

Dundee
Elgin
Franklin

Godmanchester
Havelock
Hinchinbrooke

Howick
Huntingdon
Ormstown

Saint-Anicet
Saint-Chrysostome
Sainte-Barbe
Très-Saint-Sacrement



AGRICULTURAL ZONE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2021



Portrait of the region

Agriculture began in the 14th century in the Saint-Anicet region.



The Haut-Saint-Laurent is the region with the **highest average number of crop heat units in Quebec** (3027-3286)

Soils, composed of **marine deposits, moraine and till**, are suitable for agriculture.

A number of rivers and ditches adequately drain the territory, where the Chateauguy River watershed covers 77.2% of the MRC's territory.

The landscapes and the built heritage of the MRC reflect the way of life of the first inhabitants and the diversity of their origins.

The Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC, which covers an area of 1,156 km², is located in the extreme south-west of Quebec, in a valley nestled between the Saint-Lawrence River and the Canada-US border.



The topography, the climate and the significant unrealized potential in taps makes the MRC a very favourable region for maple production.



The climate in the MRC is particularly favourable to agriculture with one of the longest growing seasons in the province: **215 days** in the Chateauguy region. Along the Canada-US border, the frost-free period is **110-125 days**.



The Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC includes an extensive forest cover, with more than 42,000 ha of forest.



34.5%
of the territory

The forest cover is rather fragmented, as 76% of the plots have an area between 5 ha to 25 ha.





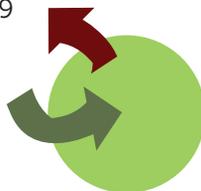
Characteristics and planning of the agricultural zone

94% of the territory
(108 744 ha)



Since 1999

8.59 ha
excluded
32.36 ha
included



The MRC completed 3 requests with a collective scope 86 de-structured tracts of land have been designated as well as 10 forestry agriculture sectors to accommodate 400 new residences within the agricultural zone.



More than 50% of the lots in the agricultural zone are between **20 ha and 60 ha**. Agricultural land is rather **fragmented**. This allows for an opportunity to develop smaller-scale agricultural production.

Portrait of the agricultural zone

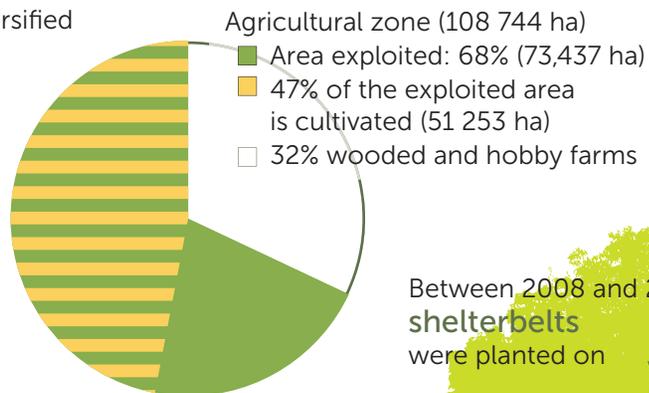
Agricultural production is highly diversified within the region.

There is potential for improvement in the agri-environmental results to be achieved with the AZDP.

On average,

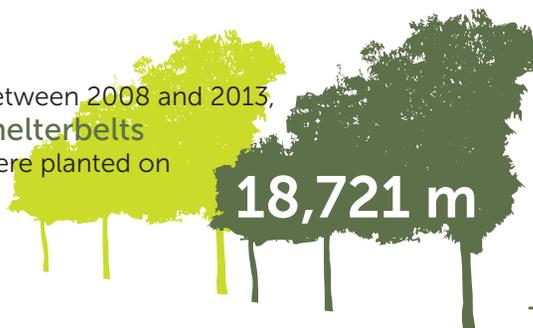
22 km

of waterways are maintained annually.



Between 2008 and 2013, shelterbelts were planted on

18,721 m



Approximately 40 km of riparian buffer strips have been marked by the SCABRIC over the last three years.

50% of the registered farms are located in the following four municipalities :

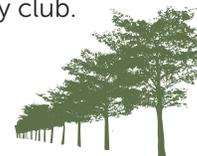
- Ormstown
- Franklin
- Saint-Chrysostome
- Très-Saint-Sacrement

95% of farmland is worked by local farmers.

25%

of farmers are members of an Agri-environmental advisory club.

The agroforestry sector has a very high growth potential.



> **Synthesis - The Agricultural Zone Development Plan (AZDP)**



Businesses, farmers, labour and future generations

Field crops are characterized by the significant presence of grain and pulse crops (57% of the cultivated area, 31 133 ha).

