



Monthly eActivity Report  
Rapport d'activité électronique

To promote a sustainable and prosperous agriculture industry  
Favoriser une industrie agricole durable et rentable

Contact us:

Phone (506) 452-8101 email: [alliance@fermeNBfarm.ca](mailto:alliance@fermeNBfarm.ca)  
2-150 Woodside Lane, Fredericton, NB, E3E 2R9  
[www.fermenbfarm.ca](http://www.fermenbfarm.ca) [www.facebook.com/fermenbfarm](https://www.facebook.com/fermenbfarm)

## June/July 2019 eActivity Report

### 1) Farmers understand the vast potential of Canada's agri-food sector, but do politicians?



The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which the Agricultural Alliance of NB is a member, the unified voice advocating for Canadian farmers at the national level – recently launched **Producing Prosperity in Canada**, a non-partisan advocacy campaign leading up to the federal election in October.

In 2017 the federal government's Advisory Council on Economic Growth, led by Dominic Barton, highlighted agriculture and food-processing as a key growth sector for Canada. Canada possesses world-class agricultural expertise, a modern economy, and established infrastructure to move products to market, noting that more is needed to leverage the sector's potential for expanded trade and domestic growth. Canadian farmers currently export 50% of their products, and internationally Canada's agri-food industry has earned an excellent reputation for producing safe, high-quality food, due in part to our high environmental safety standards. Canada is well-positioned to satisfy increasing food demands, both domestically and abroad. But the sector needs increased government support to fulfill its vast potential.

Aimed at incumbent MPs, new candidates, and policymakers of all political stripes, the **Producing Prosperity in Canada** campaign promotes specific benefits of the agri-food sector – as the most significant economic engine in Canada, a champion of food security, and innovative contributor to national environmental stewardship:

**Economic Growth** – The Canadian agri-food industry generated **\$112 billion in GDP in 2016**, and between 2012 and 2016 overall growth of the sector was 11%, compared to 7.8% across the entire economy. The industry provides **2.3 million Canadian jobs**, that's 1 in 8, making it the second largest employer in the country. Canada produces twice as much food as it

consumes and is well-positioned to benefit from increasing **domestic and global food demand**.

**Food Security** – Canadian agriculture produces among the most **diverse range of products** and food in the world. Our regulatory leadership has allowed our farmers to produce food of exceptionally **high quality**, enabling us to become among the most efficient and **affordable** worldwide. Canadians spend less on food than most other countries, using under 10% of disposable household income on groceries.

**Environmental Stewardship** – Currently only about 6.5% of Canada’s land mass is being farmed, and a strong agri-food sector helps ensure this **precious resource is preserved** for future generations. Canadian farmers have drastically **reduced carbon emissions** from on-farm activities over the past 3 decades, and new technology and **innovation** efforts continue to further reduce the carbon footprint. Research partnerships between government, academia and agriculture are targeting lower emissions from crop production and livestock, and continue to explore opportunities to use water more efficiently.

Since the campaign launched in April, **Producing Prosperity in Canada** has been met with tremendous support, and dozens of federal politicians have signed the campaign pledge to, “support maximizing Canada’s agri-food industries to grow and prosper, for the benefit of all Canadians.”

Recently the CFA’s summer meetings were held in Quebec City, attended by agricultural commodities from across the country, and discussions ranged from canola to carbon-capture, to Food Day 2019 (on August 3<sup>rd</sup>), to government relations. The meetings culminated with a Federal, Provincial and Territorial Agriculture Ministers Roundtable gathering, and the **Producing Prosperity in Canada** campaign provided a strong framework for the discussion.

No one understands farming issues better than farmers themselves. Who better to communicate with government about the policies that will move Canadian agriculture forward? The federal election is less than 3 months away, which makes ‘now’ the perfect time for producers to connect with their local political hopefuls from all party stripes, to promote the importance of Canada’s Agri-Food sector as a national priority.

