



ENSEMBLE
POUR NOURRIR
ET FAIRE GRANDIR L'OUTAOUAIS-
LAURENTIDES

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2021-2022

UPA POUVOIR NOURRIR
POUVOIR GRANDIR
Outaouais-Laurentides
L'Union des producteurs agricoles

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Message from the President and the Regional Executive Director



Starting back on solid ground

The year now coming to a close has shown the extent to which we, as a regional federation and as citizens, have been able to land on our feet despite the adversity we face. The public health emergency has opened the door to a certain renewal, and we have demonstrated resilience, courage, and agility in response. Fortunately, this period has been one of learning and growth. Through it all, we remained standing, in solidarity and in kindness. We were able to stay the course though the storms raged around us; I am reminded of the derecho that struck in May, causing great losses for so many of our maple businesses. But that's the very essence of agriculture; it lies in always finding our way to a solution with each problem we face. Farming is a calling and a passion that we can indeed be proud of.

Providing food is essential to life, and the pandemic made it clear to our fellow citizens just how crucial the work of farmers is. It comes as no surprise, then, that farmers get high marks in terms of how much people appreciate their profession (according to a 2022 Léger survey), right up there with medical specialists and family doctors.

We can celebrate the work our farmers have done—especially the extraordinary quality of our local products. Once again this year, several farm businesses in Outaouais-Laurentides were either winners or finalists in prestigious competitions. Their achievements have ripple effects throughout the region. We can all take pride in them, knowing that there is a piece of each of us present in the Federation and in the syndicates (both local and specialized), helping our producers shine a little bit brighter.

A year of many challenges...

This past year brought its share of challenges. We saw the rapid emergence of many projects, especially in the areas of agri-environment, land-use planning, and farmland protection. Part of the Federation's 2021-2024 strategic planning process is paying closer attention to all actions on the ground in order to ensure our farmland and forests remain protected. Our plan, already under way, will enable us to become closer with farmers in the region, provide them with services that meet their needs, be proactive in all matters affecting the agricultural sector, and allow them to enjoy greater quality of life in the process. We want to form lasting and special bonds with all producers, to be their go-to source for information and action. To achieve this, we will continue meeting individually with farmers, as well as holding small-group meetings through our local and specialized syndicates.

Message from the President and the Regional Executive Director

We've been able to spin our challenges into opportunities. Our day of reflection on land-use planning is a perfect example: it grew into a strategy and vision for the future. A resolution on this issue was also submitted to the Confederation. This key initiative will bring positive economic spinoffs for all farm businesses in the region. Most of all, it will enable us to stay mobilized to defend our territory. Similar examples show the extent to which farm producers in the region have rallied together; it is our duty to serve them and provide them with tools as they speak up and take action. This is why we continue to keep our finger on the pulse and promote the work our farmers do.

We still have some ways to go before we reach our goals. We would like to see more participation from women and young farmers in our activities and among our directors so that we can be more representative of the people who live in our region. And with the support of each and every one of you, we'll get there soon enough.

Speaking of the future, the UPA's 100th anniversary is just around the corner. Every day, we realize just how much who we are today is the outgrowth of the actions we have undertaken and defended since the very beginning. Our future rests on our past; it must be steeped in our organization's guiding values—the values of helping one another, working together, collective action, and solidarity. It is up to us to continue the movement and to keep it strong and solid many years into the future.



Regional Executive Director



President

Mission

The mission of the Federation, in keeping with its values, is to promote, defend, and develop the professional, economic, social, and moral interests of its members. The UPA also remains in constant interaction with Quebec society as a whole and helps improve living conditions in the social, economic, and cultural life of rural communities..

Vision

The Federation is representative and inclusive of all producers in the region, regardless of farm size, production type, or location. Together with its syndicates, the Federation develops its services and actions to support farmers within the territory and the profitability of their businesses.



A Look at Our Region

A total of 2,383 farms and 3,419 producers are located within the region's territory



Regions



Number of farm businesses



Number of producers

Outaouais	959	1,282
Laurentides	1,243	1,850
Laval et Montréal	181	287



Did you know?

The UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation is the only federation that spans two census metropolitan areas (CMAs).





A Look at Our Region

Democratic Life

UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation Directors 2021-2022

Executive Committee and Regional Management

- **Stéphane Alary** – President
- **Jacques Gévry** – Vice-President, Specialized Group – Lumber
- **Audrey-Claude Lemaire** – Executive Member, UPA des Basses-Laurentides
- **Julie Bertrand** – Executive Member, Animal Production – Other
- **Stanley Christensen** – Executive Member, Beef
- **Nathalie Messias** – Regional Executive Director

Board of Directors

Local Syndicate Representatives (as of July 31, 2022)

- **Catherine Lauzon** – UPA Argenteuil
- **Audrey-Claude Lemaire** – UPA Basses-Laurentides
- **Cheryl Layer** – UPA Collines de l’Outaouais
- **Josée Frappier-Raymond** – UPA Deux-Montagnes
- **Bruno Bessette** – UPA Laurentides-Pays-d’en-Haut
- **Benoit Legault** – UPA La Lièvre
- **Gilles Lacroix** – UPA Laval
- **Claude Lefebvre** – UPA Papineau
- **Claude Vallière** – UPA Pontiac
- **Marcel Denis** – UPA Sainte-Scholastique-Mirabel
- **Daniel Patry** – UPA Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Specialized Syndicate Representatives (as of July 31, 2022)

- **Normand Foisy** - Maple Production
- **Julie Bertrand** – Other Animal Production
- **Vacant** – Other Plant Production
- **Stanley Christensen** – Beef
- **Anouk Préfontaine** – Small Farms
- **Jacques Gévry** – Specialized Group – Lumber
- **Michel Sauriol** – Strawberries and Raspberries
- **Guy Sabourin** – Grains
- **Vacant** – Dairy
- **Henry Steiner** – Sheep
- **Alexandre Simard** – Sheep
- **Tommy Lauzon** – Young Farmers
- **Sylvain Cléroux** – Greenhouse Production



A Look at Our Region

Outgoing Representatives

The Federation would like to recognize the constant engagement of these outgoing directors and thank them for all their contributions and dedication.

