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Government of Canada Invests in Saskatchewan's Food Industry

On Monday, November 8, the Government of Canada announced up to \$307,000 to help the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre meet the growing demand for nutritional products. Member of Parliament Brad Trost (Saskatoon-Humboldt) made the announcement on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz at the Food Centre in Saskatoon. This investment under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) will be administered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS).

"The funding will help the Food Centre create a dream team of experts who will help Saskatchewan food processors develop more nutritional food product lines." said MP Trost. "I'm proud our Government is helping to grow markets for our farmers and processors in Saskatchewan - while providing healthier food choices for consumers."

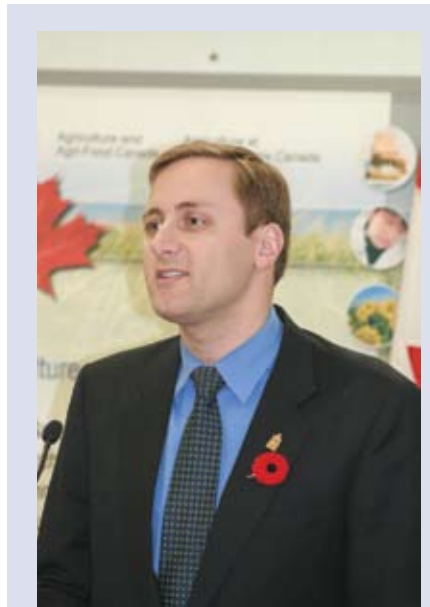
This project will develop a team that can assist companies in developing healthy choice product lines and reformatting existing products to meet reduced targets for sodium and fat. Specifically, this project will provide information on new consumer expectations, alternatives for ingredients and new processing

technologies and will assist with technology transfer to the food processing industry.

"This project is another example of Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food industry seizing opportunities and opening doors for producers and processors," said Allen Kuhlmann, Vice-Chair of the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. "As an industry based council, ACS is able to provide funding that address emerging issues and capture opportunities. By working closely with organizations like the Food Centre, we're able to help the industry adapt to changing consumer demands and allow consumers to benefit from new processes, technologies and products."

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a five-year (2009-2014), \$163 million national program with the objective of facilitating the agriculture, agri-food, and

agri-based products sector's ability to seize opportunities, to respond to new and emerging issues, and to pathfind and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues in order to help it adapt and remain competitive. For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap. For more information on the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan, please visit www.agrcouncil.ca. ■



*Saskatoon-Humboldt MP
Brad Trost announces
CAAP funding on
November 8, 2010*

ACS Member Profile: Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan

The Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CDCS) was established in 2006. They became an ACS member in 2009.

According to the CDCS website, Saskatchewan has become the world's leading producer and exporter of canaryseed, with the production used almost exclusively as a component of feed mixtures for caged and wild birds. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada estimates the value of Canadian exports at over \$134 million in 2008 and nearly \$90 million in 2009.

The main activity of the producer-funded commission is working to get canaryseed approved for human food use. Canaryseed consumption is occurring in the health food market, especially in countries with a Hispanic population, while over 50 countries import Canadian canaryseed primarily for feed for caged birds.

Money from the producer levy collected by CDCS has been used to secure a commitment from ACS for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada adaptation programming for a project to pursue new uses of canaryseed. This project will include safety studies to thoroughly understand the composition of canaryseed and make sure it is suitable for human and livestock consumption. Marketing of canaryseed will also be studied in the project in order to understand the needs of the food industry and how canaryseed fits into it.



The CDCS website reports that the average yield of canaryseed in Saskatchewan was estimated at 1,163 pounds per acre in 2009. This was up nine per cent from 2008 and was 29 per cent above the 10-year average for the province. But, as the website states: "To date, canaryseed has been almost totally reliant on the birdseed market and that carries a number of risks. The market is finite and when Saskatchewan grows too much relative to demand, prices are pushed lower. In order for canaryseed to be profitable over a larger land base, we need to move beyond the birdseed market."

Dr. Carol Ann Patterson of The Pathfinders Research and Management Ltd. in Saskatoon has been hired by CDCS to lead the novel food project for the Commission. CDCS is hoping her work, along with the work of Dr. Pierre Hucl of the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre, who is working to improve the yield of glabrous varieties of canaryseed, will lead to the usage of canaryseed in human food products and will expand the market for producers.

