

More and more techno farms The Quebec company Maximus presented its first edition of the Ag Tech Conferences.

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The Ag Tech Conferences show that advancements in information technologies still have great potential for development in animal productions. The activity was organized by the company [Maximus](#) which develops and builds a controller for livestock buildings. The distribution of the product is ensured by the company IEL.

For this first edition, the company of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville invited two collaborators, Scott Gillingham and Tom Stein on September 13, 2018 on its premises. About fifty community stakeholders attended the conferences.

Scott Gillingham

With veterinary training, poultry production consultant Scott Gillingham has a simple message: "You can not manage what you do not measure. According to him, technologies will be the key to meeting the growing demand for meat worldwide. Not only will they increase production, but they will also improve animal health and welfare, as well as facilitate the management of personnel.

"The chicken's growth is 5 grams per hour; there is no room for error," he says.

While only 10 to 30% of growth is attributable to genetics, nutrition, health, the environment and management have the largest share. In addition, with antibiotic-free production programs, data acquisition becomes more and more important.

Countless production data can now be managed automatically, such as temperature evaluation by infrared cameras, cameras to identify areas where animals are kept.

Tom Stein

PigCHAMP software designer in the 1980s who was the reference in pork data management for many years, veterinary doctor Tom Stein now works full time for Maximus. He is even part of the executive office.

Tom Stein would never have imagined such a technological advance in pork production, but he sees other possibilities for producers in the coming years.

For him IT is to bring "the brain into the pigsty", "the brain in your hands" and "the brain in your office".

Today's controller can be linked to all farm data. With tablets and smartphones, people have access to real-time data from anywhere. For the office, the controller allows better data capture at different levels.

The next big breakthrough is in communications. Alerts will inform producers about upcoming events and things to do during the day. A communications network will inform your network of, for example, a health issue on a farm. Such a network will work in the manner of Twitter.

All this adds to the different technologies that can be added to the controller. This is particularly the case of the monitor developed by the company **Swine Tech** whose goal is to reduce crushed piglets.

Another technology of the future is the detection of sick animals before they are sick, simply by analyzing the behavior of pigs. Another example is the 3D technology that will measure the weight of pigs by simply using the electronic tablet.

Maximus intends to make the Ag Tech Conferences an annual event. Maximus Vice-President Nizar Barrou wants next year to invite Quebec experts.



From left to right: Maximus Vice President Nizar Barrou, Maximus President André Spilman, Speaker Scott Gillingham, Speaker Tom Stein and Marketing and Communications Director Maximus Sandie Crayne. photo: Marie-Josée Parent

Jim Eadie