- **John McCart** – Executive Member and UPA Argenteuil representative
- **Philippe Leroux** – UPA Deux-Montagnes
- **Scott Judd** – UPA Pontiac
- **Patrick Sullivan** – UPA Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
- **Pascal Leduc** – Dairy
- **Sylvain Leduc** – Sheep

The Federation encompasses 11 local syndicates and seven specialized syndicates, each of which plays a critical role in developing agriculture in the Outaouais-Laurentides region. Local syndicates serve as the port of entry for producers; they are the arena where farmers can inject the spirit of unionism into the organization at the local or community level. Specialized syndicates bring producers together by production type (e.g., beef, dairy, maple, apples) or other feature (e.g., young farmers, women farmers). All groups work together to support the activities of the region's farm businesses; this both feeds the population and takes care of where Quebecers' food comes from.

Local Syndicates

- UPA Argenteuil
- UPA Basses-Laurentides
- UPA Collines de l'Outaouais
- UPA Deux-Montagnes
- UPA Laurentides-Pays-d'en-Haut
- UPA La Lièvre
- UPA Laval
- UPA Papineau
- UPA Pontiac
- UPA Sainte-Scholastique-Mirabel
- UPA Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Specialized Syndicates

- Les Producteurs de bovins Outaouais-Laurentides (beef)
- Les Producteurs de grains Outaouais-Laurentides (grains)
- Les Producteurs de lait d'Outaouais-Laurentides (dairy)
- Les Producteurs de pommes des Laurentides (apples)
- Syndicat de la relève agricole des Laurentides-Outaouais (young farmers)
- Syndicat des producteurs acéricoles Outaouais-Laurentides (maple)
- Syndicat des producteurs ovins de l'Outaouais-Laurentides (sheep)



A Look at Our Region

The local and specialized syndicates held a total of 92 meetings. The regional Federation held the following meetings:

Executive Committee	12, including 5 extraordinary meetings
Board of Directors	5, including 2 extraordinary meetings
Land-Use Planning Committee	5
Employer Committee	5
Finance Committee	1
Democratic Life Committee	3

The Federation and its local and specialized syndicates made representations to the following bodies:

UPA Confederation

- AGRlcarrières, sector-wide farm labour committee
- Hay committee
- General Council
- SCF Conseils cooperative
- Regional working group – presidents and executive directors
- Working table on municipal farm taxes, land-use planning, and regional development
- UPA Développement international

Regional Organizations

- Abrinor – Rivière du Nord watershed organization
- ALUS Outaouais
- Carrefour bioalimentaire Laurentides
- Regional farm training collectives of Outaouais and Montréal-Laval-Laurentides
- Écoute agricole
- Réseaux Agriconseils
- Table agroalimentaire de l'Outaouais
- Table régionale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire public de l'Outaouais



A Look at Our Region

Advisory Committees

- Agricultural consultation committees Bio-food development sector agreement - Outaouais
- Bio-food development sector agreement - Outaouais
- Agricultural zone development plans (PDZAs)
- Regional sustainable agriculture plan - Laurentides
- Regional sustainable agriculture plan - Outaouais
- Regional wetlands and water bodies plans (PRMHHs)
- Ministère des Transports (MTQ) highway projects

Projects Supported by Local and Specialized Syndicates

- Coopérative abattoir Ferme-Neuve
- Cultivons les érablières publiques
- Cleanfarms (AgriRÉCUP) program - farm plastic recycling pilot project for the city of Mirabel





A Look at Our Region

Syndicate Affairs

**Between August 1, 2021, and July 31, 2022,
the number of farms in the region increased by 138**

Every time a producer settles in the region, the Federation springs into gear and welcomes them, in accordance with its policy of ongoing welcoming. The welcoming of producers may be coordinated by the local syndicate or by the Federation and always takes place within two months of the file being received. Within six months of their arrival, all new producers are invited to attend an activity organized by their local syndicate. This policy was developed by the Democratic Life Committee and reflects a basic principle of unionism, namely to foster a sense of belonging and include new farmers in the organization that supports and represents them.



New producers in Basses-Laurentides enjoy friendly meet-up

The UPA Basses-Laurentides local syndicate invited new farmers in its territory to the Usine du bon vivant – Shawbridge microbrewery on September 8. About 10 farmers gathered to enjoy a good meal, local beer, and a friendly atmosphere; they discussed the role of the UPA, how it works, and what services it offers. The conversation also included farming projects in the region, the federal and municipal elections, and much more. It was a wonderful evening with plenty of enjoyment and networking.



A Look at Our Region

2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Federation AGM was held on October 27, 2021, at the Constantin Sugar Shack in Saint-Eustache. It drew 110 attendees, including about 50 delegates. Several people were invited to speak. UPA Second Vice-President Paul Doyon covered the main issues that mobilized our union in the last year, among them labour, farmland protection, maintaining veterinary services in agricultural areas, the provincial SCF Conseils cooperative network, the labelling of new protein replacement products, the use of injunctions to protect farms from illegal intrusions, the proposed UPA financing reform, and the importance of young farmers and diversity within UPA bodies. Next, the coordinator of the Observatoire du développement de l'Outaouais, Chantale Doucet, spoke about territorial development as a theoretical framework and its relationship to food autonomy. Lastly, Maria José Maezo, an agri-environmental advisor with the Federation, delivered a presentation about the ALUS Program, with a special focus on the Outaouais component.

