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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*

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.

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

AgriWorkforce Matters Issue #3: In celebration of Canada's Agriculture Day 2024 yesterday, we released the **third edition of our bimonthly magazine**. Read it here in [English](#) or [français](#).

Have You Joined CAHRC Connect Yet?: CAHRC Connect offers access to resources, exclusive webinars, networking opportunities with industry professionals, direct access to experts, and a platform for collaboration and innovation in agriculture. **Join our free platform [here](#).**

Upgrade Your Skills: Addressing our labour shortage will require understanding how we can attract and retain workers who have not been historically part of the sector, but who bring a valuable set of skills to agriculture. That's why we're introducing our **IDEA course**, which provides knowledge and insight on inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility to ensure businesses in agriculture can not only attract new employees of diverse backgrounds, but thrive with them. Learn more and register your interest [here](#).

Data to Meet Your Needs: We've got the latest labour market information statistics. If you missed it, 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 the [report here](#), and **if you'd like access to specific data sets or a presentation on region or commodity-based data** – we do that too! Please get in touch by sending an e-mail to outreach@cahrc-ccrha.ca.

Webinars to Exchange Agricultural Knowledge: We're providing the National Indigenous Agriculture and Foods Sharing Circles program again. This initiative offers a platform to share wisdom on Indigenous agriculture, harvesting, food processing, packaging, and partnerships. **This series will continue biweekly throughout February and March, 2024** with additional dates to be announced. Register [here](#) to secure your spot.

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POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NEWS TRACKING

Industry Perceptions and Awareness

[Federal government contributing \\$11 million to new pulse crop research cluster.](#) The federal government will be contributing up to \$11,017,979 to Pulse Canada for a new pulse crop research cluster under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the five-year framework that started in 2023. Winnipeg South Centre MP Ben Carr announced the federal commitment at the University of Manitoba on Friday afternoon. The federal government contributed \$11.1 million to the previous pulse research cluster, which ran from 2018 to 2023 under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Cluster program. [Read more...](#)

[Delisle farmer recognized for promoting public trust in agriculture.](#) Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan has named the recipient of the 2023 Champion Award. Shawn Colborn farms with his cousins on their fifth-generation farm near Delisle that includes 12,000 acres of grainland, a 700-head Red Angus/Charolais cow-calf enterprise and a 40,000 hen layer poultry operation. Each year, the award recognizes a recipient who has engaged consumers about agriculture, and Colborn has worked to build public trust in farming and food in the province and beyond. [Read more...](#)

People, Wages and Workplace Culture

[Canadian farmer sentiment plummets as optimism for the coming year sours.](#) In the January 2024 edition of the RealAgristudies Canadian Farmer Sentiment Index, the mood among Canada's farmers and ranchers has notably darkened, with an increased level of concern about their financial health and the overall state of the Canadian agricultural economy. According to the index, there's a significant downturn in optimism, with farmers expressing a more negative outlook on both their immediate financial situations and the broader Canadian ag economy. [Read more...](#)

[La colère gronde chez les agriculteurs québécois.](#) L'atmosphère était à couper au couteau au Centre des congrès de Québec, le 6 décembre dernier, lors de la période de questions du congrès annuel de l'Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA). Après une vingtaine de minutes d'allocution, le ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec, André Lamontagne, s'est fait couper la parole par le président de l'UPA, Martin Caron. Ce dernier était pressé de donner le micro aux nombreux agriculteurs venus présenter leurs doléances au ministre. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Des agriculteurs néo-brunswickois peinent à s'élever au-dessus du seuil de la pauvreté.](#) En Europe et au Québec, des agriculteurs sont descendus dans la rue récemment pour protester contre leurs dures conditions de travail. Selon un agriculteur de Bouctouche, la situation n'est guère plus enviable au Nouveau-Brunswick. Pénurie de main-d'œuvre, inflation, coûts de production qui continuent de grimper, changements climatiques : dans la province, de nombreux agriculteurs peinent à s'élever au-dessus du seuil de la pauvreté.. [En savoir plus...](#)