For more information on the Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan, please see their website at www.canaryseed.ca or send an e-mail to office@agribiz.ca. ■

ACS Annual Report Now Available

The 2009-2010 ACS Annual Report is now available on the ACS website at www.agcouncil.ca.

Once again, we are going paperless and will be offering the annual report only in PDF format on our website. The report contains highlights from all of our programs, including the first year of the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program and the first year of Levy Central under ACS management.

Please contact us at info@agcouncil.ca if you have any questions about the report.





AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

Board of Directors

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Saskatchewan Pork
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Saskatchewan Ministry of
Agriculture Representative

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Laurie Dmytryshyn

Staff at the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) have definitely hit the ground running this fall.

We had our first Board meeting in September, and it was exciting to see our three new directors (eight in total) already making positive contributions and bringing new ideas to ACS. The three new directors are: Tim Wiens of the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Joy Smith of the Saskatchewan Egg Producers, and Dan Prefontaine of the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre. Although it was difficult to see three long-serving Directors, Valerie Pearson, Murray Purcell and Bob Morgan, retire in June, I am confident ACS is in good hands with our current Board and I look forward to the upcoming year.

Allen Kuhlmann, Vice-Chair of ACS, and I had the opportunity to experience the Northwest Territories at the Issues and Opportunities meeting in late August. Council Chairs, Executive Directors and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada meet once per year to discuss opportunities, issues and best practices across Canada. Since the Councils were formed 14 years ago, this was the first time Northwest Territories hosted the meeting. It was a very interesting agenda and one of the best meetings I have attended.

One of the many noteworthy speakers at the workshop was Grant Dyck of Artel Farms in Manitoba. Grant and his wife Colleen were Manitoba's Outstanding Young Farmers in 2009 and they are definitely role models for youth in agricul-

ture. They run a large farming operation, are co-owners in a re-claimed lumber and wood products company (www.woodanchor.com) and have started an all natural energy bar company (www.gorpbar.com). Last year, Colleen won the Great Manitoba Food Fight with her unique new product that uses mostly Manitoba grown ingredients. In addition to their multiple businesses, they are also juggling a young family. Their determination, passion for agriculture and entrepreneurial spirit is evident in everything they do.

ACS is pursuing the development of a similar competition to that in Manitoba: The Great Saskatchewan Food Fight. It is a one-day competition designed to assist agri-entrepreneurs in bringing their innovative food products to market. Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives hosted the successful Great Manitoba Food Fight for the past few years and have lent their support to ACS in putting together a similar event here in Saskatchewan. A committee has been formed and is in the early stages of development. More information will follow as details are confirmed.

ACS recently conducted our annual Connecting with Members Survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine if ACS is meeting its membership needs and to explore other potential membership benefits. Thank you to all who completed the survey. This feedback is valuable and will help guide us and our partners in the implementation of our programming. ■

Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)



Gravelbourg Company Expanding Mustard Market

By Peter Derbawka

Sushi lovers all over the world enjoying Saskatchewan mustard is the goal of Mustard Capital Inc. (MCI) of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. Mustard is used to flavour the wasabi that is eaten with sushi.

Tom Halpenny, CEO of MCI says new equipment will process oriental mustard for this wasabi and wasabi flavouring market. “We’re working with selected customers,” he says, “to refine and develop a de-oiled oriental seed product. The equipment will enable us to more efficiently meet the product quality specifications.”

The flavour in mustard comes from an enzyme, myrosinase, which is released when the seed is crushed and mixed with water. MCI’s new equipment is designed to de-oil the seed, from 35% fixed oil content to around 15%, thereby concentrating the enzyme. Quality control is crucial, as the enzyme cannot be damaged or reduced in its effect, and that’s why MCI is working closely with its Japanese customers.

Canada supplies 70-80% of the world’s mustard, and Saskatchewan produces almost all of that. There are around 2000 mustard growers in the province and MCI deals with about 150. It expects to work with 185 growers once the market is developed.