In addition to electing directors to the available positions, AGM attendees adopted 10 resolutions, six of which were sent on to the Confederation to be considered and included in the UPA General Congress in December, where the Outaouais-Laurentides region was represented by 13 delegates.

New directors in training

Newly elected producers received some resources to help them fulfil their new duties. The Federation provided them with a training session entitled Coup d'œil sur le syndicalisme agricole (An overview of farm unionism). The session included an overview of agriculture, the legislation in effect, the history and foundations of the UPA, democratic life, board members' roles and responsibilities, and finally the mission, operation, and services of the Federation. Six people attended the training, which was offered in a virtual format.





A Look at Our Region

Promoting the Farming Profession

In the summer of 2021, *Portes ouvertes sur les fermes du Québec*, the UPA's annual landmark event, which has existed for nearly twenty years, was cancelled as a result of the public health situation. The activities were replaced by regional tours featuring high-profile ambassadors. Each tour was promoted in the media. World-renowned sommelier Véronique Rivest, the ambassador for the Outaouais region, visited four farm businesses to learn more about different types of agricultural production.

- Laronde Farm, a sheep farm located in Venosta
- Ferme Lève-tôt, an organic vegetable farm located in Low
- Marché McMillan (now Jardin Allium) and the McMillan Farms, located in La Pêche
- Verger Croque-Pomme, and orchard located in Thurso

In 2022, both farmers and the public were eager to see on-farm activities return. This time, activities were organized under the banner of the Mangeons local movement. Several changes were made to the format used thus far in an effort to reach more people. For example, open-house events on farms will no longer be held on just one weekend; from now on, they will be spread out over a longer period (from June to September), making it possible to adapt events to seasonal harvests.

In Outaouais-Laurentides, Guayclair farm opened its doors on July 23, hosting over 800 visitors. This farm business, located in the municipality of Brownsburg-Chatham, integrates regenerative agriculture with beef production. Two other farms opened their doors in late September 2022 as well.

The *Mangeons local* app now lists 131 farm operations in Outaouais and Laurentides, an increase of 16 over last year. The app also lists over 50 markets, 13 processors, and 81 restaurants in the Outaouais-Laurentides region.





A Look at Our Region

Farmers recognized in videos

The UPA Basses-Laurentides syndicate produced a series of videos highlighting local farm businesses. The series, entitled *L'agriculture ne prend pas de répit* (Agriculture never rests) presents farmers who are well-rooted in their communities and who care deeply about the future of farming.

Video 1: Raphaël Lauzon, Fraisière Lauzon et Fils, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines

Video 2: Annie Renaud, La Ménagerie d'Annie, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines

Video 3: Pierre Chaumont, Ferme Pierre Chaumont, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines

Video 4: Anne-Marie Alary, Ferme Raymond Alary et Fils - Fromagiers de la Table Ronde, Sainte-Sophie

→ The videos are available on the FUPAOL YouTube channel.

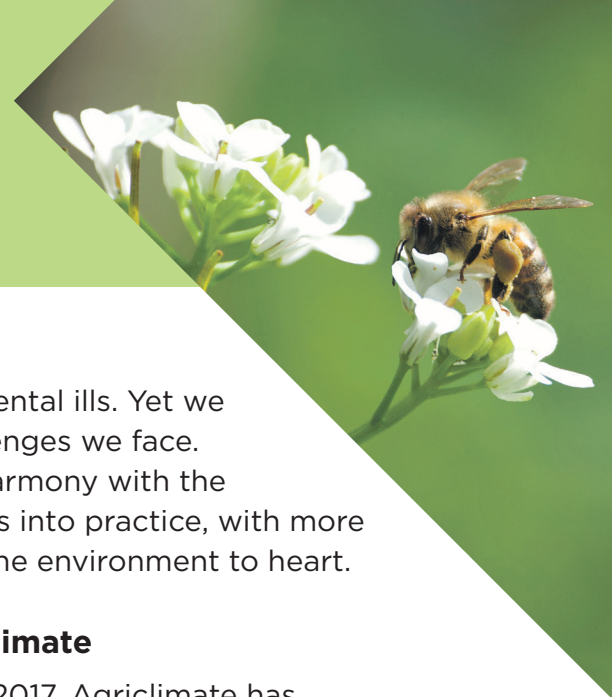


Spotlight on our farmers

The UPA Basses-Laurentides syndicate organized a parade of lights that graced the cities of Saint-Jérôme, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, and Sainte-Sophie the week before Christmas. The parade is a gesture on the part of farmers to thank residents for their growing support in buying local products. People were encouraged to donate to food banks so that all families in the region can enjoy a happy holiday season!



Agri-Environment



Agriculture is often (unfairly) fingered as a culprit for environmental ills. Yet we know that it is a part of the solution to the environmental challenges we face. Farmers have developed all kinds of tools to produce food in harmony with the environment. Many have put new agri-environmental techniques into practice, with more coming every year. Here in Outaouais-Laurentides, we all take the environment to heart.



Agriclimate

Since 2017, Agriclimate has endeavoured to increase our understanding of climate change in the agricultural context in order to implement the best methods and strategies to deal with it. Four pilot farms are involved in climate change mitigation efforts in our territory. These farms are working in close collaboration to develop a new initiative to determine the most appropriate actions to take in the three pillars of climate change mitigation: adapting businesses to the future climate, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration.

