

ALUS Canada 2019 Dave Reid Awards

Submitted by ALUS Canada

Red Deer County, Alberta, June 4, 2019 | ALUS Canada presents the 2019 Dave Reid Awards to farmers and ranchers for innovation in producing ecosystem services.

During a special event held today at Rolyn Ranch in Alberta, ALUS Canada presented the 2019 Dave Reid Award, worth \$10,000, and two runner-up awards, worth \$1,500 and \$500 respectively, to Canadian farmers and ranchers who are excellent stewards of the land and who have done innovative work in producing ecological services through the ALUS program.

The 2019 Dave Reid Award was presented Tom and Margaret Towers, of Tamara Ranch in Red Deer County, Alberta. Towers has been an ALUS PAC member and Farmer Liaison since 2016 and, as ALUS Red Deer County participants, the Towers maintain 45 acres of ALUS projects, including wetlands and riparian zones, native trees and shrubs, wildlife-friendly fencing and alternative watering systems for livestock.



“For their outstanding land-stewardship ethic, their commitment to innovation as producers, for their longstanding dedication to rebuilding Canada’s natural heritage, and for the impressive legacy they have created for future generations, Tom and Margaret Towers are very deserving recipients of the 2019 Dave Reid Award,” said ALUS Canada CEO Bryan Gilvesy.

“We are honoured to receive this Canada-wide recognition,” said Tom Towers. “We will continue to produce ecological services, and be the change we envision in the world, one acre at a time.”

A special Runner-Up prize went to ALUS Mountain View participants Jerremie and Rita Clyde, of Little Loaves Farm, “for their role as proud, vocal, and effective advocates for ALUS,” said ALUS Canada’s Western Lead, Rhonda King, who presented them with the prize.



Darren and Maria Smith, of Good Land Farms in Parkland County, Alberta, received an Honourable Mention prize, presented by ALUS Canada Agrologist Howie Bjorge.



Formerly known as the ALUS Canada Producer Innovation Award, the Dave Reid Award has previously been presented to Joe Csoff (ALUS Norfolk) in [2018](#) and Gerry Taillieu (ALUS Parkland) in [2016](#). The award is supported by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, ALUS Canada's primary philanthropic partner.

ALUS Canada congratulates all 2019 award-recipients. Thanks to ALUS Red Deer County participants Rob and Lynda Purdie for their kind hospitality, as well as to ALUS' supporters and partners, such as the Alberta Real Estate Foundation and Innotech Alberta, for their presence at the event.

All ALUS supporters, program coordinators, PAC members and participants are to be congratulated for helping to rebuild Canada's natural heritage for the benefit of Canadian communities.



ALUS
Canada
A Weston Family Initiative

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

**Award Presentation
The Dave Reid Award
2019**

Formerly known as the ALUS Canada Producer Innovation Award, the Dave Reid Award recognizes Canadian farmers and ranchers who are excellent stewards of the land and who have done outstanding and innovative work in producing ecosystem services through the ALUS program.

ABOUT ALUS CANADA

ALUS Canada, A Weston Family Initiative, is a national program helping farmers and ranchers to produce cleaner air, cleaner water, more biodiversity and other ecosystem services in their communities. ALUS Canada has so far disbursed nearly \$8.1 M in funding to 25 ALUS communities, an investment that is multiplied by farmers, ranchers and communities on the ground. As a result, there are now nearly 24,000 acres enrolled in the ALUS program, thanks to 750 participants in six provinces, and the program is rapidly expanding. For more information, please visit ALUS.ca.

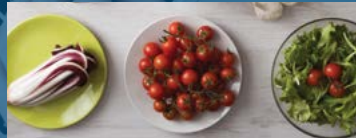
ABOUT ALUS RED DEER COUNTY

Established in 2013 as a partnership between ALUS Canada and Red Deer County, the ALUS Red Deer County program now has more than 100 participants, who have enrolled almost 5,000 acres into ALUS. Under the guidance of a multi-stakeholder Partnership Advisory Committee, these participants produce ecosystem services for the benefit of the public, such as flood and drought resilience, fish and wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and enhanced forest and riparian areas. For more information, visit the [ALUS Red Deer County webpage](#).



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
FOOD INTEGRITY

**Public
Opinion:**



**a study of Canadian
conversations online on
food and farming**



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
FOOD INTEGRITY

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) is a national charity with a clearly defined mandate as a service provider to help Canada's food system earn trust by coordinating research, dialogue, resources and training.

CCFI was launched in Canada in June 2016 as a program, and in April 2017 became its own distinct organization. In these early stages of development, many milestones have been achieved - the first being diverse leadership and investment from across Canada's food system. A solid foundation has been created, with many opportunities for growth and collaboration.



Come to the table and help Canada's food system earn trust for the future.

JOIN. INVEST. DONATE.

www.foodintegrity.ca
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All content in this report is free to distribute with direct credit to “Canadian Centre for Food Integrity Public Trust Research.”

Other Resources Available at www.foodintegrity.ca

- 2018 Public Trust Research: Insights to Action
- 2017 Public Trust Research: Tackling Transparency and How it Builds Trust
- 2016 Public Trust Research: With Insights From Moms, Millennials and Foodies



PUBLIC OPINION: A STUDY OF CANADIAN CONVERSATIONS ONLINE ON FOOD AND FARMING

BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE SILENT MAJORITY: A POWERFUL NEW WAY TO OBSERVE PUBLIC DISCOURSE

This research was conducted by Tactix, who utilized a powerful Artificial Intelligence (AI) public opinion research tool developed by Advanced Symbolics. The AI research tool crawls across several social media platforms and scientifically measures public sentiment.

Like conventional polling, the process starts by building a representative sample. Unlike polling, the sample size is much larger - more than **250,000** Canadian residents.

