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)*

**Water**

Water is essential for life and indispensable for agriculture. The protection and sound management of water are major issues, not only for the environment, but also for the sustainability of agri-businesses. Therefore, farmers use techniques to reduce waste, for example, by watering at the base of plants or by using efficient irrigation systems. They also avoid water pollution risks by strictly controlling the use of fertilizers and pesticides, whether through limited application or by using more ecological alternatives. For their part, livestock farmers are establishing installations to prevent animal waste from reaching rivers and groundwater.

Sediments from agricultural origins can be found in waterways due to runoff and wind. Farmers are adapting their practices to encourage infiltration of water into the soil. They can, for instance, develop plantings between their crops and waterways. These plantings, called riparian strips, play an important role in preventing erosion and form a buffer zone between the fields and waterways.

Together, these techniques limit the impact of agricultural activities on water health.

*Look for another theme in your next bulletin.*