Pasture, hay and maple syrup production are also dominant crops in the MRC.



The population of the MRC is 21,197 (2011) and is concentrated mainly in Ormstown, Saint-Anicet, Saint-Chrysostome and Huntingdon.

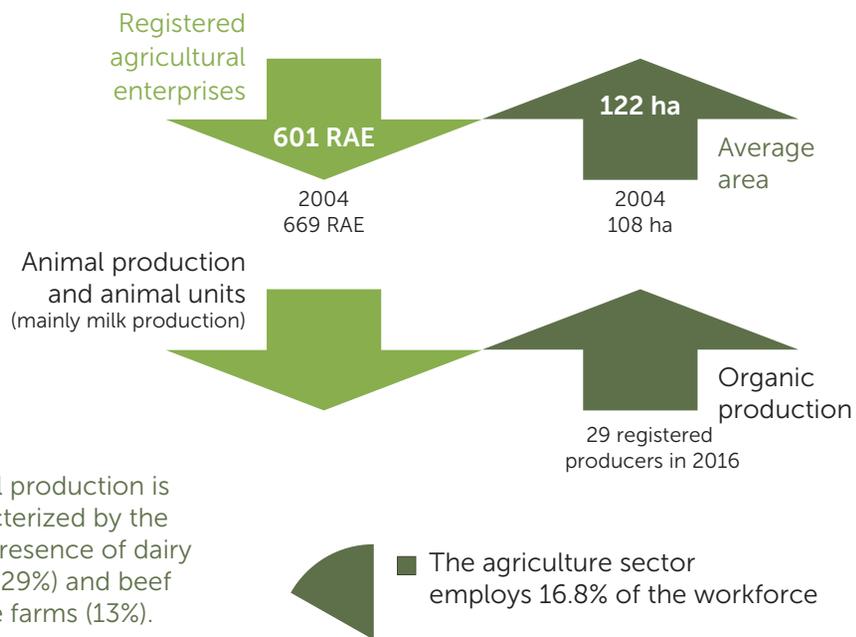
The population is aging and the workforce is gradually declining.

The proportion of the MRC population with a secondary or vocational diploma is higher than that of the Montérégie as a whole (40.1%), which seems to go hand in hand with the region's employment structure.

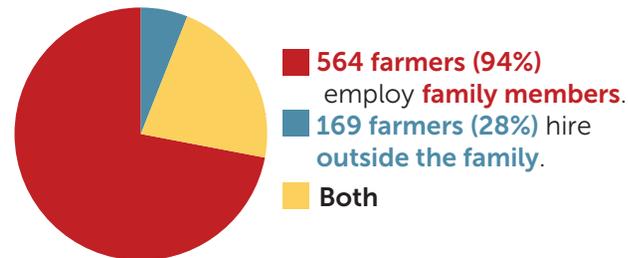
The average age of farmers in the MRC is **54,1** years.

12% of farmers plan to sell within 5 years (2010).

16% of the farms in the MRC have someone to take-over their operation.



Average incomes from agriculture are higher in the Haut-Saint-Laurent than in the Montérégie.





Agri-food processing, marketing and economics



11 food processing establishments

operate within the MRC territory.

6.3% of the MRC's registered enterprises are processing on-site, which is more than in the Montérégie (4.6%).

2 processing companies employ 350 employees.



25 producers allow u-pick.

Agri-tourism is embraced by 31 farmers

Farm stand sales are the most widely used marketing method

53 producers have a farm stand



13 of which produce apples.



The remaining businesses operating within the territory are *very small*. They produce **baked goods, meat products, maple products, artisanal alcoholic beverages and other fine products from apples.**



Every year, the **Huntingdon County Farmers' Market** is an important meeting place for producers and consumers.

33 farms are marketing their produce through a



\$\$\$\$\$ Milk production
 \$\$\$\$ Grains and pulses



35% of the MRC's land resources come from agriculture (2015).

Four major agricultural events are organized annually in the region:

- Huntingdon Fair
- Expo Ormstown
- Havelock Fair
- Chateaugay Valley Antique Association annual show and antique tractor pull.



> Synthesis - The Agricultural Zone Development Plan (AZDP)



VISION STATEMENT OF THE AZDP DU HAUT-SAINT-LAURENT

Rural, diversified and dynamic, the Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC is inhabited by agricultural producers who are passionate about the sustainable development of their activities.

The regulatory framework is conducive to the development of existing enterprises, and stakeholder collaboration attracts young farmers and promotes new business start-ups.

The Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC is distinguished by its strong local agriculture that is proudly recognized within the bicultural community for its considerable contribution to the regional economy.