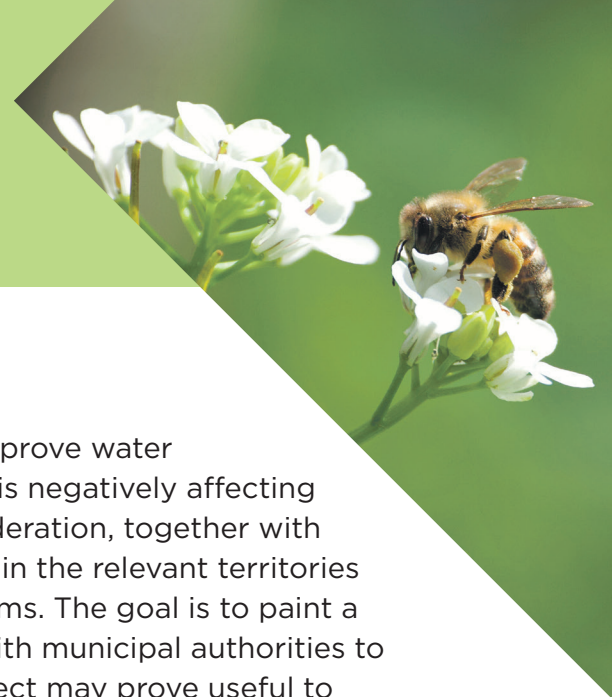
Regional wetlands and water bodies plans

Over the course of the year, RCMs continued developing regional wetlands and water bodies plans (PRMHHs). The Federation lent its support to local syndicates and got involved in PRMHH consultations in a number of RCMs (Outaouais, Deux-Montagnes, Laurentides, etc.), specifically through the following:

- Developing a participation guide for producers/directors
- Sharing events (workshops, surveys, etc.) organized by the RCMs
- Sharing links to help people view maps of wetlands as well as information to make the process more understandable
- Presenting at local syndicate AGMs in Deux-Montagnes and Papineau
- Providing online training in January and February 2022



Agri-Environment



Watercourse management improvement strategy

Several RCMs appear not to have the resources they need to improve water drainage, and their lack of action on watercourse management is negatively affecting producers and farm businesses. In light of this situation, the Federation, together with the UPA Collines-de-l'Outaouais syndicate, called on producers in the relevant territories to help with a pilot project to better document drainage problems. The goal is to paint a portrait of the overall situation in the RCM and to collaborate with municipal authorities to improve watercourse management. The results of the pilot project may prove useful to other RCMs.

Water supply in Laval

Thanks to a grant from the MAPAQ, the UPA Laval local syndicate has undertaken a project to assess water supply issues resulting from climate change and urbanization within the Laval territory. The working team—with representation from the FUPAOL, the local syndicate, the Profit-eau-sol advisory club, an agrologist, and an independent engineer—has already visited farm businesses in two areas with recurrent water supply problems.

The objective was to come up with a portrait of water needs and find solutions for sustainable water supply that will benefit the future of agriculture in Laval. An analysis of alternative resources will be conducted, along with a diagnosis of water needs for the relevant production types. The initial results will come out in winter 2023.





ALUS Program in the Outaouais

The ALUS Program, the outcome of a partnership between ALUS Canada and the Federation, officially launched in November. This new program is designed for all producers in the Outaouais region who want to develop ecosystem goods and services on their land to help remedy agricultural and environmental issues specific to their region. ALUS provides producers financial support and access to technical expertise to help them restore wetlands, install riparian buffers, plant windbreaks, manage

sustainable drainage systems, create habitats for pollinators, and develop other ecologically beneficial projects.

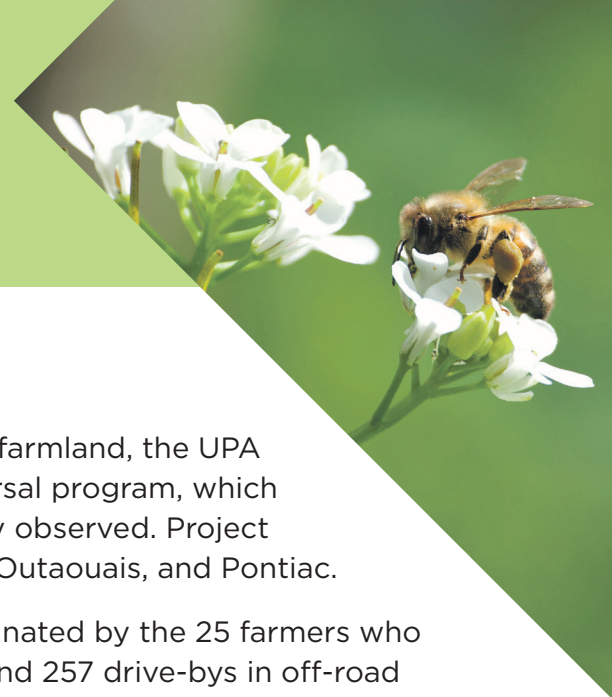
Over the course of fall 2021 and spring 2022, projects were conducted on 14 farms scattered across eight municipalities. In all, nearly 23.3 hectares of projects were registered in the program, as follows:

- 14.2 hectares of meadow reserves that remain unmowed or ungrazed in order to protect rural birds at risk (bobolinks and Eastern meadowlarks)
- 2.9 hectares of riparian strips 5 to 10 metres wide or windbreak hedgerows planted (905 trees or shrubs planted over 2.7 linear kilometres)
- 3.9 hectares of meadowland with a mix of native flowers and grasses to stabilize banks
- 2 ha d'habitat aménagé pour la paruline à ailes dorées (espèce en péril);
- 0.3 hectares dedicated to wildlife preserves





Agri-Environment



Migratory bird dispersal program in agricultural areas

In an effort to fight crop damage caused by migratory birds on farmland, the UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation once again ran its bird dispersal program, which is offered free of charge on farmland where damage is generally observed. Project activities take place within the RCMs of Papineau, Collines-de-l'Outaouais, and Pontiac.

