



Phenomenal Pyrolysis Prototype

Catchy title? Well, the story is even more intriguing: an emerging technology which could benefit Saskatchewan's grain and oilseed producers and processors, industrial manufacturers and all fuel consumers.

The pyrolysis process – the chemical decomposition of organic materials by heating in the absence of oxygen – has been used for decades to create charcoal from wood, and turn coal into coke fuel. Pyrolysis technology, which will make its first appearance in Saskatchewan via Titan Clean Energy Projects Corporation, offers significant potential for the Saskatchewan agriculture sector, as it

will find new life for ag by-products by converting them into bio-oil and char. Bio-oil is an economical and clean-burning liquid fuel substitute. Char, also economical, is used as a solid fuel substitute or a feedstock for activated carbon (a non-graphite form of carbon used to attract and bind chemicals and impurities).

“Our products will be used, for example, in large industrial plants that (currently) require a lot of liquid fossil fuels for heat,” says Titan President Jason Praski. “And because we’re utilizing non-food by-products we’re able to avoid the ‘fuel or food’ issue.”

Titan’s prototype pyrolysis plant will be funded, in part, by Natural Resources Canada, Ag-West Bio, and the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program. Construction will take place in summer and fall 2008 near Saskatoon. Ottawa-based Advanced BioRefinery Inc., a funding partner and the source of the technology, has constructed several pyrolysis units – although never at this large scale. Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), which has technical expertise in biomass pyrolysis processes and products, will test and report on all elements of the prototype including mechanical and electrical performance, process efficiency, and the quantity and quality of the fuels. Also assisting in the advancement of the facility and its products will be the University of Saskatchewan’s Chemical Engineering Department.

Although Titan has selected its ag by-product feedstock, Praski says the facility could be modified to process many others including grain terminal screenings, straw, milling residues, and biodiesel processing residues. After its first year of operation, which will be dedicated solely to testing and optimization, Titan’s prototype will produce approximately 9,000 tonnes of bio-oil and 3,000 tonnes of char annually. “Once we tweak this first plant we will set up full commercialization and start generating revenue,” says Praski.

Praski says Titan’s ultimate goal is ten plants for the province, with the possibility of expanding beyond Saskatchewan’s borders: “We are based in Saskatchewan so we are starting here, but this business is global – so in the long term we hope to be everywhere.” ■



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NEXT ACAAFS APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1, 2008 for project applications over \$10,000, and January 15 for Speaker Sponsorship and project applications \$10,000 or less. See page 8 for a full list of application deadlines.

Message from the Minister

Happy New Year to the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) and all those involved in Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food industry.

Saskatchewan farmers work hard to feed Canadians and protect our environment. As a former Saskatchewan farmer myself, I understand it's not always an easy task, but it's a rewarding one. It's a tradition started generations ago when new Canadians first tilled Prairie soil. At the same time, farmers have shown they know how to innovate to make the most of economic opportunities and build their businesses. The Government of Canada is committed to supporting their efforts.

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan, through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program and Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI), is helping producers innovate, continue their tradition as good stewards of the land, and move into promising new markets, like the renewable fuels industry.

The ACAA program, by working through its provincial and territorial councils such as ACS, encourages innovation, creativity and collective outcomes that will help the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry lead the way to the future. For example, just a couple of months ago, I announced almost \$700,000 in funding for two projects right here in Saskatchewan, involving food safety and quality and help for our beekeepers.

And BOPI, of course, aims to assist producers in taking advantage of new market opportunities by providing opportunities for greater involvement in biofuel production facilities. This initiative allows agricultural producers to increase their share of the benefits from renewable fuels production beyond providing inputs for biofuel production.

The outlook is bright for Saskatchewan's farmers, thanks in large part to the availability of programs such as ACAA and BOPI.