Led by the CFA, the **Producing Prosperity in Canada** campaign will continue to request support for maximizing Canada’s agri-food industries to grow and prosper, for Canada and the benefit of all Canadians.

To learn more, please visit: [www.producingprosperitycanada.ca](http://www.producingprosperitycanada.ca)

## 2) Federal Territorial Provincial Round Table



Lisa Ashworth, CFA representative for the Alliance and Josée Albert Alliance CEO attended the round table that took place on July 17<sup>th</sup> in Quebec city. Farm leaders from across the country met with federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers during the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) annual Industry-Government FPT Roundtable in Québec City. New Brunswick Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Minister Ross Wetmore was among the round table participants. During the meeting, they explored priorities and strategies for the Agri-Food sector that stem from CFA's [Producing Prosperity in Canada](#) (PPiC) campaign. Discussion centred around the Food Policy for Canada, chronic labour issues, improving the BRM suite, environmental stewardship and other topics.

"Realizing the full potential of the Canadian Agri-Food sector as a source of food security, environmental and economic benefits to all Canadians requires a coordinated approach on the part of farmers, industry and FPT governments. This includes the need for clear vision and coordination in addressing systematic barriers to growth and adoption of beneficial innovations in technology, processes or on-farm practices," said Mary Robinson, CFA President. In light of recent trade disruptions and erratic weather across Canada and as part of the long-term goals of the PPiC campaign, CFA advocated for a reform of business risk management programs that would make them more responsive to farmer needs giving them the stability they need to sustain their operations and invest in the future.

In addition, the CFA called for an immediate federal programming that provides producers critical relief in the face of geopolitical issues that threaten Canadian agriculture's global competitiveness and the viability of many Canadian farms. A number of farm leaders in the room spoke to the urgency of this situation, citing how these situations are completely out of their control. Click [here](#) to read CFA's press release on the governments' response with the lack of Ministers action on the trade file

CFA presented the ministers with its [Producing Prosperity in Canada discussion document](#), which describes a range of recommendations to help support the key benefits that

the Agri-Food sector provides to Canada. This document set the stage for a productive dialogue, one that will continue over the coming years, between industry and government officials.

Looking ahead, CFA remains committed to working in partnership with all orders of government as they prepare to implement the Food Policy for Canada, proceed through international trade talks, and explore the options for Producing Prosperity in Canada.

### **3) Provincial Local Food and Beverage Strategy**

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries is now in process of updating its Local Food and Beverages Strategy. Consultations with industry took place earlier this summer and the committee is now evaluating the comments received by the representatives who attended. We were certainly disappointed that the timing of the consultation limited producers' participation. There was a great mix of stakeholders from primary agriculture, value-added, food security, retailers and other groups with a vested interest in local food.

Topics covered during the sessions included agritourism, food tourism, distribution, labour, farmers' markets, local food sustainability, economic sustainability, improving food security, developing better links between local business and food producers, enhancing the support for small and medium size businesses, local food promotion and marketing and increasing purchases of local food by public institutions to name a few. Josée Albert is part of the industry development group and you can contact her if you would like to obtain further details. The committee will evaluate the feedback provided during the sessions and undertake a priority exercise in the coming months. The updated strategy is expected to be launched in spring 2020.

### **8) Environmental Farm Plan**

Contact Camille Coulombe at 452-8101 to schedule a time to meet with our EFP facilitator, or if you do not have details on the status of your Environmental Farm Plan.

#### **When do I need a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit?**

As prescribed by the Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Regulation under the Clean Water Act, when proposing new agricultural activities within 30 meters of a watercourse or regulated wetland.

Example 1: Clearing of undeveloped land within 30 meters of a watercourse or regulated wetland for the purposes of new agricultural activity (such as crops or blueberry production) will require a permit for clearing of the land, but not the ongoing agricultural activity.

Example 2: Any activity or alteration involving deposition, disturbance or removal of soil; cutting of trees; alteration to facilitate the expansion or construction of a structure including a barn, dwelling, roadway, or fence; or infrastructure improvement will require a permit if within 30 meters of a watercourse or regulated wetland.