This year, four dispersal workers were deployed to parcels designated by the 25 farmers who participated in the project. A total of 505 gunshots were fired and 257 drive-bys in off-road vehicles were conducted to scare the birds off. There was a decrease in the number of geese in 2022 compared to the previous year; only one wave of arrivals was observed.

The project is made possible by financial support from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec, and from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Cut hay, not birds!

A total of 25 people participated in a workshop on mowing techniques to protect birds. Attendees learned how to use the Canadian Wildlife Federation's flushing bar. The bar is designed to distance birds from the tractor during hay cutting, thereby reducing mortality among ground-nesting species, including the bobolink and Eastern meadowlark.

Consultations for developing climate change adaptation plans

The Federation participated in consultations to develop climate change adaptation plans (CCAPs) in four RCMs in the Laurentides region, namely Antoine-Labelle, Laurentides, Pays-d'en-Haut, and Argenteuil. The goal of CCAPs is to better understand the social, environmental, and economic risks climate change poses to the region, and subsequently to plan measures that can help our communities and territories become more resilient.



Nature unleashes its power in the Outaouais region

On May 21, the Outaouais region was struck by a derecho, a rare weather phenomenon that moves quickly, provoking violent storms and highly destructive bursts of wind. The UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation was quick to assemble a crisis centre with involvement from various stakeholders. This was done to notify government authorities in jurisdictions where farm businesses sustained major damage. The crisis centre issued emergency resolutions and sent correspondence to elected representatives, in conjunction with the UPA Lanaudière Federation, to get an emergency assistance program up and running. Furthermore, an information and discussion session for maple and forestry producers was held on June 28 to spread the word about various programs run by the regional private forest development agencies and provide information on how to sell wood.



Pilot project for veterinary care in Hautes-Laurentides

To avoid service interruptions and ensure farm businesses in Hautes-Laurentides have access to veterinary care, the Federation implemented a pilot project with the Clinique vétérinaire de Saint-Alexis, which is located in Lanaudière. The pilot project was created after two veterinarians left the region. The clinic offered telemedicine and emergency services according to a schedule. More slots opened up with the addition of a new veterinarian to the territory. Finally, animal care training and coaching for farmers were provided. Thanks to this initiative, farmers learned what actions to take and what tools to use in providing better emergency care for their animals, including instances of calving, acute mastitis, and on-farm euthanasia.

Animal welfare and farmer mental health were both top of mind throughout the project.



Environmental Protection



Farm plastic recovery

The city of Mirabel and Cleanfarms (AGRlrecup) signed an agreement to test out the best methods for recovering farm plastics. The goal of the pilot project is to make silage plastic collection permanent and free of charge for its users by 2022-2023, thereby diverting thousands of tonnes of plastics from landfills.

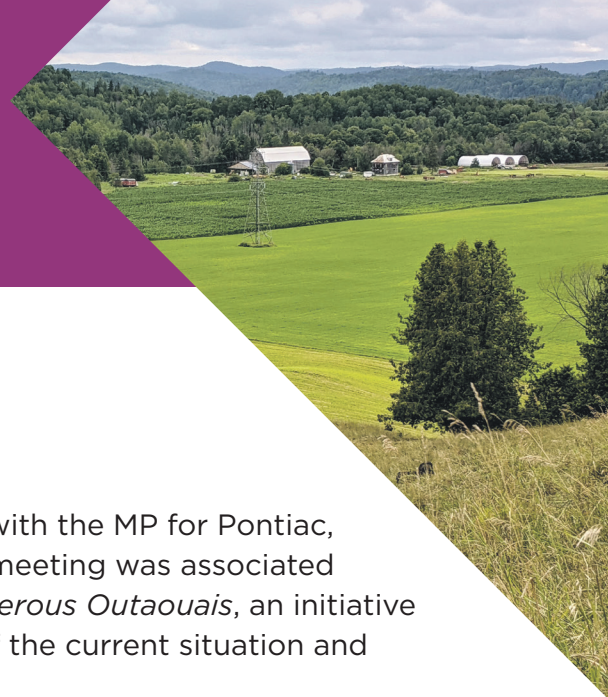
Products collected include plastic bale wrap film, baler twine, netwrap for pressing forage into silage bales, silage tarps and silo bags, and maple sap tubing.

Common waterhemp alert

A new weed, common waterhemp, has been detected in the Laurentides region. The unwanted plant resists several herbicides and is highly invasive in crop fields, posing an enormous concern to farmers. In collaboration with the MAPAQ, the Federation organized webinars for farmers to get the word out and provide information on the best crop practices they can use to eradicate or contain the weed in their fields.



Economic Development



For a Green and Prosperous Outaouais

In December, elected representatives from the Federation met with the MP for Pontiac, Sophie Chatel, to discuss agricultural development issues. This meeting was associated with the writing of a “green book” called *For a Green and Prosperous Outaouais*, an initiative spearheaded by Ms. Chatel. The Federation gave an overview of the current situation and voiced some complaints about agricultural development.