The AI research tool avoids introducing biases by not asking questions. Asking people a question naturally cause them to develop opinions on subjects they did not necessarily care about before. The AI tool can passively monitor its sample population, waiting for them to voice their opinions rather than inciting them to develop one.

By ‘listening’ to discussions across social media platforms, it can determine how many Canadians are concerned about an issue without being primed with - and influenced by - questions.

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

The overall research objective of this study was to uncover how Canadians are discussing topics that matter to the entire food system (i.e. farmers, food processors, food retailers, and government).

The study assessed the social media conversations of 254,900 Canadians for 24 months between January 2017 and January 2019. To safeguard privacy, the AI tool collects only publicly available information in compliance with the terms of use of different social media websites. Critically important however,

is that no human encounters personal identifying information. The study assessed conversations on social platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Reddit.

The research covered topics related to food, health, farm practices, and specifically GMOs, hormones, antibiotics, and pesticides.



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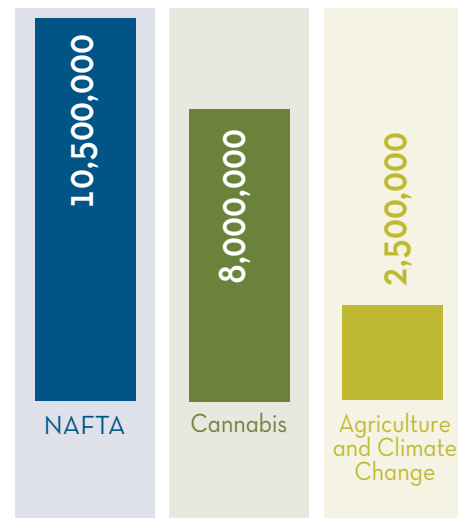
CONVERSATIONS IN CONTEXT

Canadians' perspectives on the agri-food industry and food systems in Canada over the past two years has been largely concentrated around a few hot button issues, including GMOs and climate change. The share of voice on other niche topics, such as animal welfare, are being greatly magnified by select activist groups and amplified by news media attention.

There is no other issue in modern agriculture today that generates as much dialogue by Canadians at the national level as the impact modern farming has on the environment resulting in a single-issue phenomenon: climate change.

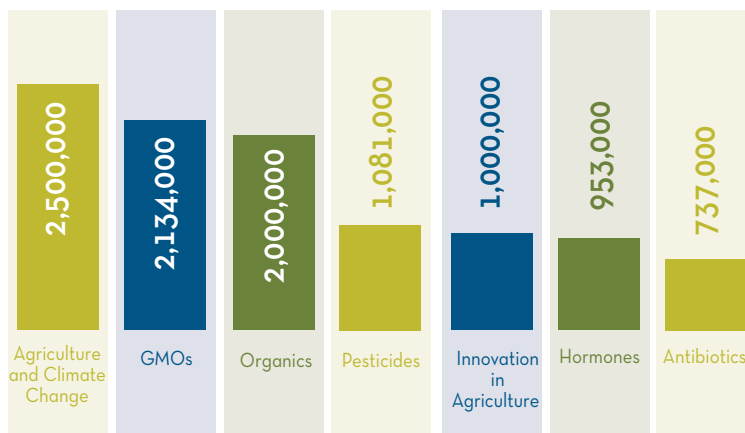
More than 2.5 million Canadians have been actively interested and discussing the relationship between modern farming and climate change. As a benchmark of comparison for other nationally prevalent issues, approximately 10.5 million Canadians were actively discussing NAFTA over the same time period. Between 5 and 8 million Canadians were discussing Cannabis (including recreational use, medical use, and oils).

TOP ISSUES - FOOD AND FARMING



Numbers of Canadians Discussing

Aside from climate change, GMOs generated the largest volume of conversations followed by organics at about two million engagements each. One million Canadians discussed pesticides, innovation in agriculture and hormones, while fewer Canadians were discussing antibiotics in food.



Numbers of Canadians Discussing

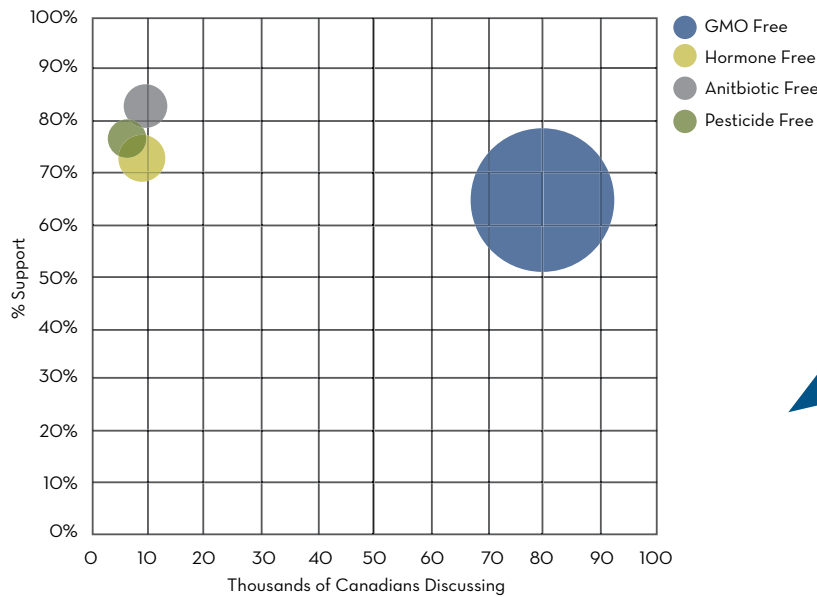
EVERYTHING “FREE”?