Only one other processor in North America is working in this area, so there is growth potential for jobs. Canadian seed has historically been processed in Asia instead of Saskatchewan. “The initiative is to bring that value added activity closer to the source of the raw supply,” says Halpenny. Besides the jobs that are created here, the company’s revenues could increase around 25%.



The product’s market potential is also huge. Halpenny says it’s a growth market for two reasons. The first is that most of Asia, including Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Phillipines where sushi and wasabi are consumed, are increasing in population. The second is a shifting demographic in North America, Europe and South America. “Asian culture continues to grow through immigration and otherwise,” he says. “The culinary culture follows the primary culture, so the demand for a wasabi product will continue to show growth strength.”

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. Halpenny notes that the project is moving along on schedule and he expects to have everything operational in time for the new crop harvest. ■



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada



Expanding the Growing Areas for Flax

By Peter Derbawka

Flax production could dramatically increase across the prairies thanks to a project from the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission. Sask Flax is hoping flax will follow a similar path as canola, which went from a relatively unknown crop to one that challenges wheat acreage thanks to the development of hardy varieties.

Much of Canada's flax production is in south east Saskatchewan and south west Manitoba. Sask Flax is hoping that this project will have farmers from across the province realizing new benefits of flax production. "Farmers all along have seen the importance of flax in their rotation, but it has been like an old workhorse," says Linda Braun, Executive Director of Sask Flax. "For example, it stands up so well in fall that farmers have a tendency to put it in the ground last. We want it to be more a crop of choice than a crop of chance."

While the global consumer has always liked the quality of Canadian flax, there are concerns in the market about supply. The project will focus on enhancing traits to expand that supply including tolerance to seeding into cold soils, resisting of reflowering after autumn rain, and a natural rapid drying to facilitate harvest.

Phase one, developing the germ plasm and starting cooperative trials, began in January, 2010 and continues for five years. Phase two is a further five years for the breeding, growing, and

commercialization of the varieties selected. An added bonus is the absence of GM or genetic modification. While both phases of this project will take some time, producers will have more flax seed options when they are complete.

Other current flax research complements this project. One study is looking at herbicide tolerance, the other at using the entire flax plant. The value added potential of developing the flax fibre industry is significant. "Flax certainly has a lot of potential for complete plant utilization," says Braun, "and farmers would realize much greater net returns from the sale of their seed and their straw."

The project involves a consortium that covers western Canada, with funding from Viterra, Alberta Innovates - Technology Futures, the BC Grain Producers Association, the Agriculture Development Fund of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Western Grains Research Foundation, and support from the Flax Council of Canada, Branding the Peace Country Association and the Saskatchewan Research Council.

Funding has also been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. Most of the trials will be at Viterra's facility in Vegreville, Alberta as well as its California winter nursery. ■

Food Service and Grocery Retail Value Chain Initiative Readies for Launch

By Dallas Carpenter

The value chain concept has caught on within Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector, with numerous value chains now underway in the province. Now that people have been introduced to the concept of value chains, which includes the involvement of producers, processors, marketers and retailers as partners in the production and sale of a product to meet a specific need, there are many looking for information and opportunities to take the next steps in meeting the needs of grocers and food service retailers.

A new initiative from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) Inc., the Food Service and Grocery Retail Value Chain Program, aims to fill the knowledge gap. The Value Chain Program, which is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), will pick up where ACS's previous value chain initiative left off, delivering a way of entering the Canadian food industry utilizing the value chain concept.

"We received a lot of feedback from the agriculture and agri-food industry," said ACS Value Chain Specialist Bryan Kosteroski. "They want a better understanding of what goes on in the Canadian retail grocery industry; what is it, who is it, and why is it? The same thing goes for the foodservice industry. It has its challenges and its ways and means of entering the marketplace, and we will provide answers to these questions and strategies for people to get their foot in the door."

The Value Chain Program consists of two separate paths. The first, Grocery Retail Value Chain Initiative, is designed to develop a structure of collaboration with Canadian grocery retail category managers and category buyers. "We will be releasing a series of 12 grocery retail guides, each of which will focus on a different aspect of the Canadian grocery industry," explained Kosteroski. "The guides will focus a lot on understanding the retailer. We also talk about brand programs, costing programs,

and how to get on store shelves and stay there.

