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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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The **AgriWorkforce Newsfeed** is a weekly news update for partners of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC). It is provided as an information service only. Inclusion of any information does not represent official positions, opinions or support by CAHRC or its membership. The information is collected from a variety of sources and circulated as information only.

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

[Dairy Farmers of Canada wants review of New Zealand's dairy policy following CPTPP dispute panel decision](#) Dairy Farmers of Canada president David Wiens says his organization is disappointed with [the ruling handed down by a dispute settlement panel](#) on Sept. 5 regarding New Zealand's challenge of Canada's dairy import rules. The dispute panel sided with New Zealand on two key issues in the decision, agreeing that Canada's pooling system for allocating dairy tariff rate quotas is not consistent with its obligations in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and that Canada was giving undue priority to domestic processors. [Read more...](#)

[Les producteurs de pommes veulent adapter les vergers aux changements climatiques](#) Les Producteurs de pommes du Québec ont demandé 30 millions de dollars sur six ans au ministre de l'Agriculture de la province pour moderniser les vergers de la province. «Ce qu'on demande, c'est un programme qui nous aide à replanter de nouvelles variétés, parce que le consommateur sait ce qu'il veut», a déclaré le président Éric Rochon en conférence de presse à Saint-Joseph-du-Lac dimanche matin. Selon la Table de l'industrie pomicole, les Québécois recherchent des variétés de pommes plus fermes et plus sucrées, peu cultivées dans la province. [En savoir plus...](#)

[La fracture agricole est plus grande en Europe, dit le ministre Lamontagne](#) Pour la première fois depuis près de 40 ans, le ministre de l'Agriculture du Québec a rencontré son homologue français en personne jeudi après-midi (7 septembre) pour discuter de leurs défis communs et échanger des idées. La réunion faisait partie d'une mission commerciale d'une semaine qui a débuté mercredi 6 septembre et s'est terminée aux Pays-Bas lundi 11 septembre. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Pesticides: oui à une science indépendante et transparente](#) À la suite d'une lettre ouverte du président des Producteurs de grains du Québec (QGP), qui demande que les politiques publiques s'appuient sur la science pour une gestion plus durable des pesticides, Louis Robert, agronome, et Thibault Rehn, coordonnateur de Vigilance OGM, répondent en affirmant que la préoccupation du chef du QGP est une « absurdité éthique », en s'appuyant sur l'histoire de l'élaboration des politiques du gouvernement provincial pour étayer leur argument contre la prétention de QGP. [En savoir plus...](#)

Immigration and Foreign Workers

[Dramatic rise in migrant worker approvals raises concerns about impacts on Canada's housing supply](#)

Amid growing debate about the impact of international students on Canada's housing crunch, questions are also being raised about dramatic increases in temporary foreign workers (TFW) being approved by Ottawa – and how this could be exacerbating tensions within Canada's stretched housing market. Last year, Canada approved more than 196,000 temporary foreign worker positions to employers who were authorized under the federal TFW program, according to detailed quarterly [figures](#) published by the federal government. This represents a 78 per cent increase over the number of migrant worker positions approved in 2021. [Read more...](#)

[Migrant workers in Canada 'vulnerable' to modern-day slavery: UN expert](#) Canada's temporary foreign worker programs are a "breeding ground" for modern forms of slavery, a United Nations expert has warned, about a year after [Jamaican farmworkers](#) in the province of Ontario denounced their mistreatment. The UN's special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Tomoya Obokata, [said](#) on Wednesday (Sept. 6) that he was "deeply disturbed by the accounts of exploitation and abuse shared" with him by migrant workers during a two-week fact-finding mission to Canada. [Read more...](#)

[Employer-provider migrant farmworker housing often fails to meet regulations and can be unsanitary and unsafe](#) Migrant farmworkers have reported infestations of vermin, inadequate plumbing, and cramped quarters that have facilitated the spread of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19. Industry groups and advocates alike say farms providing this kind of substandard housing have largely escaped consequences because of inadequate oversight of the agricultural stream of the temporary foreign workers in B.C., an area of shared federal and provincial responsibility. Foreign governments and charities say they have had to effectively fill in the gaps left by Canadian institutions either unable or unwilling to enforce their own laws. [Read more...](#)