The growing market trend towards labeling food “free from x” has never been more prevalent. CCFI assessed the extent to which Canadians supported their food being free from each topic. To uncover true opposition towards the technologies, we considered not only how supportive people were towards food being “free from x”, but also how many Canadians are actively discussing that **stance** for each issue.

for food free from hormones, pesticides, and antibiotics, the total number of Canadians actively discussing these topics positively is relatively low (10,000 versus 10.5 million for NAFTA and 8 million for cannabis) and when Canadians discuss these topics, support for “x-free” outweighs negative comments (68-85% positive). In contrast, while Canadians are more balanced in terms of their approach towards GMO free, more than seven times as many Canadians are discussing the issue.

As shown in the chart below, when it comes to a desire

DISCUSSION VS SUPPORT FOR FOOD BEING “X FREE”



While many Canadians supported having food that is free from hormones, pesticides, and antibiotics, the total number of Canadians actively discussing these topics positively is relatively low.

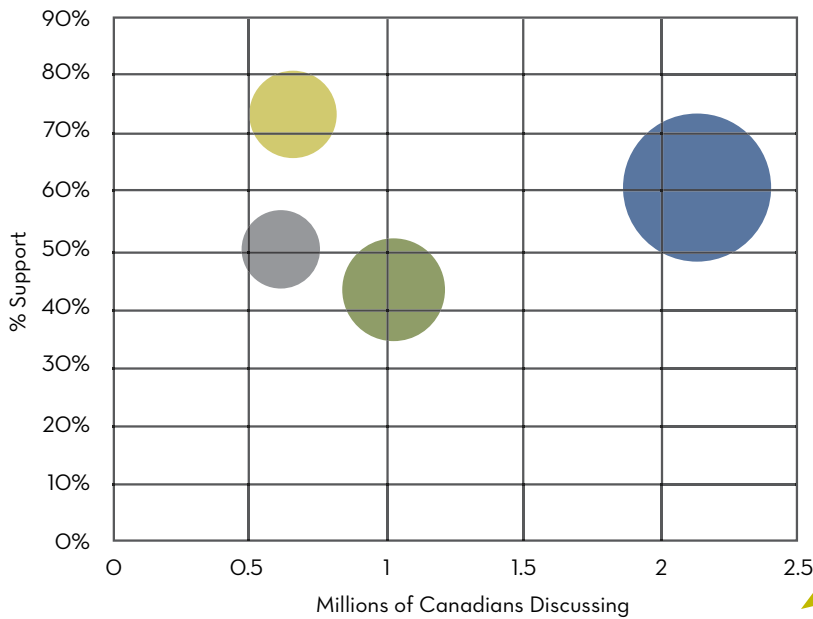
The table below provides examples of the types of discussions and terms being used by those who either support or oppose a position of trusting/looking for products that are ‘free from’ each topic. Overall, both supporters and detractors discuss the benefits – either of the issue or the absence of it.

	Those who oppose this are discussing:	Those who support this are discussing:
Pesticide Free	Invasive plant and bug species compromising agriculture	Reduced risk to public health, especially cancer risk; better for bee populations
Antibiotic Free	Animals aren’t in optimal health, therefore meat quality is compromised	Concern over health benefits for humans
Hormone Free	Marketing gimmick, particularly on Canadian dairy	Canadian standards for milk/beef are better for human health than US standards
GMO Free	Non-GMO label is not accurate/ can be misleading	Better for human health and the environment



I DON'T WANT THAT IN MY FOOD

DISCUSSION VS SUPPORT FOR “X IN FOOD IS BAD”



- GMO in food are bad
- Hormones in food are bad
- Antibiotics in food are bad
- Pesticides in food are bad

Unlike the relatively low number of Canadians discussing products being labelled “free from x”, far more Canadians are engaged on the broader issue of whether or not the presence of antibiotics, hormones, or pesticides in their food is bad (500,000 – 1 million). Sentiment is relatively split regarding whether or not antibiotics or pesticides in food is bad, but Canadians are far more negative when it comes to the presence of hormones in their food.

Once again, the highest volume of engagement relates to GMOs; among the 2 million+ Canadians discussing this topic, six in ten feel GMO food is bad.

WHAT ARE CANADIANS SAYING?

	Those who oppose this are discussing:	Those who support this are discussing:
Pesticides in food are bad	Protecting plants, necessary for managing weeds	Link to declining bee population, risk to human health
Antibiotics in food are bad	Animals stay healthy	Antibiotic resistance crisis, increase of “superbugs”
Hormones in food are bad	rBST (growth hormone) in dairy is not allowed in Canada, leads to less use of pesticides	Particularly in dairy, hormones have adverse effects on human health such as immune system and natural hormone balance
GMOs in food are bad	GMOs allow farmers to use fewer pesticides, same nutrient or better than non-GMO foods at better price	Animals suffer due to GMOs, chemical companies, production of superbugs, invasive species and threatening biodiversity