A roundtable was held the following February. This was attended by federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, some representatives from the Conseil régional de l’environnement et du développement durable de l’Outaouais (CREDDO), and about 75 other participants—half of them farmers. Attendees delved into various topics including the carbon tax, the importance of education and awareness in the agricultural sector (among both citizens and farmers), new farmers, local marketing efforts, and input supply problems. Participants also put forth numerous potential solutions to ensure a sustainable, productive future. The Federation questioned the minister about the federal government’s priorities on agri-environment, specifically for businesses engaged in animal production

Rural economic development and economic recovery

In July, the Federation took part in a roundtable on rural economic development and economic recovery. It was attended by Stéphane Lauzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Rural Economic Development and MP for Argenteuil–La Petite-Nation. This meeting afforded an opportunity to discuss how the Canadian government supports rural communities, what the available federal programs are, and how to access them. During this meeting, Audrey Lemaire, who sits on the Federation’s executive committee, stressed the following topics:

- Standards reciprocity
- Inflation
- Carbon taxation



Urban and Rural Land-Use Planning



Farmland protection

In the last year, the Federation analyzed 129 applications to the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ) and formulated 126 recommendations in collaboration with local syndicates. Of these 129 applications, 102 came from individuals; 23 came from municipalities, government departments and public and private organizations (seven of which were for exclusions to the agricultural zone), and one was on behalf of a collective.

Representations were made concerning an application to build a municipal nature park in Saint-Eustache (an application for agricultural zone exclusion nearly 150 hectares in size), applications for renewing permission to build new quarries in Mirabel, and an application to expand a public roadway on farmland in Laval.

The Federation also spoke in support of the CPTAQ before the Tribunal administratif du Québec to confirm an ordinance to rehabilitate a large illegal infill site in Mirabel.

Pilot project for reporting violations

A pilot project for reporting potential violations to the CPTAQ was implemented in collaboration with the local syndicates of Laval and Sainte-Scholastique-Mirabel. The aim of the project is to protect farmland by monitoring the use of land and buildings for non-agricultural purposes. Improper use results in a number of consequences including higher farmland prices and increased land speculation. The local syndicate receives complaints, analyzes them, documents and writes up violations, and submits them to the CPTAQ. In 2021-2022, five potential violations were reported.

Day of reflection on land-use planning

In April, the Federation held a day of reflection with the goal of developing a strategic vision for land-use planning in the region. The event included various talks by experts as well as workshops. These dealt with the Federation's role, the current regulatory framework and the effects of Bill 103, farmland protection as viewed by the CPTAQ, soil potential and quality, the loss of arable farmland to non-agriculture uses, and much more. The Federation's land-use planning committee will be able to use the information gathered to develop a foundational strategy, thus fulfilling its role of oversight in this matter.



Urban and Rural Land-Use Planning



Agriculture sector pays visit to Laval municipal election campaign

The agriculture sector made its presence known during Laval's municipal election campaign by telling candidates about agricultural issues facing the territory. At an event attended by various media outlets, the Federation shared its position on a number of topics: regulations that are proving excessive and restrictive to farming activities, increased marketing choice and the undervaluing of farmgate stands, watercourse maintenance, and especially the issue of urban pressure on farmland. Nicolas Mesly, journalist and creator of the documentary *Québec, terre d'asphalte*, issued an impassioned plea regarding the importance of the agricultural sector and the need to halt urban sprawl before it is too late.

For its part, the UPA Basses-Laurentides Syndicate organized an agri-food tour to meet with electoral hopefuls in the RCMs of Rivière-du-Nord and Thérèse-de-Blainville. Themed *Vos citoyens ruraux* (Your rural residents), the day-long event was designed to raise awareness about the situation facing farm businesses and to address issues affecting the agricultural sector in those RCMs. Participants in the event visited a handful of farm businesses.

Municipal taxes: Sainte-Sophie adopts special agricultural rate

Thanks to continued efforts to raise awareness within the municipal council, Sainte-Sophie adopted a rate for the agriculture and forestry sectors for 2022. The rate is 0.553 per \$100 assessed, as compared to 0.849 per \$100 for the industrial sector and 0.619 per \$100 for the residential sector. Creating special rates for agriculture and forestry is one of the few tools municipalities have to help prevent the tax burden from being transferred between different categories of taxpayers.





Urban and Rural Land-Use Planning



Autoroute 19 extension and field access for farm machinery

The extension of Autoroute 19 by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ, now the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable du Québec) between Autoroutes 440 and 640, is causing headaches for area farmers. The proposal is to convert Route 335—which either runs beside or crosses Laval’s agricultural zone along almost the entire length of the segment under consideration—into a highway. This conversion will require a dedicated alternative roadway for farm machines, given that such vehicles cannot travel at the minimum speed of 60 km/h. The Federation and the UPA Laval Syndicate have voiced farmers’ concerns to the MTQ: farmers are calling for safe access to farmland on the outskirts of Laval’s produce-growing heartland. The MTQ’s initial plan would have restricted farm traffic to local roadways to access the bridge and fields on either side of the future A19; for farmers, this would have meant a 10-kilometre detour on a road not adapted for their vehicles.

Thanks to many representations by the UPA, the MTQ and the city of Laval have agreed to allow farm machinery to drive on a multi-purpose pathway planned between Avenue des Perron and Boulevard des Mille-Îles. Discussions continue in hopes that affected farmers will still have convenient access to their land, both during and after the construction phase.

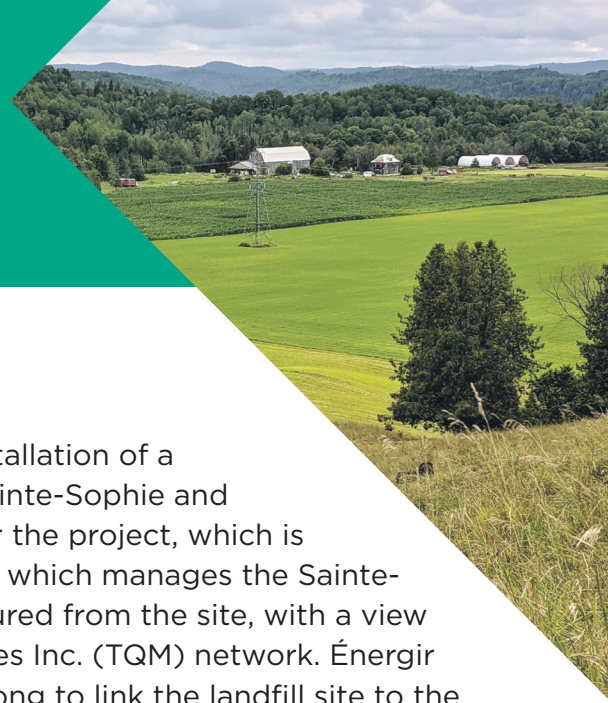
Extraordinary resolution for UPA General Congress

