



**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*  
For Distribution to Your Association Membership / *À distribuer aux membres de votre association*

**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.**

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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.*

## CAHRC'S CORNER

**More support for you:** Participate in our **AgriWorkplace Skills Training Program**. The initiative includes a wage subsidy of up to \$5,000 to train and build up the skills of new and old

employees. Did we mention there's also childcare support for participants? Register [here](#).

**AgriWorkforce Matters:** We're delighted to have released the **second edition of our bimonthly magazine**, if you haven't already, check it out in [English](#) or [French](#).

**In Case You Missed It:** We've got the latest labour market information statistics. If you haven't already, check out our **executive summary on key labour supply and demand data** across the agriculture sector. These important insights will help us get closer to addressing our workforce challenges. Find our [report here](#).

**AgriMentor:** A new agricultural mentoring program is currently **recruiting female mentors and mentees** across Canada. AgriMentor targets a diverse audience of women active in the agricultural sector, [learn more here](#).

**Stay connected:** Follow CAHRC on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) to keep up with our work and relevant stakeholders as we have exciting news to share in January 2024.

**Get involved:** Our **National Workforce Strategic Plan** aims to address some of Canadian agriculture's most pressing labour issues. You can support the plan and our related work by [visiting our website](#). We also have a supporter badge you can showcase – [contact us](#) if you're interested.

## POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NEWS TRACKING

### Industry Perceptions and Awareness

[Alberta residents rally against biodigester approval](#). The fight by High River, Alta., and area residents against a proposed \$70-million biodigester will continue despite the Alberta

government's approval of the project. Rimrock Renewables Ltd. plans to construct a 102-acre facility to process cattle manure from the nearby Rimrock Feeders feedlot to produce renewable natural gas for about 6,000 homes. Besides the potential impact on local people, such as foul odours, dust, and traffic from the project, they are warning other rural Albertans about the precedent set by the development's approval. [Read more...](#)

[Ag group concerned on global direction.](#) Agricultural trade liberalization is being derailed by protectionist forces at a time when progress is needed more than ever, the new executive director of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance says. CAFTA and other organizations that support free trade of ag commodities are especially concerned about national policies around climate change and sustainability, which are becoming barriers to trade. [Read more...](#)

[Grocery code of conduct will stabilize producer incomes, say fruit and vegetable growers.](#) Canada's proposed grocery code of conduct will usher in a new era of fairness and transparency, and stabilize grower incomes, said the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC) in a statement on December 14. "We are ensuring a fair and equitable environment for our growers, which is fundamental for the prosperity of the entire supply chain," said the FVGC. [Read more...](#)

## Immigration and Foreign Workers

[Foreign worker lawsuit seeks \\$500 million.](#) A lawsuit has been filed seeking \$500 million in compensation for temporary foreign workers brought to Canadian farms since 1966. The lawsuit argues that the terms of employment amount to slavery, and cites the government of 1952 saying exactly that about limiting the worker's permit to a single employer. [Read more...](#)

[97 statements of offence issued to 11 Quebec companies regarding temporary foreign workers.](#) Reports of abuse made by temporary foreign workers have led the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail (CNESST) to issue 97 statements of offence to 11 companies in 2023. CNESST President and CEO Manuelle Oudar confirmed the

information at a press conference in Quebec City with Labour Minister Jean Boulet. [Read more...](#)

## People, Wages and Workplace Culture

[Over 50 B.C. farms infected with avian influenza in the last 55 days.](#) While the number of new cases each week has started to drop with the end of the fall migration, the tally of poultry farms in B.C. infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza this fall has surpassed the 50 mark as of mid-December. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the virus on 47 commercial farms and five small-flock farms since the province's first case of the fall on October 20. [Read more...](#)

[Saskatchewan beekeepers to receive \\$1 million in AgriRecovery support.](#) Saskatchewan is joining other provinces in offering AgriRecovery support to beekeepers who suffered high colony losses in 2022. Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay and his Saskatchewan counterpart, David Marit, announced the launch of a \$1-million AgriRecovery program for beekeepers in the province on December 12. Saskatchewan joins Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario in providing disaster relief to beekeepers who lost bees and income last year. [Read more...](#)

[La production de sirop d'érable a baissé de 40 % en 2023 au Bas-Saint-Laurent.](#) Le temps des sucres s'est soldé par une importante baisse de production en 2023 pour les acériculteurs du Bas-Saint-Laurent. Une diminution de 40 % a été enregistrée par rapport à l'an dernier, selon le président des Producteurs et productrices acéricoles du Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie. Le départ hâtif des coulées d'eau d'érable au début du mois de mars 2023 a surpris certains acériculteurs, qui n'étaient pas prêts pour la récolte. La production a ensuite stagné en raison des conditions météorologiques défavorables. [En savoir plus...](#)

[La santé mentale devient un sujet de préoccupation pour les fermiers canadiens.](#) Les fermiers canadiens souffrent de plus en plus du stress à cause des aléas climatiques, des maladies céréalières et même des guerres lointaines. Malheureusement, plusieurs doivent endurer

l'anxiété en silence à raison des stigmates accompagnant encore aujourd'hui les maladies mentales, déplorent des experts. Selon une étude d'Andria Jones, une professeure du collège de médecine vétérinaire de l'Université de Guelph, en Ontario, un fermier sur quatre reconnaît avoir eu des pensées suicidaires au cours des 12 derniers mois. [En savoir plus...](#)

## Automation and Technology

[Smart farm competition encourages farmers to adopt technology.](#) The Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN) is seeking applications for a competition geared toward creating or developing new smart-farm networks. Funding under this initiative will support collaborative on-farm tech innovations in hopes of encouraging farmers to adopt emergent agricultural technology. This competition will serve as an opportunity to create and develop smart-farm workers. [Read more...](#)

## Skill Development

[Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Agricultural Scholarship.](#) These scholarships were created by Dr. Karl C. Ivarson through a bequest to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation, now the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education (CFFAE). In establishing this award, Dr. Ivarson wished to support students with a connection to his home province of Alberta in their pursuit of studies in agricultural sciences. The Ivarson Agricultural Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, areas of study, community involvement, career interests, and letters of recommendation. [Read more...](#)

[B.C. invests \\$2M to fuel growth in food and beverage manufacturing.](#) The government of B.C. is contributing as much as \$2.07 million through the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, supporting three capital projects and one planning project to help food and beverage manufacturers grow by upgrading equipment and facilities, while creating more than 125 new jobs. Upgrades will

accommodate scaling up and automation of production to meet increasing demand. [Read more...](#)

## EVENTS

- [2024 Ontario Agricultural Conference](#), January 3-5
- [Western Canadian Crop Production Show](#), January 9-11
- [Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick Annual General Meeting](#), January 18
- [BC Agri-Food Industry Gala](#), January 24
- [14th Annual Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference](#), January 25-26
- [The Future of Food Conference 2024](#), February 13
- [Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting](#), February 27-28
- [Ag Expo](#), February 27-29

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