



Les
Producteurs
de lait
du Québec

Press release *For immediate release*

2015 Annual General Meeting of Les producteurs de lait du Québec

Positive review of the dairy sector in 2014

Quebec City, April 15, 2015 – At its Annual General Meeting today, Les Producteurs de lait du Québec gave a positive review of market conditions in the dairy sector in 2014. In fact, retail sales of cream grew 4.6% from December 2013 to December 2014. During the same period, butter sales increased by 4.1%, cheese sales by 1.2% and yogurt sales by 0.3%. These increases more than compensated for the slight 1% decrease in fluid milk sales. As a result, they raised Quebec's share of total Canadian demand by 2.13% in 2013-2014. Total revenue for milk producers in 2014 rose 2.5%, from \$2.36 to \$2.42 billion. **“Consumers are increasingly turning to quality products such as butter and cream to improve their recipes, which is contributing to growth in the demand for milk,”** stated Alain Bourbeau, General Manager of Les Producteurs de lait du Québec.

Organic milk market

The organic milk market continued its growth in 2014, with organic milk sales rising 18.3%, or 5.6 million litres. In 2014, eight new organic milk producers were added to the number of organic milk producers.

Economic benefits

In 2014, dairy production's contribution to Quebec's GDP climbed \$6.15 billion, compared to \$5.5 billion in 2013. As for tax receipts, they went from \$1.26 billion to \$1.29 billion, with \$678 million going to the federal government, \$454 million to the Quebec government and \$123 million to municipal governments. Dairy production generated 82,661 jobs in 2014, including 30,219 direct jobs on dairy farms or in processing.

Startup and Young Dairy Farmers Assistance Programs

Les Producteurs de lait du Québec granted 163 loans as part of the Young Dairy Farmers Assistance Program. Under this program, producers grant a loan of 5 kg/day of quota to young farmers who are establishing themselves on an existing farm. As for the Startup Assistance Program for new dairy farms, 8 new loans of 12 kg/day were granted in 2014. Since its inception in 2006, the Startup Assistance Program has helped 96 new farms begin dairy production. **“Producers were visionaries by setting up these programs, and young farmers are still very present on dairy farms,”** concluded Mr. Bourbeau. In fact, as confirmed in the summary profile of the 2014 Quebec dairy industry published by the MAPAQ, 36% of established young farmers chose dairy production, although it represents only 23.7% of agricultural operations in Quebec.

About Les Producteurs de lait du Québec

Les Producteurs de lait du Québec, affiliated with the UPA, represents Quebec's 5,856 dairy farms, which deliver nearly 3 billion litres of milk every year, for a total of over \$2.4 billion in farm receipts.

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Information:

François Dumontier
Public and Government Relations Advisor
Tel.: (450) 679-0530, ext. 8704
Cell: 514 713-0530
www.lait.org