

Practical Organic Farming: Challenges and Techniques at Les Fermes Longprés

This presentation delves into the innovative practices and strategic approaches implemented at Les Fermes Longprés, an organic farm spanning 615 hectares. Matthew Dewavrin, agronomist and co-owner of the farm, discusses the farm's evolution, mission, and values, emphasizing self-sufficiency, soil conservation, biodiversity, and vertical integration.

Key topics include:

- **Practices:** Ridge tillage, strip cropping, and double cropping techniques to enhance soil health and crop yield.
- **Sustainable Inputs:** Reliance on green manure for fertilization and reduced dependency on inputs.
- **Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management:** Shelterbelts, organic certification, and pollinator habitat initiatives.
- **Production Systems:** Integration of grain processing, food-grade crop production, and seed autonomy to improve operational sustainability.
- **Challenges:** Addressing GMO contamination, soil compaction, perennial weed management, and climate change impacts while navigating urban expansion and land value pressures.
- **Opportunities:** Capitalizing on consumer demand for transparency, organic products, regenerative agriculture and provincial support programs.

The presentation also highlights ongoing projects, such as organic corn hybrid testing, integrated pest management, and robotics integration, showcasing the farm's commitment to innovation and long-term sustainability.