For bulletins

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

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

*An initiative by the Montérégie UPA Federation, 13 RCMs, and Greater Longueuil, with support from the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPAQ)*

**Pesticides**

Pesticides are used to protect crops from pest insects, invasive plants, and plant diseases. Their use is heavily regulated in Québec. Farmers only use pesticides if the situation warrants it and if there are no other effective measures to remedy the problem. Québec is a leader in pesticide reduction, as its average amount of pesticides used is among the lowest in the world. According to the Ministry of Environment and Fight Against Climate Change, over a period of 10 years (2006-2017), there has been a 14% reduction in pesticide use.

Moreover, products used for agriculture must be authorized by government agencies, and Health Canada imposes strict limits on trace amounts of pesticides on food. Farmers must also respect limiting distances from application sites. Everything is regulated. Thanks to alternative techniques, like integrated management, which uses natural insect predators, among other strategies, some farmers are even able to significantly reduce the application of phytosanitary products.

*A new theme will be introduced in your next bulletin.*