

AGRIWORKFORCE NEWSFEED

Latest Headlines for CAHRC Partners



The AgriWorkforce Newsfeed is a bi-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 bi-mensuel 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

Celebrating Canada's Ag Day 2026: Yesterday marked Agriculture Day in Canada and we're still celebrating! A portion of the CAHRC team had the opportunity to be at FCC's Future of Food Conference. From workforce development to research and industry collaboration, agriculture moves forward because of the people behind it. Every day, we recognize the farmers, agri-businesses, educators, researchers and professionals who strengthen Canada's agriculture sector.

Célébration de la Jour de l'agriculture canadienne 2026 : Hier, c'était le Jour de l'agriculture canadienne, et nous continuons de la célébrer! Une partie de l'équipe du CCRHA a eu l'occasion

d'assister à la conférence « Nourrir l'avenir » organisée par FAC. Du développement de la main-d'œuvre à la recherche et à la collaboration industrielle, l'agriculture progresse grâce aux personnes qui la soutiennent. Chaque jour, nous rendons hommage aux agriculteurs, aux entreprises agricoles, aux éducateurs, aux chercheurs et aux professionnels qui renforcent le secteur agricole canadien.

The Future Herd Building the Workforce of 2050: The agri-food sector can't automate its way into the future without people. CAHRC's Executive Director, Jen Wright, joins Jesse Hirsh to explore the skills, training models, and collaboration needed to prepare Canada's agri-food workforce for 2050. [Listen here.](#)

BC Agri HR Toolkit is Now Live: The BC Agriculture HR Toolkit is now live, a free online resource for employers across British Columbia. BC employers, start building your HR foundation today. [Access the Toolkit here.](#) Want to discover how to maximize your Toolkit membership? Attend one of our walkthroughs - [next session, February 19th.](#)

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POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NEWS TRACKING

Industry Perceptions and Awareness

- [Research cuts at Agriculture Canada unlikely to be reversed.](#) The huge cuts to agricultural research at Agriculture Canada are being widely panned by farm organizations across the country. Unfortunately, there seems to be little hope of the government reversing its decision. [Read more...](#)
- [American farm groups form coalition, call for renewal of CUSMA.](#) Forty U.S. farm and agricultural groups have launched the Agricultural Coalition for the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, underscoring the accord's vital role as an economic engine for the U.S. farm economy and calling for its renewal with targeted improvements. [Read more...](#)

- [L'agriculture nord-ontarienne veut prendre de l'expansion malgré les incertitudes.](#)
LProducteurs, chercheurs, étudiants et acteurs du milieu agricole se réunissent du 6 au 7 février à Sudbury à l'occasion de la Conférence agricole du Nord de l'Ontario. Un rendez-vous présenté comme un moment clé pour réfléchir à l'avenir de l'agriculture dans la région. [En savoir plus...](#).

People and Workplace Culture

- [Farmers applaud new N.S. pilot program aimed at improving access to agricultural land.](#)
Nova Scotia farmers are applauding a new program aimed at making it easier for producers to establish themselves or scale up through various financing and leasing options for agricultural land. The three-year pilot is being delivered by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board —a Crown lending agency under the Department of Agriculture. [Read more...](#)
- [National survey of farmer and rancher mental health launches.](#) The Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing has launched its third National Survey of Farmer and Rancher Mental Health in Canada. The survey invites farmers and ranchers across all commodities and regions in Canada to share their experiences with stress, anxiety, depression, burnout, resilience, and coping mechanisms. It's conducted in partnership with the University of Guelph. [Read more...](#)
- [Canadian farmers see rising risk and weaker finances heading into 2026: Sentiment Index.](#) Canadian farmers are entering the 2026 production year with heightened caution, according to the January results of the Canadian Farmer Sentiment Index. [Read more...](#)
- [CanadaGAP food safety manuals updated for 2026.](#) Updated versions of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals have now been released and will take effect on April 1, 2026. They are Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Manual, version 11.0 and Greenhouse Product Manual, version 11.0. A corresponding update to the CanadaGAP audit checklist will be issued before that date. [Read more...](#)

- [How Climate Change Is Impacting Farmer Mental Health](#). Guilt. Anguish. Hopelessness. Panic. These are just a few of the thoughts running through farmers' heads as they've dealt with catastrophic weather events over the past few years. Through a series of interviews with 36 Ontario farmers, Rochelle Thompson, a PhD candidate in the University of Guelph's Department of Population Medicine, has been able to learn about farmers' experiences first-hand. [Read more...](#)

