



10 Minutes For The Planet

The salon de L'Agriculture©

by Valentine Rinner

Accompagnement lexical et phonologique - Laurent Dufour©

Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées*

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's **episode** of 10 Minutes for the Planet. A few weeks ago, the **annual** Salon de l'Agriculture was held in Paris, with its **characteristic parade** of **politicians** and **especially** on this election year, the **candidates** for the **upcoming presidential** elections. With over 600,000 visitors each year, the Salon de l'Agriculture is a **milestone** before **votes** must be **cast** in May, as well as a **compulsory** test for **future** candidates.

Farmers today seem to have little **trust** in the **government's will** to **support** their **livelihood** and the Salon is a **prime opportunity** to get public and **political** attention on **issues** that are dear to them. This year, the **atmosphere** was **decidedly** tense: with **bird flu** a problem in the South West of France, **dread** over the negotiations for the next 2020 **European Common Agricultural Policy**, and the **unfortunate passing** of Xavier Bellin, one of the leading agricultural **representatives** since 2010, who died **suddenly**, only a week before the Salon.

On February 28th, halfway through the Salon, the **Minister** for **Agriculture**, Stéphane Le Foll, **announced** that 343 million **euros** would be freed in order to pay **overdue subsidies** over the next few months. This was **welcome** news, as all farmers **transitioning** from **conventional** to **organic** agriculture are **eligible** for a 5-year "transition **subsidy**," followed by a lighter 5-year "**maintenance** subsidy," under the European Common Agricultural Policy, to **cover** their **initial** losses. Shockingly, an **estimated** 25,000 farmers, representing about 80% of organic farms in France, still haven't **received** their **financial** subsidies for the past two years.

parade (n.) défilé

upcoming (adj.) prochain, imminent

milestone (n.) événement marquant, majeur

to cast a vote (cast-cast) (exp.) voter

compulsory (adj.) obligatoire

trust (n.) confiance

will (n.) volonté

livelihood (n.) gagne-pain

prime (adj.) excellent, parfait

issue (n.) problème

bird flu (n.) grippe aviaire

dread (n.) peur, crainte

passing (n.) décès, disparition

overdue (adj.) pas encore payé

subsidy (n.) subvention

organic (adj.) bio

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the **delay** was caused by a bug in the **software** dealing with subsidy **calculations**. The Government has the money; **however**, they are **encountering difficulties allocating** it correctly. 2 years later and **despite** the Ministry's **efforts** to **recruit** extra **analysts**, teams are still **catching up with** the problem. Subsidies have been **calculated** one after the other, starting with larger farms – leaving smaller farms, which are often organic, last on the list. So, **little wonder** farmers are having trouble **keeping their tempers**, as well as their financial **equilibrium**. A **significant** number of **recent** organic farms have closed due to lack of cash, while many of those remaining face heavy financial difficulties as they have debts to **reimburse** due to their “transition” **investments**. Without subsidies, the **challenge** is too great.

The number announced by Le Foll **represents** 80% of the **outstanding** amounts due for 2016. However, overdue subsidies for 2015 are still awaiting their turn.

In the meantime, the **demand** for organic food **continues** to **increase** and has grown 20% in 2016 alone. **As of today**, we face difficulties meeting the demand even though farm conversions from conventional to organic have **exploded**, reaching an **increase** of 40% in 2016. Conversion is a heavy **process** that takes between three and five years, and given the **current circumstances**, it looks like present-day and future organic farmers will have growing difficulties **responding** to rising demands. We can only hope the **issue** will start **emerging** in the presidential **programs** and **debates**.

Bye everyone and see you next week for a new episode of 10 Minutes for the Planet.

delay (n.) retard

software (n.) logiciel

to encounter (vb.)
rencontrer

to allocate (vb.) répartir,
distribuer

to catch up with (caught-caught) (vb.) rattraper son retard dans

little wonder (exp.) ça n'est guère étonnant que

to keep one's temper (kept-kept) (exp.) garder son sang-froid

outstanding (adj.) impayé

in the meantime (exp.) en attendant, pendant ce temps-là

as of today (exp.) à ce jour

current (adj.) actuel

***Aide à la prononciation:** Savoir quelle est la syllabe accentuée dans un mot peut aider à comprendre le mot à l'oral. Prenons comme exemple les mots “calculate” et “calculation”. Comptons d'abord le nombre de syllabes dans chaque mot: “cal.cu.late” a 3 syllabes, “cal.cu.la.tion” a 4 syllabes. La syllabe accentuée dans un mot est celle que l'on entend le mieux, celle sur laquelle le locuteur fait porter l'accentuation. Ainsi, par exemple, on dit: **calculate** et **calculation**.