THE INFLUENCE OF MEDIA AND CURRENT EVENTS

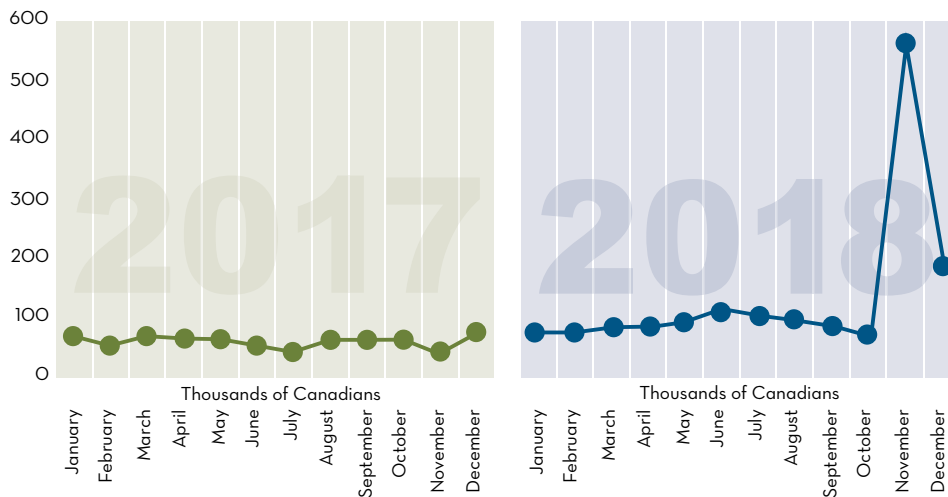
Events that occurred most recently are weighed more heavily in people's minds. People are not only subject to the availability bias, but another psychological bias called the recency bias: events that occurred more recently are weighed more heavily in people's minds. Because of this, it is apparent that news media drives engagement and interest of Canadians.

Concerns towards GMOs has fluctuated greatly in the past two years, peaking in November 2018 when a national documentary aired. Monthly engagement went from a base rate of 60,000 Canadians, shooting

up to 560,000 Canadians discussing GMOs in November.

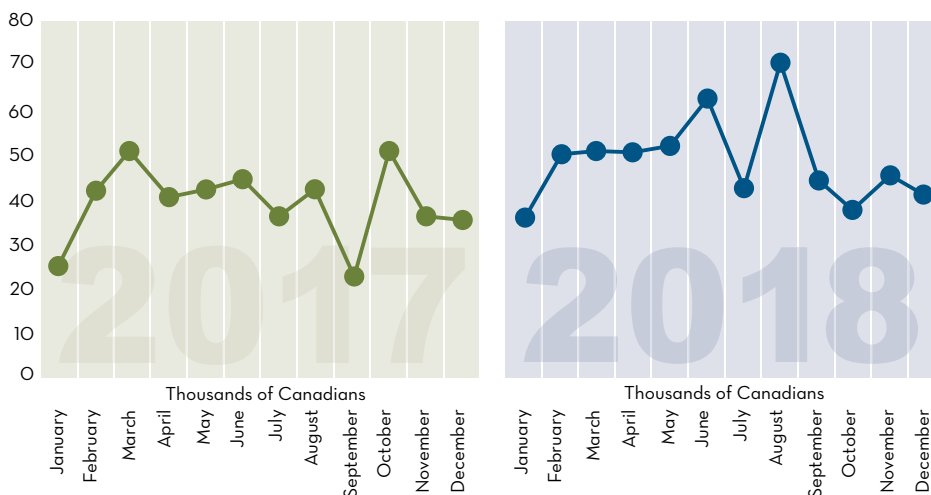
In contrast to the perception that GMOs are harmful, which fluctuated significantly with the recency bias, concern towards pesticides remained comparatively more level throughout the past two years (with a base rate of 42,000 Canadians peaking at 70,000 in August of 2018). Despite a series of campaigns and reports regarding pesticide and human health, the needle on Canadians' engagement has not fluctuated significantly.

ENGAGEMENT OVER TIME ON GMOs



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ENGAGEMENT OVER TIME ON PESTICIDES.



Despite a series of campaigns and reports regarding pesticide and human health, the needle on Canadians' engagement has not fluctuated significantly and concern towards pesticides remained comparatively more level throughout the past two years.



FARMERS ON THE FRONTLINE

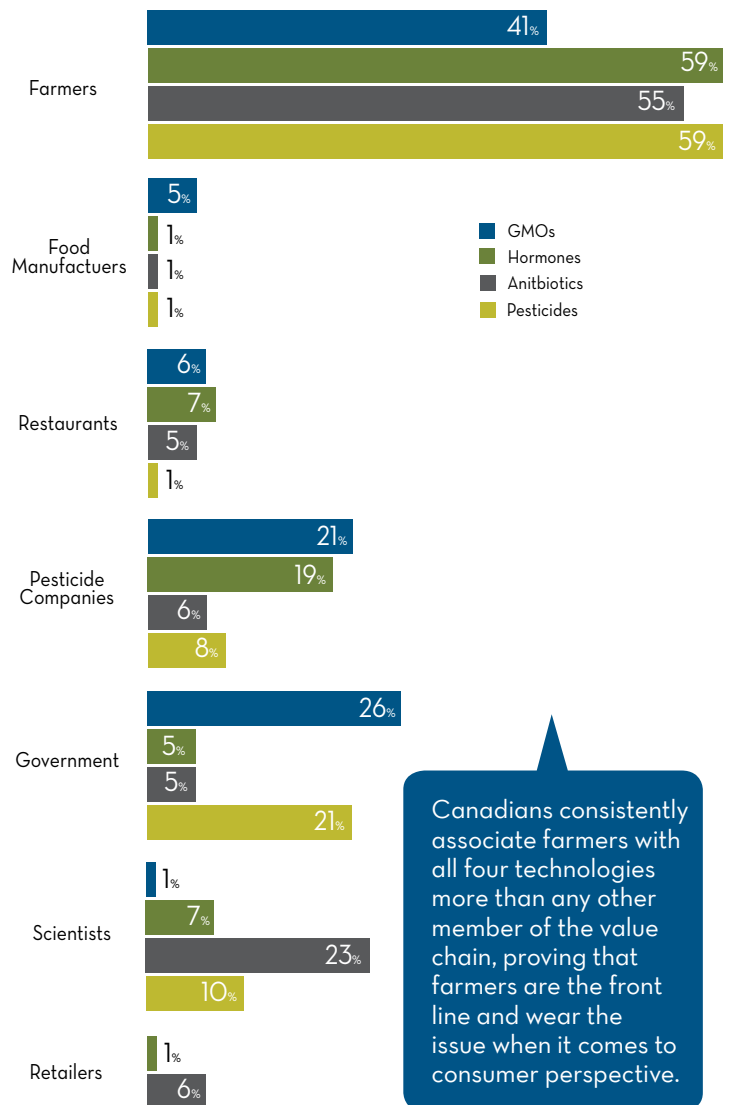
While Canadians have varying opinions on the four individual technologies examined within the research (GMOs, Pesticides, Hormones and Antibiotics), there is one common theme all Canadians firmly associate with each of these technologies: farmers. Farmers are associated with these technologies more than any other member of the value chain proving that farmers are the front line and wear the issue when it comes to public opinion.

