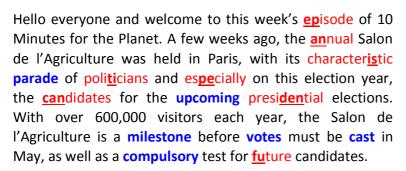


## 10 Minutes For The Planet The salon de L'Agriculture©

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\*



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 **sud**denly, only a week before the Salon.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, halfway through the Salon, the <u>Min</u>ister for <u>Agriculture</u>, Stéphane Le Foll, an<u>nounced</u> that 343 million <u>euros</u> would be freed in order to pay <u>overdue</u> subsidies over the next few months. This was <u>welcome</u> news, as all farmers transitioning from con<u>ven</u>tional to <u>organic</u> agriculture are <u>eligible</u> for a 5-year "transition <u>subsidy</u>," followed by a lighter 5-year "<u>main</u>tenance subsidy," under the European Common Agricultural Policy, to <u>cover</u> their in<u>itial</u> losses. Shockingly, an <u>estimated</u> 25,000 farmers, representing about 80% of organic farms in France, still haven't <u>received</u> their fi<u>nan</u>cial 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 encounteringdifficultiesallocating 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(caughtcaught) (vb.) rattraper son retard dans

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

to keep one's temper (keptkept) (exp.) garder son sangfroid

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.