Immigration and Foreign Workers

[As migrant workers return, calls for improved farm, living conditions.](#) With the annual return of thousands of migrant workers to Essex County greenhouses underway, the union advocating for their rights is pressing for what it sees as critically needed workplace reforms. A new report from the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Canada's largest agricultural union, flags ongoing health and safety concerns that leave migrant workers vulnerable to abuse and

exploitation. The report highlighted the dangers that migrant agricultural workers can face while in Canada, including sub-standard living conditions, chemical hazards, heat stress and more. [Read more...](#)

Automation and Technology

[AI in food processing market projected to reach US\\$22.3B by 2032.](#) According to Market.us, in 2023, the gross revenue of the 'artificial intelligence (AI) in food processing' market is projected to reach US\$11.1 billion. A thorough analysis of the AI in food processing industry forecasts that the investment could experience an annual growth rate of 8.3 per cent from 2023 to 2032. The analytical report delves into the fundamental determinants contributing to market growth, projecting an anticipated valuation of US\$22.3 billion by 2032. According to the report, the integration of AI in food processing represents a transformative shift towards efficiency, safety and sustainability in the food industry. [Read more...](#)

['Animal-free' milk gets green light in Canada.](#) Israeli startup Remilk, which uses the tagline "Real Dairy. No Milk," has received a 'No Objection Letter' from Health Canada. This will open the door for the use of Remilk's protein in a variety of products with the same taste and texture as milk, ice cream, yogurt, cream cheese and more. According to Remilk, its products are developed using copies of the gene responsible for the production of milk protein in cows. The gene is inserted into yeast and fermented. It multiplies rapidly and produces real milk proteins, identical to those that cows produce. [Read more...](#)

Skill Development

[Un programme vient donner un coup de pouce aux agriculteurs pour se mettre au vert.](#) Un programme pilote viendra aider les agriculteurs de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard dans leur transition vers des pratiques moins émettrices de gaz à effet de serre (GES), a annoncé le gouvernement provincial, mercredi. Cet incitatif financier permettra aux exploitants de compenser leurs coûts

s'ils décident de changer leur matériel au profit de technologies plus propres et d'optimiser, tant sur le plan de l'utilisation que du coût, leur consommation énergétique. [En savoir plus...](#)

[The Nuffield Canada Scholarship applications opening soon.](#) 2025 Nuffield Canada Agriculture Scholarship applications will be open from April 1 through June 30. The scholarship is a prestigious rural leadership program available to anyone mid-career who is involved in agriculture in any capacity of primary production, industry or governance. This \$15,000 scholarship provides individuals with a unique opportunity to access the world's most extensive network in food and farming, achieve personal development through travel and study, and deliver long-term benefits to Canadian farmers and growers, and to the industry as a whole. [Read more...](#)

[4-H youth leadership conference presents \\$12,000 in scholarships.](#) Over 30 aspiring young leaders in agriculture competed for scholarships at the annual Prairieland Youth Leadership Conference, held in Saskatoon, Sask., Feb. 3 and 4. The participants had the chance to develop their leadership skills through interactive activities, competitions, and workshops. The event closed on Sunday with an awards banquet, where parents joined for dinner and a scholarship presentation. [Read more...](#)

EVENTS

- [Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario Conference](#), February 21-22
- [Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention](#), February 21-22
- [International Potato Technology Expo](#), February 22-23
- [Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting](#), February 27-28
- [Ag Expo](#), February 27-29

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For more information about this Partner Update or to find out more about CAHRC Partnership, please contact Rebecca Balsdon | rbalsdon@cahrc-ccrha.ca

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Our mailing address is:

CAHRC / CCRHA
1410 Blair Place, Suite 404
Ottawa, On K1J 9B9
Canada

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