"A lot of our time is spent touring grocery stores with people from potential value chain projects. We look at what is going on in the market and what the competition is doing. We're also looking at new trends and at discovering information on the retailer we're trying to focus on. We're not developing a product on a whim, but rather, we are looking at focussed strategies to fill gaps and meet consumer demands, both now and in the future."

The second path, the Food Service Value Chain Initiative, will develop a structure of collaboration with Canadian foodservice providers and agri-food companies within Saskatchewan. Much like the Grocery Retail Initiative, the Food Service Initiative will provide a series of 12 guides that will explain the process of developing a value chain and getting a foot in the door of the food service industry. "The guides will provide the assets to better understand and move forward within the foodservice industry," said Kosteroski.

In addition to the electronic guides, which will be available on the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative website (www.saskvaluechain.com), semi-annual conference calls with Canadian foodservice consultants will be held, providing up-to-date information on trends and industry updates while giving participants the opportunity to discuss experiences. As Kosteroski explains, "The third-largest food market in North America is Toronto. Saskatchewan producers and processors have to understand what is going on there and across Canada, and not just focus on Saskatchewan. While we have many regional initiatives going on, we need to put some focus on national trends and issues to better understand and prepare for changes in consumer demand."

The initiatives will be launched soon, as will the new website. For more information on the new initiatives, please contact Bryan Kosteroski at (306) 975-6851 or kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca. ■

COMING SOON

January 10-13, 2011

2011 Western Canadian Crop Production Show

PrairieLand Park, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Monday, January 10, 2011: 12 noon - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 13, 2011 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Western Canadian Crop Production Show has become Western Canada's premier grain industry showcase by presenting information to producers on the latest technology, services, and products including:

- * Crop production practices and products
- * Equipment manufacturers
- * Crop inputs and application
- * Commodity marketing
- * Seed bed preparation
- * Seed & soil information
- * Straw & chaff management
- * Grain handling, processing, storage & transportation
- * Harvest technology

Admission: Adult - \$10.00, 2 Day admission pass - \$17.00

Please visit the ACS booth in Hall C at C26, which is to the right after entering from the main doors.

For more information on the Crop Production Show, go to www.cropproductiononline.com.

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CAAP Project Approval Update

Projects receiving funding between April 1, 2010 and November 5, 2010

Applicant	Project Title	Project Cost	AC S Funding
BioExx Protiens of Saskatoon Inc.	Silliker HACCP Certification and Audit, EU Certification and FDA Registration	\$283,066.33	\$63,969.16
Livestock Marketers of Saskatchewan Inc.	Safe and Humane Handling of Cattle, Primarily But Not Limited to: Auction Markets, Assembly Yards, and Order Buying Stations	\$79,250.00	\$69,342.11
Open Minds Development Corporation	Using Flax Fibre to Create Environmentally Friendly Consumer Goods	\$92,500.00	\$43,750.00
Saskatchewan Alpaca Breeders' Network	The Alpaca Fibre Project	\$191,995.00	\$158,368.43
Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission	An Innovative Fractionation Process for Better Utilization of Canola Non-Oil Components: Pilot Scale Testing and Economic Analysis	\$231,000.00	\$205,700.00
Star Egg	BRC Certification	\$100,000.00	\$46,400.00
Star Egg	BRC Pre-Evaluation-Leading to BRC Certification	\$9,000.00	\$3,600.00
Totals: 7 Projects		\$986,811.33	\$591,129.70

