

# QUOTA SYSTEM

In the U.S., farmers purchase the land, cattle, etc., they believe they can handle and produce the goods they believe the markets will support. Under the Canadian quota system, which affects a number of agricultural products, dairymen who want to acquire more cows must also purchase the appropriate quotas, which are not only sold by the government, but are also limited in number.

Of course, the program does have its benefits, such as supply management and guaranteed prices, which are markedly higher than in the U.S. It should be noted, however, that the extra profit helps pay those quotas. Except for the cost of quotas, the cost of production isn't all that different in the States as compared to Canada. Neither is the difficulty experienced by young farmers starting into the business. "When we expanded the dairy barn back in 2002," says Rheal, "the cost of a quota for a kilogram of butterfat was around \$14,000 (approx. 76-79 pounds of milk yields a kilogram of butterfat). Earlier this year, it was running \$30,511 per kilogram."

At today's prices, the Simons' quota of 121.8 kilograms would be virtually cost prohibitive. Echoing comments often heard south of the border, Rheal continues, "I don't know how young farmers can afford to go into business these days."



MASSEY FERGUSON

With the help of Guy Deroche, with Notre Dame Motors, Ltd., in nearby Notre Dame, the Simons have upgraded their fleet with several new pieces of equipment. In addition to the 1360, the Simons have upgraded their fleet with several new pieces of equipment, including a Massey Ferguson 2150 large square baler, a Hesston by Massey Ferguson 9430 swather, and a Massey Ferguson 7480 tractor with a loader. The 2150 has been an especially efficient time-saver, says Mark, since the 3- x 3-foot bales require a lot less labor than conventional square bales. As for the 7480, Michel says, "With its Dyna-VT transmission, we can always find the perfect speed for any job in the field." He adds that the RVM (remote valve management) control and the pedal mode on the CVT transmission make loader work fast and easy. For instance, he can shuttle shift with his left hand and control ground speed with his right foot, while managing every function of the loader with his right hand and the joystick.

Even with all the new equipment, Rheal isn't about to give up his 16-year-old Massey Ferguson 390 tractor, calling it his "greatest love, next to my wife." Thanks to its front-wheel assist, which lets him go almost anywhere, it's the ideal machine for cleaning pens and hauling bales—particularly since it easily fits inside the barn.



Get free information about  
the equipment you see in  
**FARM LIFE™**

We want to get  
to know you.

[myfarmlife.com/gettoknow](http://myfarmlife.com/gettoknow)

*Please visit us online,  
or complete the card  
in the center of this issue  
and drop in the mail.  
No postage needed!*



MASSEY FERGUSON

Fall 2010 **15**