Farmers are the best judges of what's going to help them, so we involve them in developing programs at every step. *Growing Forward*, a bold, new market-driven plan for the sector, is being developed on the ideas put forward by producers and all levels of the agriculture sector. I look forward to building on that foundation and helping the sector capture some of the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

I congratulate the Council on its ongoing efforts to encourage innovation in agriculture in Saskatchewan and wish you continued success in 2008.

Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.



ACS Communications Updates

After many years with the same format and distribution system, the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) has decided to take our newsletter in a new direction. Our new format will allow us to reach our members and clients in a more direct and effective way, informing them of Council news and events, while profiling current projects and featuring success stories.

The new newsletter is just one of many changes we are implementing to support our communications strategy. After our members voted to change our name at the 2007 Annual General Meeting, we felt a new visual identity and brand was needed to help achieve the goals and objectives of the Council. With the guidance and support of the ACS Board of Directors, we issued a request for proposals, to which seven communications companies in Saskatoon and Regina submitted proposals. We chose Tap Communications of Saskatoon to work with us on our communications activities.

Among those new activities was the redesign of our logo, which consists of a stylized "ACS," with elements that represent furrows in a field, signifying progress and growth. In addition to the logo and newsletter, we will be redeveloping our tradeshow display booth, our website, and our Council brochure. Our goals are to position and brand ACS as a vital and leading agency within Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector while providing clear avenues of communication between the council and our members, clients and funding agencies.

We will be revealing our tradeshow booth at the Western Canadian Crop Production Show and should be unveiling the brochure and website shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dallas Carpenter, ACS Communications Officer, by phone at (306) 975-6856 or by e-mail at carpenterd@agcouncil.ca.



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

ACS News & Notes

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ACS welcomes new members and supporter

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) is pleased to welcome two new members and one supporter to our expanding membership base.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council was welcomed to ACS in September. The Forage Council was formed as a cooperative in 1987 to enhance the province's forage industry, including production, harvesting, utilization, and marketing. They distribute current information on forage-related topics and encourage the use of forages in production systems. In addition, they communicate and work with government on industry production issues and marketing policies and assist in the prioritization of research in the forage sector.

The Saskatchewan Meat Processors Association (SMPA) was welcomed as the latest ACS member in November. The SMPA is a non-profit organization that has represented Saskatchewan meat and poultry processors and retailers for the past 60 years. The SMPA represents the Saskatchewan meat processing sector on issues of common interest and concern through ongoing education and representation at all levels of government. Their mandate is to work with our members to help them make their businesses more viable and profitable.

Another supporter was welcomed in November, as Genome Prairie joined ACS. Genome Prairie is a not-for-profit organization supporting and managing large-scale genomics and proteomics research projects in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Focused applications include agriculture, animal health, and human health. Through partnerships with provincial governments, and academic and industry organizations, Genome Prairie facilitates enhanced, sustainable research capacity in the region, builds public awareness of genomics, and provides a forum to discuss ethical, economic, environmental, legal and social issues.

ACS is continuing our membership drive, looking for agriculture and agri-food

organizations that are provincial in scope to join our 39 member and 20 supporter organizations. For more information on becoming a member, please visit our website at www.agcouncil.ca or contact ACS Executive Director Laurie Dmytryshyn at 975-6849 or dmytryshynl@agcouncil.ca.

ACS to conduct membership survey

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) will be sitting down with our 39 member organizations in January and February to assist us in identifying our member's needs and priorities. Our members cover a broad range of Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector and are our best resource for evaluation and for setting objectives to help us better serve the industry.

The survey will allow us to connect with our members to ensure we are meeting their needs and providing value for our membership. It will also allow us to evaluate our current communications tools such as the E-newsletter and print newsletter, and will give us the opportunity to gather feedback on proposed communications tools such as a members only password protected area on the new website.

An ACS representative will be calling member representatives shortly to set up interviews. If you have any questions about the survey or on becoming an ACS member please contact Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director, at (306) 975-6849 or at dmytryshynl@agcouncil.ca.