Immigration and Foreign Workers

- [Changes are coming to LMIA-exempt work permits this year – here's what to expect](#). Some major changes to Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)-exempt work permits are on the docket for the year 2026, including an increase in the admissions target, a freeze on eligible fields of study for post-graduation work permits (PGWPs), and a suite of additional planned, expected, and potential measures. [Read more...](#)
- [Alberta cuts access to health care for some foreign workers, raising concerns in the Bow Valley](#). The change means people on International Experience Canada (IEC) Type 58 work permits, including working holiday and young professional visa holders, are no longer eligible for Alberta's public health system. [Read more...](#)
- [Immigration cuts force Manitoba to refocus nominee program on workers already in the province](#). Tighter federal limits are steering Manitoba's provincial nominee program toward devoting more spots to the temporary residents already living in the province, rather than attracting skilled workers from abroad —a change Manitoba's immigration minister has made to ensure businesses can keep their employees. [Read more...](#)
- [De nouvelles règles d'hébergement qui inquiètent des entreprises agricoles](#). Le gouvernement du Québec entend mieux encadrer les conditions d'hébergement des travailleurs. Les entreprises agricoles du Bas-Saint-Laurent qui font appel à de la main-d'œuvre étrangère ne sont pas contre l'idée, mais déplorent les coûts qui y sont associés ainsi que le peu de temps pour se conformer. [En savoir plus...](#)

Automation and Technology

- [Canada lagging behind U.S. in adopting drones for spraying in agriculture, ag groups say.](#) Many Canadian farmers are eager to use drones to spray pesticides —already common in the United States —but industry groups say slow regulatory approvals are leaving the country years behind its competitors. The Alberta Federation of Agriculture is pushing for a national strategy to fast-track pesticide products for drone spraying. [Read more...](#)
- [Farm Credit Canada-led coalition to invest \\$5 billion into agriculture innovation.](#) A coalition of companies convened by Farm Credit Canada (FCC) will invest \$5 billion into agriculture and food innovation by 2030. “We’re the breadbasket of the world,” said Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald MacDonald. “We need to lead in that aspect ...and this is just a start.” [Read more...](#)
- [What happens now? Alberta assessing how to fill research gap left by AAFC.](#) The Alberta government has expressed concern following a federal announcement that could see several Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research stations shut down, including the Lacombe facility. [Read more...](#)

Skill Development

- [AgSmart to Return in 2027 with an Expanded Vision & Stronger National Focus.](#) AgSmart is entering a new phase of redevelopment. In 2026, Agri-Trade, Olds College of Agriculture & Technology and key partners will focus on strengthening the event's direction and design to ensure it delivers greater value and deeper connections across Canadian agriculture. AgSmart will return in summer 2027. [Read more...](#)
- [Compressions chez Agriculture Canada : l'Université Laval veut sauver l'expertise.](#) Devant les compressions majeures annoncées chez Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada (AAC) il y a deux semaines, qui entraîneront la fermeture prochaine du centre de recherche et de développement de Sainte-Foy, l'Université Laval tente de sauver une partie de l'expertise établie dans la région de Québec. [En savoir plus...](#)
- [Loss of agriculture research capacity lamented.](#) There are still more questions than answers about the impending loss of federal agricultural research scientists and centres

announced along with other government cuts in January. However, University of Saskatchewan agricultural economist Richard Gray said the decision to find savings at the very basis of farm production will have far-reaching effects and represents significant losses to the sector. [Read more...](#)

Events

Find CAHRC Here:

- [Aspire Career Summit](#), Feb 11
- [CFA AGM](#), Feb 24-25
- [Ottawa Valley Farm Show](#), Mar 10-12

Other Events:

- [Ontario Fruit and Veg Convention](#), Feb 18-19
- [London Farm Show](#), Mar 4-6
- [Canadian Crops Convention](#), Mar 10-12
- [Ottawa Valley Farm Show](#), Mar 10-12
- [Western Canadian Dairy Seminar](#), Mar 10-13
- [Canadian Cattle Association AGM](#), Mar 23-26
- [GFO March Classic](#), Mar 24
- [GreenTech Americas](#), Mar 24-26



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