Collective Outcome Projects

Alberta Beef Producers	Towards a Practical Test for Campylobacter fetus in Beef Cattle: Getting to the Bottom of Reproductive Failure in Cow-Calf Herds	\$75,739.00	\$11,005.00
Alberta Pulse Growers Commission	Development of Improved Crop Management Practices Using Plant Growth Regulators to Control Secondary Crop Growth and Accelerate the Maturity of Rain Fed and Irrigated Kabuli Chickpeas	\$206,500.00	\$87,650.00
Fieldgate Organics Inc.	Organic Value Chain Development and Pilot Program	\$197,012.00	\$24,000.00
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association	Microbiome Analysis and Novel Microbial Based Diagnostics for Johne's Disease in Cattle	\$255,000.00	\$34,938.00
MPT Mustard Products and Technologies Inc.	MPT Mustard Based Biopesticide	\$199,900.00	\$99,950.00
Prairie Fruit Growers Association	Fractionation and Processing of Small Fruits for Applications in Functional Food and Nutraceuticals	\$110,508.00	\$36,836.00
Presagio Technology Group Inc.	Marketing and Regulatory Support for the Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals and Natural Health Products (FFNHP) Industry	\$714,000.00	\$191,474.00
Prevtex Microbia West Canada Inc.	Development of a Live Oral Combination Vaccine for the Prevention of Infections in Pigs Caused by F4 and F18 E.coli Strains	\$525,000.00	\$99,000.00
Saskatchewan 4-H Council	Creating our Nation's Future: Engaging Youth in Agriculture through the Development of a Revolutionary 4-H Product Line and Delivery Methods	\$1,199,565.00	\$500,000.00
Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission	GM Flax Communication Strategy	\$403,094.00	\$35,000.00
Totals: 10 Projects		\$3,886,318.00	\$1,119,853.00

Overall Totals: 17 Projects	\$4,873,129.33	\$1,710,982.70
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More Support for the World's Best Honey Producers

By Peter Derbawka

Saskatchewan has the highest honey production per bee colony in Canada. "Colonies can average 250 lbs. per colony per year," says Wink Howland, Secretary Treasurer of the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association (SBA). "That's unheard of in other areas. In British Columbia, if they get a 100 lb. crop they would be quite impressed." In fact, he says our production is basically the best in the world.

That production makes the ongoing health of the colony paramount, yet our short growing season provides little time for treatments developed for warmer climates like Ontario and BC. A proactive new project of the SBA will adapt current disease control treatments and management techniques to fit the Saskatchewan climate.

Normal winter mortality rates per colony are around 15% to 20%. Losses usually occur because the queen fails over the winter and the colony loses its vigour. Pests can also damage the hive. World-wide, the main pest is the varroa mite, but tracheal mites and diseases like nosema can also affect mortality.

The catalyst for this project was the 70-80% mortality rates in some colonies in the last few years, probably caused by the varroa mite. Although the hives were treated with chemicals, the effect may have been reduced by our cool fall climate, resulting in the high losses. The

chemical must be in the hive for 42 days of warm weather to be effective, but fitting that in before or after honey flow is difficult. "The aim of this project," says Howland "is to develop an optimal methodology for delivering these chemicals so we start reducing the winter losses."

Although Saskatchewan has approximately 150 commercial beekeepers operating 85,000 colonies and an estimated 200-300 hobbyists, many areas have no commercial beekeepers. The SBA

sees this project improving beekeeper management practices, to not only increase honey production per hive, but expand the entire industry, possibly to double its size.

The project is funded by CAAP, the Canadian

Agricultural Adaptation Program from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan delivers CAAP funding in Saskatchewan. Also involved is the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Honey Bee Diagnosis Laboratory and the Provincial Apiculturist, Geoff Wilson.

The project continues until 2013, with ongoing beekeeper workshops held as research is completed and the management tools are adapted. The SBA knows this will help struggling beekeepers. "Other provinces have numerous inspectors and teams to check bees, but not Saskatchewan" says Howland. "Our beekeepers really do need some help." ■



Application Deadlines

ACS CAAP Project Review

CAAP funding requests over \$10,000:

APPLICATION DEADLINE	MEETING DATE
January 5, 2011	March 15, 2011

ACS Executive Committee

CAAP funding requests \$10,000 or less:

APPLICATION DEADLINE	MEETING DATE
December 13, 2010	January 20, 2011
January 24, 2011	February 25, 2011
February 14, 2011	March 15, 2011

A complete application must be received at the ACS office by 5:00 PM on the deadline date. Applications may be mailed, couriered, faxed, E-mailed, or dropped off directly. If E-mailed, please forward pages that require a signature by fax to (306) 975-6850.

Please send applications to:

Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
Box 21038, Saskatoon, SK
S7H 5N9

Fax: (306) 975-6850
E-mail: info@agcouncil.ca

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