[Du bénévolat terre-à-terre pour aider à vider les champs](#) Le glanage, l'ancienne méthode de collecte des restes de récoltes après la récolte commerciale des champs, connaît une seconde vie moderne. Des milliers de bénévoles sillonnent les campagnes québécoises pour lutter contre la faim, le gaspillage et, dans une certaine mesure, la pénurie de main-d'œuvre agricole. Entre deux rangées d'aubergines mûres, Éloïse Chamberland s'affaire à récolter d'innombrables légumes dans un domaine de la Mauricie en compagnie d'une douzaine d'autres cueilleurs. Ils participent à une séance de glanage organisée par Maski Récolte, un groupe communautaire, et vident gratuitement le champ d'un agriculteur local. [En savoir plus...](#)

People, Wages and Workplace Culture

[L'entente dans 27 marchés Metro de Toronto pourrait servir ailleurs](#) Les syndiqués des magasins Metro de Toronto retournent au travail après un mois de grève. Ils ont finalement voté en faveur d'un accord de principe prévoyant que tous les travailleurs recevront une augmentation de salaire immédiate de 1,50 \$ l'heure. Les travailleurs de base à temps plein et à temps partiel bénéficieront également d'une augmentation de salaire horaire de 2 \$ d'ici quelques mois. Le syndicat Unifor a déclaré qu'il envisageait d'essayer de reproduire ces gains dans 13 contrats de travail avec des épiciers d'autres régions du pays qui devraient expirer avant la fin de l'année prochaine. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Cost of borrowed money continues to rise on farms](#) After the hustle of the 2023 harvest season settles, a lot of Ontario farmers will examine their businesses' financial numbers and be surprised at the impact of rising interest rates. Farmers need to be mindful of how increased [interest rates](#) will affect cash flow. For farmers with variable-rate loans or who want to secure new financing for equipment, land, inputs, or expansions, this means more available cash will go toward interest expenses. [Read more...](#)

[Nominations open for 2023 Wilson Loree award](#) Farm Management Canada has opened nominations for an award that was established over 20 years ago to honour those who have made an extraordinary contribution to developing and promoting new and positive change in agricultural business management practices and expertise in Canada. [Read more...](#)

[Boost your grain marketing plan with a cash advance from CCGA](#) An Advance Payments Program cash advance from Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) gives you the cash flow you need during harvest. With a cash advance from CCGA, you can borrow up to \$1 million on over 50 conventional and organic commodities, including all major field crops, honey, and large and small livestock. [Read more...](#)

Automation and Technology

[Saskatchewan Pulse Growers commits \\$1.4 million to root rot resistance and stress tolerance research](#) Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG) has announced funding for two pulse-related genomic research projects, co-funded through Genome Canada's Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Systems initiative. SPG's \$1.4 million will contribute to the total pulse research and development investment of over \$12.8 million for the two four-year projects that aim to develop information and tools for breeding better

combinations of wheat and lentil varieties and to enhance root rot resistance and drought tolerance in peas. [Read more...](#)

[COFS demonstrations showcase equipment in action](#) A full slate of field and equipment demonstrations, including the return of a forage demo, will take place at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. [Demonstrations at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show](#) in Woodstock, Ont. provide the ideal opportunity for farmers to see new equipment, discuss it with their peers, and get their hands into the dirt or the crops. The show will feature [demonstrations for most types of row crops](#) produced in southern Ontario. [Read more...](#)

[Canada invests in world-leading climate-smart agriculture and food systems through genomics](#) The Honourable Greg Fergus, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and to the President of the Treasury Board, announced nine new Interdisciplinary Challenge Teams (ICTs) made up of researchers from across disciplines, whose projects will translate genomics research and innovation into sustainable solutions supporting Canadian producers and a resilient national food system and supply chains. The ICTs were announced on Sept. 6 at la Centrale Agricole in Montreal, the largest urban agriculture cooperative in Quebec, featuring TriCycle, a local start-up using genomics to reduce urban food waste. Canadian genomics research is generating new solutions to global challenges. [Read more...](#)