In response to proposed amendments to the *Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities* (LPTAA) in Bill 103, which is meant to ease the administrative burden on businesses, the Federation tabled an extraordinary resolution for the UPA General Congress. The resolution called for all sections pertaining to the LPTAA regarding the agricultural component cited in Bill 103 to be withdrawn from the bill and be heard before the appropriate body, namely the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (CAPERN). Amendments were made, but the intent remained unchanged.





Urban and Rural Land-Use Planning



Proposal to install new renewable natural gas pipeline

The Federation met twice with Énergir in May to discuss the installation of a renewable natural gas (RNG) pipeline in the municipalities of Sainte-Sophie and Mirabel. Several farmers attended these meetings. The vision for the project, which is being conducted in partnership with Waste Management (WM), which manages the Sainte-Sophie landfill site, is to recover 100 percent of the biogas captured from the site, with a view to linking it up to the existing Gazoduc Trans Québec & Maritimes Inc. (TQM) network. Énergir hopes to build a new high-pressure RNG pipeline 11 kilometres long to link the landfill site to the TQM network. This zone is located entirely within a permanent agricultural zone. Énergir wants to arrange permanent easements 23 metres wide with landowners affected by the project.

An UPA-FUPAOL-Énergir negotiation committee was formed and will discuss the following commitments:

- Establishing a framework agreement between Énergir and the UPA, including terms for establishing a fair compensation mechanism for affected farmers as well as the eligibility criteria and duration for such compensation
- Collaborating with Énergir to identify the corridor with the lowest possible impact on farming activities, taking different variables into account

The Ministère de l'Énergie et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques plans to hold public consultations at a later date.





Agricultural Affairs

The state of slaughter

The Federation, together with the Carrefour bioalimentaire Laurentides, launched a project to create a diagnostic report of slaughter services in Outaouais and Laurentides, along with recommendations for improving the supply of slaughter services to farmers. The project will be conducted by the Forest Lavoie Conseil firm, which has done similar studies in other regions. The report will be used to assess the needs and challenges encountered to date, and to propose potential animal slaughter and transport solutions.

Centre d'emploi agricole

The Centre d'emploi agricole (CEA) had a busy year, which is unsurprising given the labour shortage we currently face. On the farm health and safety file, the CEA visited all producer members of the prevention mutual (some in person, others virtually), and offered two prevention workshops to employers. Numerous training opportunities were offered, including some new ones. In addition, 13 AgriFrancisation agreements and 15 AgriEmploi agreements were signed. Finally, the temporary foreign workers (TFWs) component was a huge success.

- 500 LMIA applications were processed
- 182 work permits were processed
- The clientele grew by 15%
- 12 information teams were present at 12 employers

Several outings were organized throughout the year for TFWs. They were a wonderful opportunity for our sector to thank them for their invaluable contributions!

TFWs visited Montreal...

The CEA Outaouais-Laurentides, in collaboration with the Centre d'intégration en emploi Laurentides, organized two special day trips for TFWs in the region on November 7 and 8. After a year marked by COVID-19 restrictions, the workers were thrilled at the chance to enjoy an outing. They also enjoyed taking the metro from place to place in the city—some of them for the first time!

... and loved the soccer!

A delegation of 70 TFWs from 11 farms attended a CF Montréal match in May. This outing, also organized by the CEA Outaouais-Laurentides and the Centre d'intégration en emploi Laurentides, was a big hit with all who participated! Here's hoping it will become a tradition.



Agricultural Affairs



***Ma ferme, mon monde* recognizes bright ideas in human resources management**

The Au pays des petits fruits farm was selected by our CEA to represent Outaouais-Laurentides in the *Ma ferme, mon monde, la bonne idée en gestion des ressources humaines* (My farm, my world: good ideas in human resources management) contest, which is run by AGRICarières.

The Mirabel-based business employs eight TFWs and up to 30 local employees per day in peak season. The owners were able to meet their labour needs during the intensive harvest season by employing youth. To do so, they held information sessions about farm work—and extended an invitation to parents. It's a practice that has proven successful: area youth understand the value of farm work, with many returning year after year.

Our Farm Businesses Honoured

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program

In September, Geneviève Grossenbacher and James Thompson of Our Little Farm, located in Thurso, were named the winners of the Quebec section of the prestigious Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers contest. The contest, whose purpose is to celebrate agricultural excellence in Canada, recognizes outstanding farmers aged 18 to 39 who promote agriculture in a way that fosters relations between city and country dwellers.

Lait'xcellent Contest

Marguerite Paiement farm, located in Mirabel, took home the bronze from Lait'xcellent 2021! This award, given by Quebec's dairy producers, recognizes the constant effort producers put into delivering the best milk there is! Owner Michel Paiement took the reins of his family farm in 2009.



Agricultural Affairs



CCIA gala of excellence, 2022 edition

Two farms received awards at the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie d'Argenteuil (CCIA) annual gala.

- The award for environmental responsibility and sustainability went to Guayclair Inc.
- The award for Farm and Agri-Food business went to La Roquette cooperative farm.

Two bursaries for excellence

Caroline Chénier, owner of Les Serres Gatineau, received two bursaries. The first is a study bursary of \$1,000 from the Fondation Agria. Ms. Chénier also won \$2,500 in the *Tournez-vous vers l'excellence!* contest from the Financière agricole du Québec.