Action Plan

KEY AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT 1: COMMUNICATING AND IMPROVING THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURE			
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	YEARS	RESPONSIBLE
To ensure the implementation of the AZDP	1- Dedicate human, technical and financial resources at the MRC level to ensure the monitoring and implementation of the AZDP	2017 - 2021	MRC (ADT)
	2- Follow-up on actions by way of a committee	2017 - 2021	MRC (ADT)
Recognition and increasing the value of agriculture, as well as agricultural producers, activities and heritage	3- Showcase the MRC's agricultural heritage through the use of signs and posters	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)
	4- Establish a link between schools and farmers interested in increasing student awareness of agriculture	2017 - 2021	UPA
	5- Encourage the development of school and community gardens within municipalities	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT et agro)
	6- Document and publicize the economic contribution of regional agriculture, by municipality and at the MRC level	2017 - 2018	MRC (ADT)
Promote collaboration between the municipal and agricultural sectors	7- Explain the impact of the variable rate and fiscal transfer on agricultural land to elected officials and the general population (November 2017)	2017	UPA
	8- Apply the variable rate	2018 - 2021	Municipalities
	9- Analyze and disseminate the different invoicing and intervention methods for waterway maintenance	2018	MRC (watercourses technician)
	10- Explore the possibility of standardized tree cutting by-laws	2017	MRC (ADT)
	11- Extend regional regulations that have an impact on agriculture	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)
	12- Provide an agricultural plastics collection service throughout the MRC	2017 - 2021	MRC (GMR)
Encourage local purchasing	13- Adopt a buy local strategy (local products)	2018 - 2019	MRC (agro)
	14- Support the Farmers' Market and its projects (including a buy local campaign and market study)	2017 - 2021	MRC (agro)

Action Plan

KEY AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT 1: COMMUNICATING AND IMPROVING THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURE			
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	YEARS	RESPONSIBLE
Promote the region, its businesses and their products	15- Adopt a communications plan (bilingual)	2017 - 2018	MRC (agro)
	16- Implement the communications plan	2018 - 2021	MRC (agro)
	17- Organize events to bring businesses together to share their products with the public	2018 - 2020	UPA

KEY AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT 2: DYNAMIC LAND OCCUPANCY			
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	YEARS	RESPONSIBLE
Ensure the sustainable development of the agricultural zone	1- Revise the MRC's planning and development plan to better develop agricultural land	2017 - 2020	MRC (ADT)
Consolidate residential use in designated areas	2- Identify and publicize lots available for building on destructured tracts of land and in the agriculture forestry sectors	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)
Promote access to agricultural land	3- Identify, qualify and make known the unused agricultural land within the territory	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)
	4- Become a member of the land bank: Arterre	2017 - 2018	MRC (ADT)
Improve the sharing of road networks between different users	5- Organise events that bring together farmers and cycling clubs (publicize event dates in advance). Inform producers and cycling clubs	2018 - 2021	MRC (ADT)
	6- Install agricultural themed road signs to inform road users of seasonal activities	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)
	7- Allow producers to install temporary signs while working in the field	2017 - 2018	Municipalities
Increase the value and development of forest resources	8- Dedicate human, technical and financial resources at the MRC level in forestry	2018 - 2019	MRC (ADT)

Action Plan

KEY AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT 3: DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES			
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	YEARS	RESPONSIBLE
Strengthen collaboration between producers	1- Organize an annual networking day between producers and elected officials	2018 - 2021	UPA
	2- Collaborate in the development of producer clusters (housekeeping and daycare, equipment, buildings, manure, custom work etc.)	2017 - 2021	MRC (agro)
Support agricultural enterprises	3- Advice and financial assistance	2017 - 2021	RAMO
	4- Facilitate access to training tailored to the needs of area producers	2017 - 2021	CLD
Establish conditions favourable to the diversification and development of agri-food companies	5- Set up a collective kitchen project	2017 - 2019	MRC (agro)
	6- Conduct a feasibility study to encourage the establishment of agri-processing factories in the MRC	2019 - 2021	MRC (agro)
	7- Create a portrait of the situation concerning slaughterhouses and butchers (rabbit, poultry, goat, sheep etc.)	2018 - 2019	MRC (agro)
	8- Conduct a feasibility study to promote the establishment of a slaughterhouse (rabbit, poultry)	2019 - 2021	MRC (agro)
	9- Support start-up producers with the CPTAQ	2017 - 2021	MRC (ADT)
	10- Approach Hydro-Quebec to facilitate access to three-phase electric power	2017 - 2021	UPA
	11- Facilitate high-speed internet access	2017 - 2021	MRC