[OFCAF applications still on hold](#) Results Driven Agriculture Research, one of three Alberta administrators of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund, put new applications on hold May 10 while it worked to get through applications submitted earlier in the year. An early news release pegged Aug. 15 as a possible reopening date. It now appears the restart may happen sometime this month. [Read more...](#)

[McGill University researchers on the trail of a 'super potato'](#) A team from McGill University is [looking into a possible "super potato"](#) after analyzing the genetic code of some 300 varieties of potatoes and their wild cousins. The pangenome the researchers have assembled combines the genetic characteristics of some 60 potato species. This analysis could one day lead to cultivating a "super potato" that is tougher and more nutritious than ever. [Read more...](#)

Skill Development

[Training fills the gaps between agriculture and technology](#) Through an eight-week, 130-hour course, Palette Skills, a federally funded non-profit that has overseen an automation and digital agriculture

specialist program for the past two years, hopes to train people to fill producers' employment needs. Depending on the program for which they're best suited, participants are trained by industry experts with hands-on, project-based learning in how [emerging technologies apply to agriculture](#). Core areas include GIS (geographic information systems), IoT (Internet of Things), drones, artificial intelligence, robotics, and big data. [Read more...](#)

[Learning about grain farming with STEM](#) Good in Every Grain, the public outreach campaign from [Grain Farmers of Ontario](#), has launched an award-winning science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program for Ontario Grade 3 classrooms. Good Every Grain's Ontario Farming STEMterprise is a unique teaching resource based on Ontario grain farming in coordination with the Ontario elementary school curriculum. Similarly, the [Farming STEMterprise program](#) created by the National Farmers Union United Kingdom brings agriculture into the classroom in a fun and exciting way for students and teachers alike. [Read more...](#)

[Government of Canada invests in agriculture and food sector, rural skilled jobs](#) The Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, announced an investment of \$5 million for [EcoPoly Properties Inc.](#) to scale its Canadian-made, recyclable, and biodegradable plastic products for the agricultural and food services sector and create 54 rural skilled jobs. Information [in French here](#). [Read more...](#)

[Taking the long-term approach to recruitment](#) Top Tech is a brand initiative at agricultural machinery company [Case IH](#) that aims to help its dealer network identify potential hires and get them the mechanical training they need to become qualified service technicians. Top Tech works with technical training schools in Canada and the United States, providing them with training materials and other assistance. Those will help familiarize students with proprietary Case IH technologies and it can help get junior technicians up to speed quickly. [Read more...](#)

[Growing agriculture awareness in New Brunswick schools](#) Delivered by the Agriculture Alliance of New Brunswick, Agriculture in the Classroom New Brunswick (AITC-NB) is a non-profit, charitable organization committed to providing accurate, balanced, and current curriculum-linked agri-food resources, programs, and initiatives that are based in science. Part of AITC-Canada, the national voice for agriculture education with a vision for agriculture in every classroom and inspiring every student, AITC-NB acts to engage New Brunswick students and educators to enhance their knowledge of agriculture and food. [Read more...](#)

EVENTS

- [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
- [NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ANNUAL CONVENTION](#), NOVEMBER 23-25
- [GROWCANADA CONFERENCE](#), NOVEMBER 28-30

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GET INVOLVED: Our National Workforce Strategic Plan aims to address some of the most pressing labour issues in Canadian agriculture and agri-food. You can support this plan and our related work by [visiting our website](#).

SUPPORT FOR YOU: CAHRC's Growing Opportunities project is open for the fall! Recruit through Canada's largest online campus recruiting platform and enjoy up to a \$7,500 subsidy for each student. Learn more and start your [application process here](#).

WAGE INCENTIVES: Are you an agricultural employer looking to train new truck drivers? Funding for driver training and wage incentives are available at Trucking HR Canada's Career Expressway. Through this initiative, you can receive up to \$10,000. [More here](#).