Strategic Planning Swap

On November 9, 2007, ACS hosted a meeting with 21 provincial agricultural and agri-food organizations in Saskatchewan. The purpose of the meeting was a roundtable discussion to share organizational needs and priorities and identify common themes.

Thank you to everyone for attending. It was an informative session that led to many interesting ideas being shared. ACS is compiling results from the meeting and will be discussing next steps with our partner organizations.



Transforming the Grains Industry

In an effort to respond to the long-standing profitability struggles faced by cereal, oilseed and pulse crop farmers, Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc. (Agrivision) is leading the development of a “National Grains Strategy.”

Phase I of the National Grains Strategy, a straightforward report on the state of the Canadian grains industry subtitled “Calling It Like It Is,” identified the industry’s fatal flaw: continued reliance on the export of traditional bulk commodities.

Agrivision Executive Director Al Scholz says, “The grains sector has been doing the same thing for 50 years and expecting different results. That’s Einstein’s description of insanity.” Scholz believes the system does not and will never work because other countries have lower production and transportation costs for commodity exports. “Even though at the farm level there is a movement to be involved in higher value supply chains,” he explains, “for the most part grains are hauled to a bin and mixed together – that’s how inland terminals operate. We need two things to take our grains industry into a new paradigm – change at the macro level ... government policy and programs. Then, change at the micro level ... grain farms adjusting management practices to fit into that paradigm.”

So, how should the industry adapt? Phase II of developing a “National Grains Strategy,” subtitled “The Solution,” may reveal

the answer. A funding commitment for Phase II came from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Program.

Phase II will lay out potential solutions in book and policy paper form. The book will include approximately 16 chapters on issues important to future profitability in agriculture, with each chapter having a solution as its focus. The policy paper will identify alternatives to the current agriculture policy format and will be written by recognized experts on each policy area. “It is important that the policy paper be credible,” stresses Scholz. “We’re making suggestions for change here, and we’ll have the suggestions backed-up by some of the best thinkers in the industry.”

Scholz says Phase II will identify tangible areas of opportunity in nutrition, pharmaceuticals, increased protein production and processing, bio-fuels, new crop varieties, and fractionating grains into many component parts to serve food, feed, fuel, fibre and many new markets. Fractionating grains is an area in which Scholz says we’ve had little success so far: “The United States, for example, processes (or fractionates) corn into over 12 distinct market areas – developing oil, starch and many industrial uses. Peanuts are processed into over 80 uses and applications. There are all sorts of grains fractionating we could be doing.”

Many organizations were part of an advisory committee for Phase I, and are helping Agrivision with the direction for Phase II, including Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Cargill Grains, the Canadian Wheat Board, Farmers of North America, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, and the University of Saskatchewan’s Department of Agricultural Economics. Both the policy paper and the book will be complete by March, 2008 and will be reviewed at industry consultations being planned for later that spring.

Scholz admits finding and adopting real strategies that work can’t happen overnight, but he maintains that change is no longer an option for the Canadian grains sector: “Even though the industry is currently enjoying higher ‘once-in-a-generation’ commodity prices, it will not last. The grains industry, as it is structured, is not sustainable.” ■

GREAT SCOTT: *Realizing the Full Potential of*

The Prairie Carnation (*Saponaria vaccaria*) is a Saskatchewan-found plant traditionally called soapwort. As the name indicates, soapwort has been known for its detergent-like properties: the vegetation and seeds produce lather when exposed to water. The Prairie Carnation makes approximately 25 – 30 individual saponins (natural detergents) which can be used in many applications, from shampoos to fire extinguisher foam.

“Researchers at Ag Canada had been interested in it (*Saponaria vaccaria*) for many years,” says Dr. Arnison, President of SAPONIN Inc. “They wrote a paper describing the plant’s potential, but never found a private partner to undertake commercialization.”