**What agricultural activities are exempt from requiring a permit?**

- The installation of drainage tile and outlets for drainage of agricultural land, provided they comply with installation standards imposed by the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
- The construction and maintenance of an agricultural drainage ditch provided it does not break the shoulder of the bank of a watercourse or enter a regulated wetland, no change is made to the alignment of the ditch and there is no danger of pollution as a result of the maintenance.

The following activities are exempt if they are taking place 5 meters or more from a watercourse or regulated wetland:

- tilling, ploughing, seeding and harrowing of land,
- grazing by animals, or
- harvesting of crops.

Note: Within a 5 meter buffer to the watercourse, no agricultural activity is supposed to happen without a permit and it is unlikely that a permit would be issued for this use.

**Upcoming Climate Action Fund**

CFA is participating on a federal advisory committee to develop a Climate Change Incentive Fund Rebate program for businesses in New Brunswick and some other provinces. This would use monies collected via the federal backstop of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (carbon tax) which is currently in effect. 10% of the collected amount is not refunded to individuals but is targeted for use by medium and small businesses.

The initial funds are relatively small, but would increase over the years if this program remains in place. Expected amount for 2019-20 for New Brunswick is \$5 million, which would be available to all types of business, not just agriculture.

Eligible projects would likely be general energy efficiency improvements. Project contribution it seems would be on top of current CAP funding for environmental projects and administered separately by a federal department.

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**NOTICES**

**Mental Health: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brigid Rivoire Award Call for Nominations**

This award recognizes an individual, organization or group that has undertaken an initiative making outstanding contributions in raising awareness, addressing stigma, and supporting agricultural mental health in their community.

Created in partnership with the Do More Agriculture Foundation, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, Farm Management Canada and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, this annual award includes a \$2,000 donation to any mental health initiative of the

recipient's choice, along with an invitation to attend the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) Annual General Meeting in February with all expenses paid, to raise awareness of their work in this important field.

**The Agricultural Alliance of NB is seeking the names of deserving individuals to nominate. Please submit names of potential nominees to Pamela Walton with a brief description of why that person should be nominated by the Alliance before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

*"Mental health in agriculture has finally been receiving some much-warranted attention. But there's more to do to build awareness, reduce stigma, and ensure farm families have support when dealing with mental health issues. Mental health matters in agriculture have, for too long, received inadequate attention. We at CFA see this award as a means of building awareness, sharing best practices and shining a light on some of the excellent work we feel can be more broadly adopted and supported by to maximize its impact," says Mary Robinson, President of CFA.*



### **New Tool for Growers in the Fight Against Fungicide Resistance**

*Resistance management website adds fungicide best practices*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 13, 2019 - Ottawa, ON - Canadian growers have a new tool in the fight against resistance. [ManageResistanceNow.ca](http://ManageResistanceNow.ca), a resistance management website, has added fungicide best practice information to help growers minimize the development of resistance in their crops.

"Fungicide resistance affects various crops grown across Canada. In fact, it is already an issue in pulses, potatoes and fruit crops," says Pierre Petelle, president and CEO of CropLife Canada. "I'm pleased we can now offer growers access to information that will help them manage fungicide resistance on their farms."

CropLife Canada launched [ManageResistanceNow.ca](http://ManageResistanceNow.ca) last November as part of its commitment to enhancing product longevity and promoting environmental sustainability. Featuring resources to help growers manage herbicide resistance, [ManageResistanceNow.ca](http://ManageResistanceNow.ca) has now evolved to provide current and practical information for growers to proactively manage fungicide resistance.

Effectively managing fungicide resistance requires multiple strategies to promote both healthy plants and fungicide longevity. This will ultimately help maintain yield and crop quality. The

resources highlight three main factors that contribute to the development of fungicide resistance - agronomic factors, disease risk, and fungicide risk - otherwise known as the risk triangle.