- 60% of the analyzed discussions associated pesticides with farmers, while only 21% associated pesticides with government, and only 10% with scientists.
- The results are similar for hormones, antibiotics, and GMOs.
- While GMOs were the least associated with farmers at 41%, this is still substantially more than the number of discussions that associate GMOs with the next closest stakeholder (government at 26%).

The implications on future messaging is significant; Canadians are not predisposed towards listening to assurances about government regulatory safety measures because government is not the primary stakeholder that is associated with the technology.

In contrast, farmers have compelling stories and can act as key figures for educating the general public on agriculture issues. And when it comes to retailers, Canadians do not see a role for them in telling the story about why farmers need access to technologies.

STAKEHOLDERS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH ISSUE



Canadians consistently associate farmers with all four technologies more than any other member of the value chain, proving that farmers are the front line and wear the issue when it comes to consumer perspective.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE

What's really behind the issues? When 86% of Canadians strongly support agriculture being a highly-innovative sector, what is it that they are picturing? When there are more than five-times the number of Canadians discussing the environmental implications of modern farming than the average agricultural issue, what are people thinking of?

The reason is, simply, that words matter.

The language being used by different groups is not aligned. The language that people themselves use is not always aligned with the words they're really

thinking about. It's important to not only uncover what people really mean when they talk about an issue, but to use the language that they are comfortable talking about.

As an example, 'organic' means...whatever people want it to mean. Although more than 2 million people engaged in the topic of organics and 92% of those discussing the issue positively, a substantial portion are imbuing upon 'organic' a number of other characteristics they view as positive. The association that most people make between organic food is with local farming, even though there is often no such association.

TRADITIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS ARE LESS IMPACTFUL THAN GEOGRAPHY

Demographics have traditionally been thought of as being the most impactful way to segment audiences and understand unique profiles of people who hold radically different views. Millennials' opinions are typically contrasted against those of the Baby Boomers; food is often looked at through a gendered lens to measure differing perspectives men and women may hold towards key issues; and, race is occasionally anticipated to be a determining factor for outlook on key issues. However, in this study none of these factors attributed to significant differences in opinion:

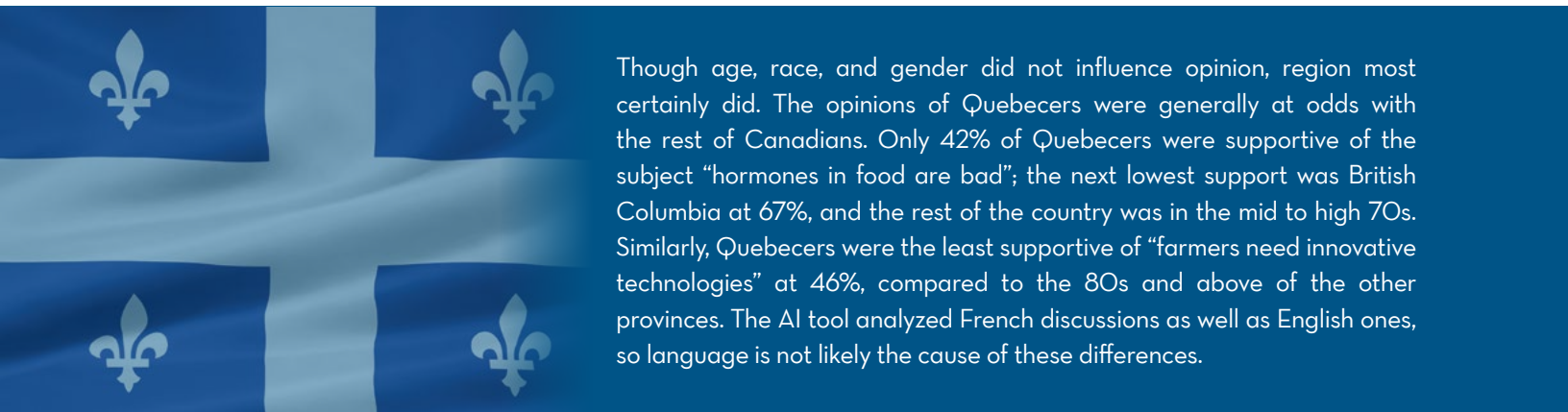
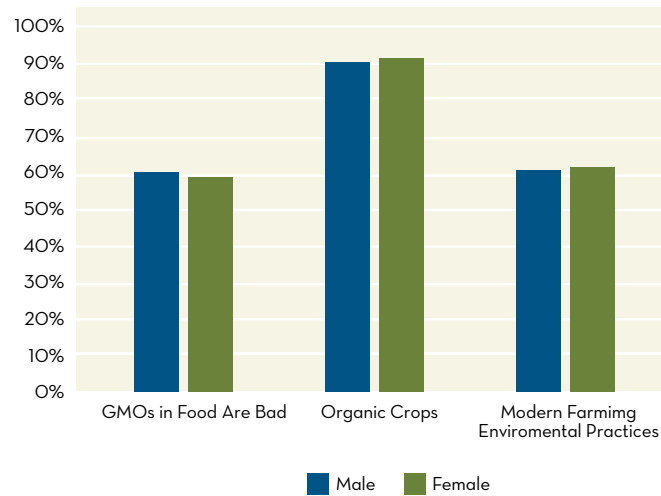
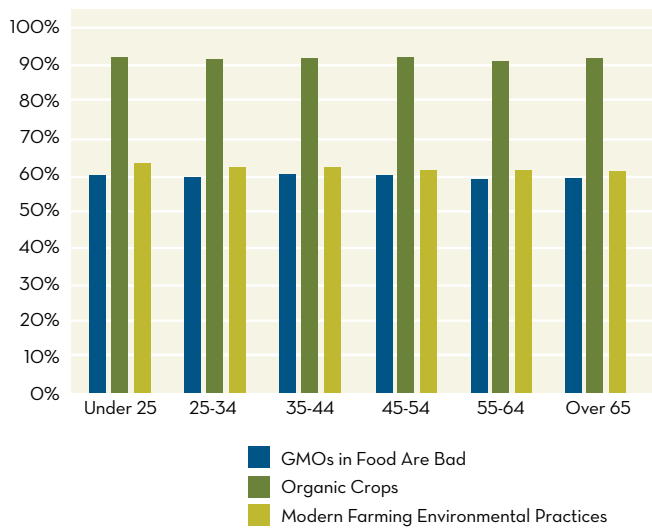
- On all topics, all age groups were within 1-2% of each other.
- Race similarly had no bearing on opinion, with all variability falling within the margin of error.

