For bulletins

**Living together in harmony in the Montérégie’s agricultural zone**

**“OUR COUNTRYSIDE: A LIVING SPACE TO SHARE”**

The Montérégie is the second most populated administrative region in Québec, but it is also home to the largest number of farm businesses – more than 7,000 – representing a quarter of Québec’s farms. These include field crop, dairy, poultry, and pig productions, as well as a high concentration of vegetable farms.

The climate is reasonably mild, water is available for irrigation, and above all, the region has good soil, making it “Québec’s pantry.” In addition, the dynamism and innovation of the agricultural and agri-food sector have led to the establishment of many agri-tourism experiences like farm shops, pick-your-own produce activities, public markets, and fresh fruit and vegetable basket distribution. These opportunities encourage direct contact between consumers and farmers.

But “neighbourly” conflicts are still common. As well as being a farm production space, the agricultural zone is also a living environment. Many of the residents are not farmers, and this “social fabric” can lead to some disputes.

For this reason, the Montérégie UPA, the 13 RCMs, and Greater Longueuil, with financial support from the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPAQ), have launched a campaign to raise awareness about living together in harmony in the agricultural zone. Touching on themes like noise, odours, sharing the road, soil health, pesticides, and water, this regional project aims to demystify beliefs, mitigate nuisances, and address issues related to agricultural work. The goal is to promote living together and dialogue between farmers and residents.

*Learn more about the different themes in your next bulletins.*