"Disease risk is often dictated by weather conditions and the presence of the pathogen," explains Petelle. "In order to lower disease risk, growers must manage the other two elements of the risk triangle. For example, it's vital to use agronomic practices that promote healthy plants and to select fungicides strategically."

In addition to providing best management practices, the website features case studies profiling growers, crop advisors and researchers from across the country who share their experiences with fungicide resistance. In the near future, resources will be added to help growers manage insecticide resistance.

The Manage Resistance Now initiative also recently supported the development of the Resistance Management Specialist (RMS) Designation offered by the Ontario Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs). Sixteen CCAs successfully received their RMS Designation this spring.

Growers and crop advisors are encouraged to join the conversation on Facebook (@ManageResistanceNow) and Twitter (@ProtectYourLand) to keep updated on the latest resistance information.

### **About CropLife Canada**

CropLife Canada represents the Canadian manufacturers, developers and distributors of pest control and modern plant breeding products and is committed to the stewardship and sustainability of plant science innovations.

For more information on CropLife Canada and the plant science industry, please visit

<http://www.croplife.ca>

Media Contact:

Erin O'Hara

oharae@croplife.ca

613-230-9881 ext. 3223

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For more detailed information concerning the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA) Program click [here](#).



**Producer Survey on Seed Royalties**

This survey is hosted by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture (AFA), the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) and the Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) of Manitoba.

Recent proposals on seed royalties have generated a great deal of interest and discussion amongst Western Canadian farmers. Last winter, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency launched consultations on the future of crop breeding in

Canada. A series of public meetings were held across Canada where federal officials sought feedback on new models to collect royalties on saved seed. An online phase of the consultations is expected later this year.

The purpose of this Producer Survey is to gather feedback directly from farmers, to gauge awareness of the proposals and seek your initial viewpoints. We want to keep the discussion going on seed royalties to help shape our input into the next round of consultations.

We want to hear directly from producers on this important issue. Space is provided under each question for respondents to submit written comments and suggestions. There is an opportunity at the end of the survey to enter your contact information to win a prize and receive updates on the consultations and how our organizations are responding on behalf of members.

Ensure that producers' voices are heard and [complete the survey today](#).

### **Invitation to Participate in Research: Survey- Role of Precision Agriculture Technologies on Farming Practices in Canada**

A research team from the University of Guelph led by Master's candidate Sarah Marquis and the lead academic advisor for the study is Dr. Evan Fraser is conducting the survey. The results of the study will contribute to a master's thesis and various PhD theses focusing on the use of technology in agriculture. The research is funded by Food From Thought, SSHRC's Insight Grant and the Canada Research Chair Program.

#### **Purpose of the Study**

The objective of this study is to understand farmer perspectives of precision agriculture technology, to understand how these technologies are being used on the farm, to examine farmers' use of agricultural data and their perceptions of digital agricultural data rights and ownership. The survey is available in English only. To access the survey, click here: [https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8DIMUAPDuEjqoxn](https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8DIMUAPDuEjqoxn)

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Congrès Mondial Acadien 2019 – Economic Forum** – August 21-22, 2019 - Dieppe, NB – Please see the agenda attached for more information. To register click [here](#).



The Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference is coming back to Niagara Falls, Ontario on October 27, 28 and 29, 2019 at the Sheraton on the Falls. Join producers, students, entrepreneurs, representatives of grower associations and corporate agri-business for inspiration and motivation to reach your goals. Connect with like-minded women passionate about agriculture and food from across Canada. Learn the tools and techniques that will empower you to live to your full potential. Register today! For more information, click: <https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2019east/>

### **New Brunswick Ag Event Calendar**

Thank you to all who have submitted events or activities to our provincial Event Calendar so far. We are thrilled that there are so many activities happening in New Brunswick. These efforts help the public understand the work that farmers and agricultural groups do to sustain a healthy agricultural sector in the province. Feel free to share these events on your social media and with your members. Here is the link to the public calendar: <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/events/calendar/>