Dr. Arnison and Dr. Michael M. Oelck established SAPONIN

Inc. in October 2003, and immediately began to develop the Prairie Carnation as an industrial health and beauty crop. SAPONIN Inc. negotiated commercial rights to develop a type of *Saponaria* called “Scott,” a vigorous strain with high yielding capacity developed by Dr. Eric Johnson and staff at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The Prairie Carnation can withstand dry and stressful growing conditions. However, plant pathologists at the Alberta Research Council (ARC) discovered that it is susceptible to a fungal disease, tentatively dubbed *Alternaria saponariae*, which can significantly impact seed production if conditions are wet before harvest.

SAPONIN Inc.’s first challenge, to develop an *Alternaria*-resistant

SASKATCHEWAN DAIRY

The Whole Story



At one time in our province's history, 100,000 farmers sent cans brimming with cream by rail to processing plants across rural Saskatchewan. Today, the milk from 230 high-capacity individual farm operations is sent by bulk tanker to one large high-tech processing plant located in Saskatoon. Although the industry has come a long way, there are no set indicators to measure its present economic value, nor are there any relevant studies or assessments to be found.

Dr. Bernard Laarveld, a professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan, says because the dairy industry is doing well it should, ironically, be concerned at the lack of information. "Troubled areas of agriculture get all the attention," he explains, "and people lose track of the good areas of agriculture business. The dairy industry is good!"

A new study of the dairy industry in Saskatchewan will provide indicators for present and future economic profiles of the industry. The study will be led and co-funded by the Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan (DFS) with a funding commitment from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program.

Laarveld expects the study to validate the belief that the dairy industry, through processing and related services, has a high output of value-adding relative to other agricultural sectors: "It's an industry that has primary production in-province, and all milk is processed in Saskatoon. Some milk is hauled in from Alberta and British Columbia and processed here as well. In my rough estimate, I think the study will show that the industry is worth \$1 billion to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of Saskatchewan."

Results will be used to develop reliable long-term strategies and, Laarveld expects, identify the need for research and development which would support another recent ACAAFS-funded project - the design of the Dairy Innovation Centre. The proposed Centre is entirely unique; it would be the first in Canada to introduce five crucial, interconnected elements - research and development, extension, training and education, public education, and green technologies - to a post-secondary educational facility, the University of Saskatchewan.

Laarveld says it wasn't until he started to plan the fundraising for the centre that he realized how low public awareness of the dairy industry is in Saskatchewan. He decided solid numbers were needed before approaching anyone for capital funding. "Any time you need to solicit donors," stresses Laarveld, "you need to have your case well made. We've met the scientific requirements for facility design, training and education, and so the last thing needed for the capital campaign is to develop information on the industry itself. After that, hopefully, it will all fall into place, and government and companies will recognize that it is a good investment."

Results are expected to be available in January 2008, and will be available to the general public and distributed to interested parties at the U of S, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the dairy service sector, which includes financial, insurance, equipment and transportation industries, the Milk Control Board, and all 225 dairy producers in Saskatchewan. ■

the Prairie Carnation

Scott, is being met head on by a funding commitment from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Program.

In the summer of 2007, field and nursery trials on Scott and wild accessions taken from locations around the world indicated that more *Alternaria*-resistant varieties of the plant can be developed. Lab analysis by Dr. Elke Steinmann-Oelck led to the development of an assay - a test system for detecting the presence of *Alternaria* in seed lots. "Some seed lots are 100% contaminated, whereas the disease incidence of other seed lots can be less than 10%," reports Dr. Arnison.

