

Quebec Forage Council has a Hay Day

The last edition of the Quebec Forage Council's Hay Day was once again a great success. The event took place Sept. 13, 2016, at Norfoin Inc. in Saint-Cesaire, Que., and broke the previous record of participants with nearly 240 people registered for the day.

Norfoin Inc. is a company engaged in the production, purchase and marketing of dry hay. This company is a member of the Quebec Hay Marketing Forum. In the morning, keynote speakers came together to explain, demonstrate and inform participants about the benefits of including forage crops in their rotations.

Odette Menard, from the Quebec provincial ministry, demonstrated the positive impact of fodder plants on soil structure. Then Anne Vanasse, professor at Laval University, described the advantages of including forage crops in their rotations both in terms of soil structure and yield.

Luc Normandin, one of the three owners of the host company, explained how they cultivate hay on neighbouring land. This explanation was then used by Rejean Prince, an agro-economist, who showed that the potential revenues over a few years are very interesting when one considers, among other things, the inclusion of forage in a crop rotation and the soil health impact.

The afternoon was devoted to the visit of the host company. A series of three workshops allowed participants to see all facilities and question the owners. One of the workshops involved the conversion of large square bales of hay into smaller ones. Visitors were also able to see the small baling system and the hay compactor.

The second workshop explained the importance of warehousing, the quality of hay and what is sought in export markets. The last of the three workshops was on the company's hay dryers. Participants were able to see two types of dryers in operation since the company had received several hundred bales of hay before the hay day.

Of course, various major sponsor displays were on site throughout the day to provide information on the various products related to forage crops.

- submitted by Audrey Mailloux, Engineer