The Environmental Stewardship Award

Our region stood out in the last two years, garnering recognition at the Producteurs de bovins du Québec AGM, thanks to the exemplary work of two cattle production businesses. Brian, Lise, and Kim Maloney of Brylee Farm received The Environmental Stewardship Award 2021, with Stéphane Guay of Guayclair farm winning in 2022. The Environmental Stewardship Award is given at the national level in recognition of cattle producers' leadership in the area of conservation. Candidates are judged on their management practices, accomplishments, and objectives. Each province selects a candidate, who then becomes a potential candidate for the national prize.





Agricultural Affairs

Mental Health and Well-being in Farming

The 5th Écoute Agricole benefit event raised \$73,000. In a salute to the prowess of craft breweries in Laurentides and Outaouais, the fundraiser took the form of a “Beer and Cheese” tasting held in a virtual format. Participants each received a gourmet food box containing a three-course meal. The meals featured six different beers, cheeses and charcuterie items from our two regions, a few other goodies, and dessert. A total of 456 boxes were sold in this campaign, all in support of helping farming families through difficult times. Our Écoute agricole “road workers” are the mental health watchdogs of the Outaouais-Laurentides farming community.

Your resources – Écoute agricole

- **Julie Bourbonnière**, road worker in the Laurentides region
- **Anne Cantin**, road worker in the Laurentides region
- **Audrey Arcand**, road worker in the Outaouais region
- **Gabrièle Côté-Lamoureux**, road worker in the Outaouais region





Federation Affairs

Communications

The Federation employs a range of tools to share key information about the latest developments in farm and union life. Our ties with regional and national media sources enable us to maintain a notable presence in the media landscape. In addition to four press releases issued, eight news items were published on the *Actualités* section of the website.

Facebook	2,200 likes + 2,700 followers (52 posts)
Instagram	591 followers
Twitter	451 followers (10 tweets)
Linkedin	163 followers
Infolettre régionale	12 issues

Restructuring at SCF

In 2021, a full restructuring of the services offered by SCF Conseils was undertaken. The new structure is meant to build a work method that is well-known, shared, and optimized among the pool of existing professionals and among established and future clients. Though several employees left their positions during the year, every effort was made to honour the agreements and services provided to our region's producers. Filling the positions was a mammoth challenge, as the labour shortage is also a big problem in the accounting sector. Inspired by collaboration between clients and service providers, the new structure will help us meet our strategic development and business objectives, optimize our processes, and—above all—put client satisfaction at the heart of everything we do.



Over time, the major restructuring, which was undertaken with the help of SCF Montérégie, will enable the SCF to strengthen the expertise of its employees and better serve the region's producers, especially since the board of directors fully supports the initiative.



Federation Affairs

UPA Outaouais-Laurentides Federation employees (as of November 24, 2022)

Service Directors

- **Nathalie Messias**, Regional Executive Director
- **Lise Nadon**, Assistant to the Executive Director
- **Charles-Antoine Ménard**, Director of Democratic Life and Communications
- **Pierre Dupuis**, Director of Administration and Finance
- **Ingrid Francoeur**, Director of the Centre d'emploi agricole
- **Benoît Fullum**, Director of SCF Conseils

Administration and Finance

- **Pierre Dupuis**, Director of Administration and Finance
- **Andrée Girard**, Receptionist
- **Daniela De Rezende**, Administrative Services Accountant
- **Julie Beaudin**, Accounting Clerk
- **Manon Lessard**, Project Manager

Democratic Life and Communications

- **Charles-Antoine Ménard**, Director of Democratic Life and Communications
- **Stéphanie Forcier**, Communications Officer
- **Jean-François Gendron**, Land-Use Planning Officer
- **Maria José Maezo**, Agri-Environment Project Coordinator
- **Cynthia Guindon**, Democratic Life Officer
- **Gaëlle Janvier**, Democratic Life Officer
- **Philippe Duguay**, Democratic Life Officer
- **Francis Riendeau**, Democratic Life Officer
- **Geneviève Trudel**, Administrative Assistant
- **Joannie Perron**, Administrative Assistant
- **Gabrielle Lemonde**, Administrative Assistant



Federation Affairs

Centre d'emploi agricole

- **Ingrid Francoeur**, Director
- **Mireille Larivière**, Administrative Assistant
- **Alain Gagnon**, Human Resources Officer
- **Céline Labonté**, Human Resources Officer
- **Raphaëlle Poulin**, Foreign Labour Technician

Accounting and Tax Service (SCF Conseils)

- **Benoit Fullum**, Director
- **Alexandra Angelescu**, CPA, Shareholder and Director of Quality and Continuous Improvement
- **Agni Cullychurn**, Receptionist
- **Chantal Léveillé**, Administrative Assistant
- **Michèle Lalande**, Administrative Assistant
- **Julie Lefebvre**, Payroll Technician
- **Sandra Fernandes**, Records Custodian
- **Lyne Bigras**, Records Custodian
- **Marie-France Chemin**, Accounting Technician
- **Milagros Rubinos**, Accounting Technician
- **Stéphanie Yam**, Accountant
- **Delia Badea**, Accountant
- **Catherine Bretherton**, Accountant
- **Alexandra G. Lavallée**, Accountant
- **Dominique Mercier**, Tax Expert
- **Anne-Sophie Hébert**, Tax Expert

Saluting our retirees

The Federation would like to recognize the departure of the following people and salute the many years of work they have devoted to producers. They have been true pillars of our organization.

- **Suzanne Laplante**, Democratic Life Officer
- **Luc de Grâce**, Management Consultant



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L'Union des producteurs agricoles