



CONSEIL POUR
LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE
L'AGRICULTURE DU QUÉBEC

COLUMN

Giving priority to the health of fed cattle

About 200 Quebec producers are active in the production of fed cattle. This specialized type of farming requires a special veterinary expertise. Feed lot owners are concerned about animal health because of the economic losses caused by mortality, morbidity and veterinary fees. To meet its members' needs, the Fédération des producteurs de bovins du Québec is conducting a project to give producers, veterinarians and all stakeholders concerned access to a veterinary resource, a database and a Web site compiling useful information on the health of fed cattle.

Supported by the Farm Competitiveness Improvement Program, the project seeks to more precisely identify diseases found in dead animals or tissues through autopsies, lab tests and a questionnaire completed on the farm. "Up to now, the project has allowed us to examine a hundred fed cattle carcasses, but this number will have to be increased to obtain satisfactory results," according to Dr. Geneviève Côté, Project Coordinator. She explains that a control group of ten farms was selected to participate in the project. This will make it possible to recover as much information as possible on a constant inflow of dead cattle, while allowing better monitoring on the farm. Partial results will be disclosed to producers in 2004. This \$536,000 project is partially funded by the CDAQ for an amount of \$100,000.

Information: Dr. Geneviève Côté,
Project Coordinator (418) 836-6172

Cattle production research

Quebec agricultural research is helping several sectors, including cattle production, to achieve progress. The following two projects funded by the CDAQ offer good potential for the cattle industry to move forward.



Photo : Anne-Marie Christen

The CDAQ is funding new projects! To obtain a description of these projects and the names of the organizations implementing them, visit the CDAQ Web site at www.cdaq.qc.ca and go to the Projects section.

New projects

- Development and implementation of a computerized grain-fed veal herd management system (0561)
- Validation of the reference price used for resale of eggs to the processing market in Quebec (0570)
- Comparative evaluation of low ramps for hog manure spreading (2101)
- Continuous alternative photoperiodic production program (2105)
- Development and validation of adjusted value calculations for longissimus dorsi and back fat thickness measured by ultrasound in lambs (2108)
- Technical brochure on organic fertilization of crops: optimizing startup of demanding crops (2109)
- Use of personal digital assistants for data entry in dairy production (2116)
- Standardization of use of auxiliary methods for greenhouse insect pest control (2119)

A choice of five scenarios

Abitibi-Témiscamingue is one of the Quebec regions with the most cow-calf farms. To help its members comply with the new agricultural pollution reduction regulations, the Fédération de l'Union des producteurs agricoles de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue is performing a comparative analysis of five scenarios for beef-cattle manure management. Based on the time involved in the usual operations, capital costs and annual operating expenses, producers can make an informed choice of the scenario that best responds to their situation.

This project, implemented through the Transfer and Innovation Component of the Environment Program, will help producers reconcile protection of the environment, profitability and agricultural performance. The CDAQ is contributing \$100,000 to this project, out of a total of approximately \$225,000.

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We invite you to contact us for any question or comment on this column or the activities of the CDAQ

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To refer to the list of financially supported projects, please visit the Council's website at: www.cdaq.qc.ca
Since its inception in 1996, the CDAQ administers the producers' share of provincial funds allocated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD).



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