- There were differences between genders on a few subjects ("GMOs and hormones in food are bad", as an example), but men and women were largely aligned on the issues.

Returning to the three large issues which drive the agriculture conversation at a national level - opposition to GMOs, calls for organic food, and discussions on the link between modern agriculture and climate change - we see that in all three of these cases neither age, race, nor gender played a meaningful role in determining a person's attitudes.

Millennials and Baby Boomers were surprisingly found to be similarly aligned in many views on issues relating to agri-food and food systems in Canada.

SUPPORT FOR KEY TOPICS NOT INFLUENCED BY AGE OR GENDER



Though age, race, and gender did not influence opinion, region most certainly did. The opinions of Quebecers were generally at odds with the rest of Canadians. Only 42% of Quebecers were supportive of the subject “hormones in food are bad”; the next lowest support was British Columbia at 67%, and the rest of the country was in the mid to high 70s. Similarly, Quebecers were the least supportive of “farmers need innovative technologies” at 46%, compared to the 80s and above of the other provinces. The AI tool analyzed French discussions as well as English ones, so language is not likely the cause of these differences.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE CANADIAN CONVERSATION REPORT:

1. Opinions vary across the four technologies assessed – GMOs, hormones, antibiotics, pesticides – but most Canadians associate all of them with farmers, more than any other food system stakeholder.
2. “It’s not what you say, it’s what they hear.” Availability bias and recency bias play enormous roles amongst both the supporters and opponents of modern agriculture on key issues including the role of innovation itself. A resounding 86% of the one million Canadians who discussed the topic of innovation believe that agriculture is indeed one of the innovative sectors in Canada. But as with most public affairs issues, events and news media coverage drive public interest in an issue.
3. Age, race and gender did not have a significant impact on opinion, but region did. Quebec was frequently the outlier from the rest of Canada on key issues. And for the most part, millennials and baby boomers were surprisingly found to be similarly aligned in many views on issues relating to agri-food and food systems in Canada.



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
FOOD INTEGRITY

FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTIONS

The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity coordinates this research for the benefit of the entire food system and those interested in conversations about food and how it's produced. A better understanding of the Canadian public's views, expectations and disconnects is the foundation needed to increase public trust in our food system for the future. The research is meant to be shared broadly and put to work by the entire sector.

Funding for this activity has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program.

www.foodintegrity.ca

learnmore@foodintegrity.ca

[@FoodIntegrityCA](https://www.instagram.com/FoodIntegrityCA)

Canadian Centre For Food Integrity Public Trust Research.
With thanks to our partners TACTIX who managed and
interpreted the research.

(519) 265-4234

Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP)

Submitted by Ryan Daviduk of AAFC/AAC

The Youth Employment and Skills Program, offered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, encourages employers to hire youth who are 15 to 30 years of age for internships in order to gain employment skills so they are positioned to enter the workforce permanently. Extra incentive is offered for those youth facing employment barriers such as a disability, remote location or other socioeconomic need.

- intake will begin June 3, 2019 at 10 am EDT
- if approved, projects can start immediately
- approved projects can receive 50% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$14,000
- Not-for-profit, Indigenous organizations and applicants who hire a youth facing barriers will be eligible to receive 80% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$14,000
- an additional \$5,000 in funding covered at 100% is available for applicants to help the youth overcome their barriers to employment (For example, barriers could include, dependent care, transportation costs, or protective clothing)
- applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis as long as funds are available. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early
- Preference may be given to Indigenous groups in support of the Government of Canada's priority of advancing reconciliation and Indigenous economic development

Please note the program is first-come, first-served. As such you are encouraged to apply as early as possible since funding is limited.

If you are interested in this type of support, I would encourage you to visit our website:

http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/youth-employment-and-skills-program/?id=1557778999519&utm_source=Digitalemail&utm_campaign=YESP_campaign_Q12019&utm_medium=YESP_digitailemail_eng

British Columbia, Alberta, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, Manitoba and Saskatchewan can contact us directly at:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Youth Employment and Skills Program
301-2010 12th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0M3
Toll Free Number: 1-866-452-5558
Telephone: 306-523-6522
TDD/TTY: 613-773-2600
Fax: 306-780-7353
Email: aafc.yesp-pecj.aac@canada.ca

Employers can receive up to \$14K to hire Canadian youth

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's **Youth Employment and Skills program** will help fund approximately **200 agricultural positions** for Canadian youth aged **15 to 30**.

