

A Look at the Latest News from Novalait



A WORD FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Dairy research: A tightly knit ecosystem

More than a third of the researchers funded by Novalait come from AAFC. Most projects are carried out in collaboration between AAFC and universities, which has led to major advances and trained a new generation of professionals active in the sector. The Carbon-Neutral Milk – Living Laboratory has strengthened these ties by bringing together researchers and managers from 20 farms around applied research projects.

A shock with far-reaching consequences

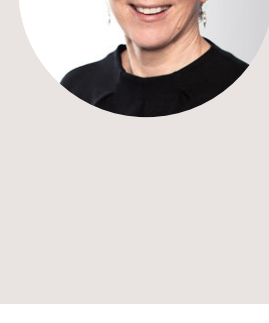
The AAFC's decision to eliminate an unprecedented number of scientific positions and close several research centers, including the one in Québec City, is first and foremost a human issue. We express our deepest empathy for the researchers, professionals, and technicians affected. In such an interconnected ecosystem, the impacts extend far beyond AAFC's walls and affect the entire sector.

Projects maintained, but teams weakened

Although research budgets are being maintained, staff reductions will inevitably affect project implementation and the delivery of results. Within the Carbon-Neutral Milk – Living Laboratory, 12 of the 19 project leads have been affected by cuts, early departures, or relocations, already disrupting interactions with producers. Novalait is implementing mitigation measures to ensure the continuation of on-farm research, graduate student training, data analysis, and the transfer of results.

Strategic expertise at risk

The eliminated positions have no equivalent elsewhere in the ecosystem, which was developed precisely on the basis of complementary expertise. The job cuts will result in a net and irreversible loss of skills essential to addressing Novalait's research priorities and the dairy sector's challenges of carbon neutrality and climate adaptation.



Élise Gosselin

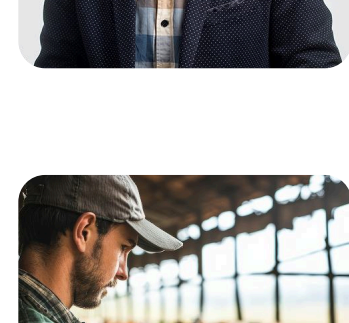
General Manager at Novalait

ABOUT NOVALAIT

Did you know that during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Novalait funded five new projects? This represents investments of \$475,000 out of a total budget of \$5 million. Check out the new fact sheets for these research initiatives on our website:

1. [Strategies to Enhance Pasture System Resilience and GHG Mitigation Potential in Organic Dairy Production](#)
2. [Molecular fingerprinting of different types of cheese to improve quality](#)
3. [Simulait 2.0 – Bringing the software up to commercial standards and expanding its applications to cheese manufacturing processes](#)
4. [A new class of alternative antibiotics for dairy farms compatible with the One Health principles](#)
5. [Research Chair in Environmental Engineering of Dairy Barns](#)

NOVALAIT RESEARCH NEWS



A new chair in environmental engineering for dairy barns

The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FSAA) at Université Laval has announced funding for five new MAPAQ chairs. Novalait is proud to contribute to Sébastien Fournel's chair in environmental engineering for dairy barns.

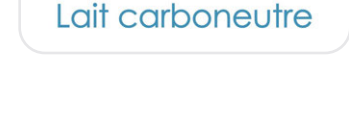
[Read the FSAA news](#)



An overview of best practices in biosecurity

Radio-Canada's program, Les années lumière, produced a report featuring the [biosecurity chair's](#) team. The researchers explain their work on the adoption of biosecurity measures on Quebec dairy farms and share some best practices to implement.

[Listen to the Radio-Canada audio report](#)



Carbon-Neutral Milk – Living Laboratory: The experience of Sébastien and Michel Crête

On January 26 and 27, the laboratory team held its provincial co-development meeting. This event brought together the 20 participating farms and their advisors, research teams, and experts to discuss beneficial management practices to be implemented by 2026. Watch the Crête farm's innovative approach to adjusting amino acids in the feed ration, presented at this meeting.

[Listen to the report from the farm](#)



Video clip from the project on the resilience of organic pastures

A video has been produced on pasture resilience and greenhouse gas reduction in organic dairy production as part of [Organic Science Cluster 4](#). Lead researcher Caroline Halde and her colleagues explain the methodology used and the expected results of this research initiative.

[Watch the video clip](#)



Using surplus lactose in cow feed—why not?

The research team working on a [Dairy Research Cluster 4](#) project on the use of whey permeate in dairy cow feed has published an article in the journal Le producteur de lait québécois. Learn more about the preliminary results of this project.

[Read the article](#)



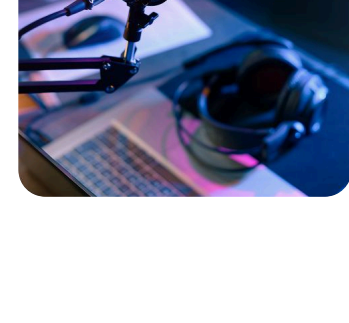
Colostrum quality and quantity under the microscope

The journal Le producteur de lait québécois published an article on the effects of B-vitamin supplementation in dairy cows on colostrum production and the health of the mother and calf. The journey of Kathrin Dubois, a master's student working on the project, was also highlighted in an article published by Novalait.

[Read the article](#)

[Kathrin's profile](#)

THE NEXT GENERATION IN ACTION



An accelerated-aged cheese made from ultrafiltered milk

Moïra Noël, a master's student in food science, presented a popular science poster at the INAF's BENEFIQ conference. Her project focuses on the technological levers used to adjust the mineralization of cheese curd. View the poster on our website.

[View the poster on our website](#)



What do we know about dairy biofilms?

In 2025, researcher Denis Roy's team published a series of scientific articles on their research into biofilms in the dairy ecosystem and participated in a discussion on the American Dairy Science Association's podcast. Listen to Mérielie Gagnon, Ph.D., and Tara Wilson, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guelph, discuss the key findings of these research initiatives.

[Listen to the podcast in English](#)

[Read the scientific articles](#)



Carbon-Neutral Milk – Living Laboratory: What do the first carbon footprint assessments reveal?

Frédérique Nadon, an agronomist and PhD student in animal science at the CNMLL, presented the initial results from Carbon-Neutral Milk – Living Laboratory. Learn more about the initial carbon footprints of the 20 participating farms and comparisons between the various available calculators. Novalait has also published an article on this dedicated student.

[Read the article](#)

[Frédérique's story](#)

THE DAIRY COMMUNITY



Transfo:Inno scholarships: Applications are now open!

Novalait is proud to contribute to the training of a highly qualified next generation for the dairy industry. The Initia Foundation and INAF have opened the call for applications for the Transfo:Inno scholarships. A great opportunity to recognize student excellence in food science. **The call is open until April 6, 2026.**

[View details on the call for applications](#)



Foods of the future: The Consortium RITA presents a project supported by Novalait

Novalait is contributing to [Research Network 5](#) of McGill University's [Consortium RITA](#). Read this article that presents Stéphane Bayen's project on the development of molecular tools to improve cheese quality.

[Read or listen to the interview](#)



The Acfas research communication contest

Novalait encourages graduate students to develop their science communication skills. Acfas is currently seeking proposals for the 33rd edition of the annual competition. **The call for entries is open until March 6.**

[Apply for the Acfas research communication contest](#)