

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE PRODUCTEURS DE GRAINS DU QUÉBEC AND AFFILIATED SYNDICATES

NEWSLETTER



AGA 2026

POUR UNE
AGRICULTURE
PROSPÈRE
ET DURABLE

Un vrai plan
d'action!



Once again this year, grain production in Quebec has been marked by numerous changes, testing the adaptability and resilience of our farms and businesses. This newsletter provides an overview of the main issues and challenges that have shaped the year and will continue to evolve in the coming months.

For a complete picture of the progress made, we invite you to attend the annual general meeting (AGM) of your affiliated union as well as the Producteurs de grains du Québec (PGQ) AGM on March 26 and 27, in Drummondville.

The AGMs of the PGQ and its affiliated unions remain a great opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and contribute to the future of the sector. More than ever, your presence and commitment matter!



Corn shortage and tariff threats

The past year was dominated by two major issues: the corn shortage and tariff threats. In Quebec, corn exports usually total 15,000 tonnes per month to the U.S., historically the leading foreign destination for Quebec corn. When export benchmark prices are higher than local prices, as was the case from September 2024 to March 2025, Quebec is able to take advantage of international markets, particularly in Europe. Ireland, for instance, imported 262,408 tonnes of Quebec corn in 2024–2025, becoming the leading foreign destination for Quebec corn, ahead of the U.S. Quebec corn supplies were more limited, leading to a decline in stocks, which fell from 431,000 tonnes in 2024 to 385,000 tonnes in 2025. The spot basis strengthened significantly, rising from an average of -US\$0.09/bu in January 2025 to US\$1.32/bu in August 2025. As a result, producers can expect local basis to remain high in 2026, closely tracking the import reference value.

Tariff threats from the U.S. president toward Canada and other trading partners, primarily China, are still relevant in 2026. Despite grains being protected under the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the market continued to face political and economic uncertainty.

In addition, Beijing imposed 100% tariffs on Canadian canola oil and meal in March 2025 and 75.8% tariffs on canola seed in August 2025. China is the leading foreign consumer of Canadian canola seed and the second-largest market for canola meal.

Advance Payments Program: the digital transition is on its way

In 2025, the Advance Payments Program (APP), administered in Quebec by the PGQ under the authority of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), continued the digital transition launched the previous year. Early registration has made it possible to issue a maximum number of advance payments as of April 1, with consistently speedy processing throughout the season, which producers welcomed.

Provided that AAFC quickly sets the interest-free limit—officially returned to \$100,000—at a minimum of \$250,000, or even \$350,000, the 2026–2027 APP season will begin as early as possible in March 2026.



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ASRA

The ASRA program will again provide compensation in 2026. The PGQ worked with the FADQ to provide comments on the parameters governing advance payments and the final payment.

Work to update stabilized income continued in 2025, with the completion of the new cost-of-production survey for cereals and canola. The PGQ, along with representatives from the FADQ, MAPAQ, and CECPA, actively participated in meetings of the sectoral committee established to monitor the study.

The PGQ flagged key issues and called for closer review of certain points to better understand the results, leading to discussions and adjustments where needed. The new cost-of-production figures will be available in spring 2026 and will apply to the 2026 insurance year.

ASREC

The PGQ continued to monitor the revision of the ASREC program and submitted a number of comments to the FADQ on the proposed changes.

New measures related to ASREC are expected to be implemented in the coming year. These include a new measure to limit the impact of a catastrophic year on premium calculations, and a revision of the corn heat unit (CHU) accumulation maps to better capture new agroclimatic realities.

Cost of production

Work to determine the cost of production for corn grain and soybeans, organic grains, and seed grain production continued, with the results anticipated in 2026. Work on the cost of production for a few emerging crops (rye, buckwheat, and dry peas) is also expected to begin in 2026.

Changes to the Fertilizing Residual Materials Management Code

A new Fertilizing Residual Materials Management Code (CGMRF) has been in effect since November 1, 2025. The Code introduces new requirements governing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). It also makes important changes concerning the management, storage, and spreading of fertilizing residual materials (FRMs). The MELCCFP is creating information tools intended for stakeholders in the FRM sector.

Users should pay close attention to the new requirements of the Code, given that it refers to other regulations and monetary administrative penalties have increased considerably in some cases.

Changes to the Pesticides Management Code

The administrative postponement of the coming into force of the regulation on the use of pesticide-treated seeds ended on August 1, 2025. Producers must comply with all requirements of the new regulation as soon as seed purchases for the 2026 season begin. A permit or certificate is required for the purchase and handling of pesticide-treated seeds for the eight crops covered by the regulation.

Given the importance of this change, it is critical to understand the new conditions of use. For more information, an official presentation by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) is available on Agri-Réseau.

An election year ahead



The PGQ's 50th anniversary was an opportunity to celebrate half a century of accomplishments while looking toward the future. The milestone year featured some notable initiatives, such as the new PGQ *Caravane des grains*, the *50 recettes pour nos 50 ans* project and a gala dinner, attended by distinguished guests.

In 2026, a provincial election year, the PGQ is preparing to take strong action to highlight the essential role of grain producers in society. Under the *On nourrit le Québec* initiative, several political and media-related actions will be launched: distribution of a press release and video to the media, letters to the various political parties to express our expectations of the party that will be elected, meetings with election candidates, placements in various media outlets, etc.

The goal is clear: to gain recognition for our contribution, strengthen our collective voice, and ensure that the issues facing grain producers are heard where decisions are made.