As an employer, you can receive **up to \$14,000** in **matching funds** to pay interns for **positions** in **agriculture, agri-food, agri-food science** or **veterinary medicine**. These positions can range from **four to 12 months**.



Employers eligible for up to 50% in matching funds:

- farm businesses
- industries
- provincial or municipal governments
- associations
- boards
- councils
- colleges
- universities

Employers eligible for up to 80% in matching funds:

- Indigenous organizations
- not-for-profit organizations
- those who hire youth facing significant employment barriers



Applications from employers will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

LEARN MORE OR APPLY.



Canada

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry/Alberta Environment and Parks

Submitted by Paul Jungnitsch

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry supports the growth, diversification and sustainability of Alberta's agriculture and forest industries.

Devin Dreesen was appointed [Minister of Agriculture and Forestry](#) on April 30, 2019.



Minister Dreesen was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in a by-election on July 12, 2018 as the MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake. He was re-elected on April 16, 2019.

Dreesen is a fifth-generation local farm owner and Albertan. Farming near Pine Lake, he has a long record of community service. He is a director of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, serves as a board member on the Crossroads Agricultural Society, and as a volunteer at the Pine Lake Country Fair.

Devin Dreesen was appointed as Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on April 30, 2019. He has a wealth of previous experience working on this file during his time in Ottawa where he was a policy advisor to Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz from 2008 to 2015, advocating for Canadian agriculture trade, improved rural infrastructure support, and leading the effort to end the Canadian Wheat Board monopoly. Dreesen will apply this experience, as well as his own farming history to serve Alberta's agricultural community and ensure that Alberta's farmers continue to make a significant contribution to the provincial economy.

As Minister, Dreesen hopes to continue this work, seeking to restore and improve market access for our forestry and agriculture products, and to attract investment in order to bring jobs back to Alberta.
<https://www.alberta.ca/devin-dreesen-bio.aspx>

Alberta Environment and Parks supports environmental conservation and protection, sustainable economic prosperity, quality of life and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Jason Nixon was appointed [Minister of Environment and Parks](#) and House Leader on April 30, 2019.



Minister Nixon was first elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the constituency of Rimbey–Rocky Mountain House–Sundre on May 5, 2015. He was re-elected on April 16, 2019.

Prior to serving in the Legislative Assembly, Nixon spent over 25 years volunteering and working for one of Alberta's most respected not-for-profit organizations, The Mustard Seed, including serving as Executive Director of the organization between 2006 and 2011. He has also been an entrepreneur, owning and operating a consulting business for several years.

Nixon graduated with honours from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's School of Business. He was born and raised in Alberta and lives in west-central Alberta with his wife Tiffany. They are the proud parents of Markus and twins Austin and Chyanne.

Mr. Nixon had the privilege of serving as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Alberta Legislative Assembly from October 2017 to January 2018. He has held other notable positions within the Assembly, including Official Opposition House Leader, Chief Opposition Whip, a variety of Shadow Minister roles, and he has served as a member of several legislative standing committees.

Jason Nixon was appointed as Alberta's Minister of Environment and Parks as well as Government House Leader on April 30, 2019. He will bring his substantial legislative record to his portfolio, as he works to restore confidence in the consultation process which was bungled several times, most notably with the Bighorn.

<https://www.alberta.ca/jason-nixon-bio.aspx>

For more information on both ministries please see: <https://www.alberta.ca/index.aspx>

The New Drone Rules: Great for Farm Use

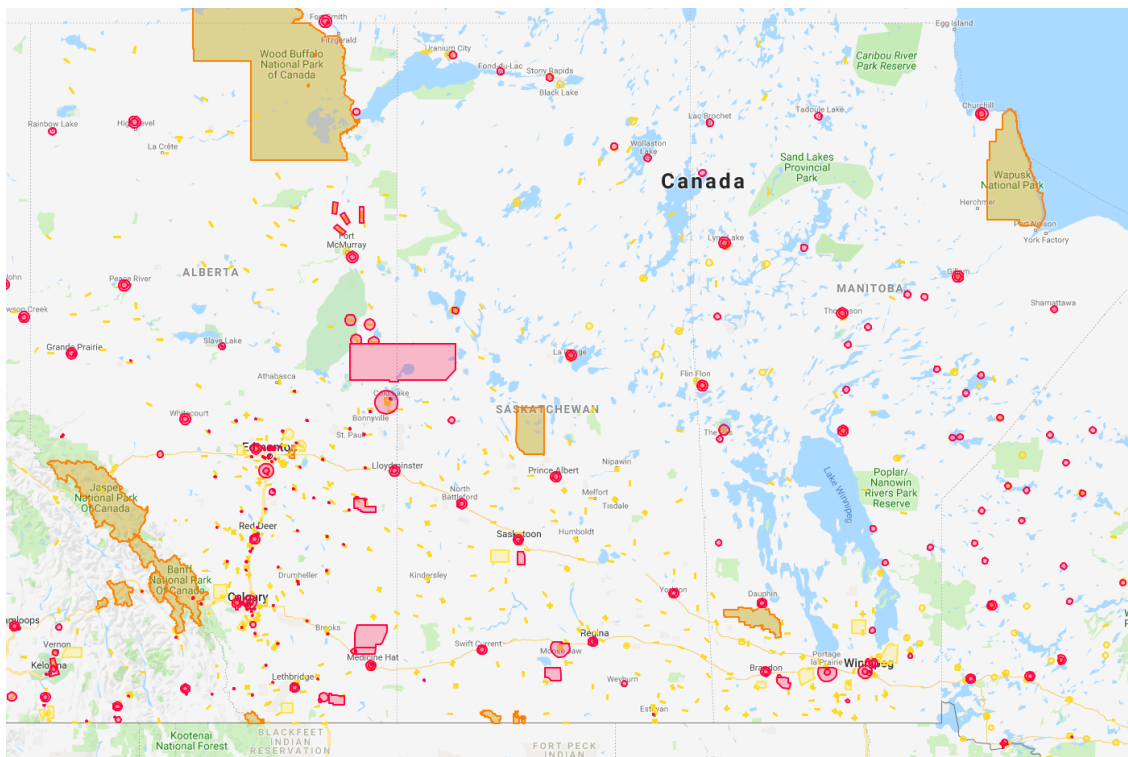
Submitted by Markus Weber of LandView Drones

