec le projet TOFoo](#) Une équipe de l'Université Laval collabore à un projet international sur l'authenticité des produits biologiques en développant des modèles informatiques innovants. Christophe Cordella, professeur à la Faculté des sciences de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation de l'Université Laval et chef du Laboratoire de recherche et de transformation de l'information chimiosensorielle, explore la question de savoir comment savoir si ce que l'on achète est vraiment biologique grâce au TOFoo (True Organic Food ) projet. Menée par la société Eurofins, cette initiative utilise des modèles informatiques pour décomposer la composition des produits alimentaires et agricoles en fonction de leur composition biologique et de leurs caractéristiques chimiques. [En savoir plus...](#)

[New swine research centre to develop sector technology](#) Ontario pork producers and consumers will soon benefit from a new, \$20-million Ontario Swine Research Centre. The state-of-the-art centre will enhance the province's capacity for research, innovation, and the development of new technology in the swine sector. Representatives of the University of Guelph, the Ontario government, the Government of Canada, and Ontario Pork celebrated the opening of the centre Aug. 24 in Elora, Ont. [Read more...](#)

## Skill Development

[Province provides a boost for meat processing sector](#) The recent announcement by the Ontario government of an investment into the province's meat processing sector is welcome news for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The funding, provided by the governments of Ontario and Canada under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural

Partnership, will provide eligible meat processing businesses with up to \$150,000 each for meat handling and processing equipment, technologies, and practices that improve efficiency, productivity, and food safety. [Read more...](#)

**[Federal Government announces new living lab to develop BMPs](#)** While visiting the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation, Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced the creation of a new living lab in Prince Edward Island. The announcement was made alongside Heath MacDonald, Member of Parliament for Malpeque, and Bobby Morrissey, Member of Parliament for Egmont. Led by the East Prince Agri-Environment Association, this living lab project represents an investment of up to \$4.5 million over five years from the federal government under the Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs program. This living lab aims to accelerate the sector’s response to climate change by bringing together producers and scientists, among others, to co-develop, test, and evaluate on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs) on multiple sites across the province. Information in French can be [found here](#). [Read more...](#)

## EVENTS

- [EXPO-CHAMPS](#), AUGUST 29-31
- [NORTH AMERICAN EUROPEAN UNION AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE](#), September 12-14
- [ATLANTIC OPEN FARM DAY](#), SEPTEMBER 17
- [INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRECISION DAIRY FARMING](#), SEPTEMBER 18-19
- [PULSE AND SPECIAL CROPS CONVENTION](#), SEPTEMBER 26-28
- [GALA AGRICULTRICES DU QUEBEC](#), OCTOBER 14
- [CANADIAN WESTERN AGRIBITION](#), NOVEMBER 20-25
- [GROWCANADA CONFERENCE](#), NOVEMBER 28-30

- [NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ANNUAL CONVENTION](#), NOVEMBER 23-25
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