As of June 1, everyone operating a drone over 250 grams will require a Certificate and every drone must also be registered. This is due to coming-into-force of Transport Canada's amendments to Part IX of the Canadian Aviation Regulations. But new rules are actually great news for agricultural drone users.

For those using a drone *as a toy*, these new rules are a significant new barrier since they previously could fly almost anywhere. **But they are great news for those using a drone as a tool.** In order to use a drone commercially on your farm last month, you would have needed to do exhaustive paperwork to apply for a Special Flight Operations Certificate for every drone and pilot, for a specific region and time. **This month, the regulations are much clearer and for most people passing a simple online test will allow you to fly any drone up to 25 kilograms, almost anywhere.**

Where can I fly?

For most farmers and rural businesses, a Basic Certificate will suffice. It will allow you to fly only in uncontrolled (Class G) airspace and at least 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) from *certified* airports / 1 nautical mile (1.9 km) from *certified* heliports. Not sure what that means for you? Well, there's a new tool for that too: the NRC has created the [Drone Site Selection Tool](#) which will show you where you can fly with a Basic or Advanced Certificate



The Drone Site Selection Tool provides a graphical way for RPAS pilots to find where they can fly legally. It shows restricted, controlled and safe flying areas, and helps pilots ensure they comply with Transport Canada drone safety requirements: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/drone-tool/>

There are of course other restrictions too, but these all make sense. You must keep the drone:

- at least 30 metres (laterally) from people that are not part of the operation
- at least 30 metres from buildings that are not part of the operation
- within visual line of sight
- no higher than 122 metres above ground
- well away from any other aircraft

The new rules, with some restrictions, will now even allow us to fly at night or with FPV goggles. How do you feel about checking your cows at night with a thermal camera? As long as you're well away from airports, that's legal now!

How do I pass the test?

The Basic test is somewhat challenging, but it does make sense that you would need to know the laws and some basics of safe operation. The focus of the test is the new rules, so if you review Part IX of the regulations themselves, that should help a lot. Many questions will require some research, but you have 90 minutes to write it, so there's time to refer to reference materials. You cannot give or receive help from anyone or copy the test questions, but you *can* consult other resources. Many questions are written so that there is one incorrect answer and three that are good, better, best. That makes it somewhat challenging to figure out the right answer. But the good news is that they are all multiple choice questions: 90 minutes for 35 questions. And you need only 65% to pass.

To prepare for the test you will want to especially brush up on the new laws themselves. Here are some other links to useful information:

- [Part IX of the Canadian Aviation Regulations](#)
- Transport Canada [summaries of the new rules](#)
- [Small Basic Exam](#) (\$10 every time you write, can rewrite every 24 hours)
- [Drone registration](#) (in the same Drone Management Portal as the test, cost is \$5 – each drone needs to be registered by serial number and then marked with the registration number with a permanent label)
- [Aviation Information Manual](#) (a great resource to use during the test for reference/research of unusual questions about manned aviation)
- A Youtube video series that outlines the basic knowledge requirements: [Don Drones On](#)

Unfortunately, farmers and agronomists are too busy to attend our Ag Drone School, so it is closed for the summer season. But we will be offering it across western Canada again this fall and spring. If you'd like to host us in your town, please do [let us know](#).

What if I need to fly in controlled airspace?

If you are unfortunate enough to have land in close proximity to certified airports, then you will require an Advanced Certificate. The test for it is considerably more challenging in terms of the online test (80% to pass, 50 questions in only 60 minutes). The Advanced will also require an in-person Flight Review that tests your ability to fly and to coordinate airspace. Both of those require considerably more knowledge, both to pass the test and to actually coordinate the airspace, so we recommend the

Advanced Certificate only for people that absolutely need to fly in controlled airspace ([more info on the new categories of drone operation](#)).

If you are one of the unfortunate ones with land inside the 3 nautical miles of a certified airport or in controlled airspace, we have a solution for you.



Clarion Drone Academy has developed a three-step program that gives participants a much higher likelihood of successfully completing the requirements for an Advanced Certificate, including both the online Transport Canada test and the in-person Flight Review.

The bulk of the learning would be online, with a one-day "Mission Planning" course as preparation for the Flight Review the following day. We still have the following dates available, but registration is required a week before the event -- and you will need to pass your online test well before attending the Mission Planning course (it is a requirement to qualify for the Flight Review).

We are working on the details of more deliveries this summer, but for those needing their Certificate immediately, we have the following dates left this month:

- Lloydminster June 24-25
- Peace River June 27-28
- Calgary June 27-28

Enroll today through Clarion's website at www.clariondrones.com or contact us at LandView at school@landview.com or (780) 448-7445. Full details at: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/65c6bf2c7de9a5fed85fd5f32/files/82c133ea-f5ad-4dba-b3cd-4ddbc612f252/LandView_Clarion_Advanced_RPAS_Training.pdf

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