Agronomically-improved lines and wild-type plants are being crossed, and the results will be used to make lines that have improved yield and plant form (habitus), and are less susceptible to developing *Alternaria* fungi. The breeding effort uses a cell culture technique, licensed from NRC-Plant

continued on next page



ACS offers Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program sponsorship

The Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program (AEP) is recognized as a top educational program for farm managers. AEP participants learn how to successfully manage change, capital and risk. The topics include:

- Exploring Opportunities in the New Agribusiness Economy
- Achieving Goals & Growth Through Effective Agribusiness Planning Strategies
- Managing Integrated Agribusiness Operations

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) has provided support for the program since its inception. In the last few years, the ACS Board has directed the sponsorship to individual producers. This year, ACS will sponsor eight Saskatchewan farm operators with up to \$1000 each to defray some of the tuition, travel and accommodation costs for the AEP, which will be held at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources on the University of Saskatchewan campus from January 20 to January 26, 2008.

ACS is looking for participants who are actively involved in farming and can benefit from this opportunity to enhance their management skills. Preference will be given to those applicants with a range of experience and ideas and who will contribute to group discussions, thereby enhancing the learning experience for themselves and others. ACS hopes to have representation from all regions of the province and all commodity groups.

If you are a Saskatchewan farm operator interested in enhancing management skills and learning about new ideas and possibilities you are encouraged to apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Bev Magill, ACS Project Officer, at 306-975-8928 or magillb@agcouncil.ca.

Prairie Carnation continued

Biotechnology Institute, called haploidy. Isolated pollen grains (or haploid, meaning they only have a single set of chromosomes) are grown in culture into genetically pure breeding lines. If the haploid is doubled the breeding time can be cut by more than a quarter - in this case, from eight years or more down to between one and three years.

About 65% of the *Saponaria* seed is composed of the finest starch grain known in the plant kingdom. These tiny, uniquely-textured starches are ideal for use in cosmetics. *Saponaria* seed also contains peptides, phenolics, and soluble fibres, which have the potential to be used in numerous additional medicinal and pharmaceutical applications.

SAPONIN Inc. is developing a bio-refinery to recover a range of bio-products from the Prairie Carnation. The bio-refinery is not, as you might imagine, a building or even a location. "By developing a 'bio-refinery,'" explains Dr. Arnison, "we view the plant as a factory. We look at all bio-chemicals that the seed can make. *Saponaria* has the potential for use within many drugs, and we are investigating potential medical and pharmaceutical applications."

"We want to bring pink to the prairies."

Dr. Arnison believes that with the Prairie Carnation as their prime example the Prairie Provinces could be positioned as world leaders in bio-refineries and industrial bio-products: "One could go to the jungle to find a plant with cancer-fighting elements, but this crop, with its potential for health care chemicals, has been growing in our back yard all along." ■

COMING SOON

January 7 to 10, 2008

Western Canadian Crop Production Show
Saskatoon, Prairieland Park

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. For more information, please visit www.cropproductiononline.com.

January 11 and 12, 2008

Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association 20th Annual Conference
Saskatoon, Heritage Inn

For more information or to register, contact Saskatchewan Food Growers Association Executive Director Charon Blakley at (306) 743-5333 or cas.lyn@sasktel.net. You may also visit www.saskfruit.com for more details.

January 23, 2008

Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative Internet Marketing Workshop
Prince Albert, Super 8 Hotel

This workshop shows producers and processors how to formulate a business plan, draft a request for proposals, evaluate proposals for web site development and promotion, as well as to evaluate the work conducted by web site development contractors and marketing consultants. Registration is \$25.00. For more information, please contact Bryan Kosteroski at (306) 975-6851, toll-free at 1-800-641-8256, or by e-mail at kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca.

February 12 and 13, 2008

Fuelling the Farm - Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association 20th Annual Conference
Regina, IPSCO Place

To register, call 1-800-213-4287.

March 2 to 4, 2008

HostEx 2008 Canadian Food and Beverage Show
Toronto, Direct Energy Centre

Canada's largest hospitality trade show joins restaurant and accommodation operators from across the country, and is an ideal environment in which to understand the key trends influencing consumer tastes. For more information, visit www.crfa.ca.

June 22 to 25, 2008

Community Development Society Annual International Conference
Saskatoon, Delta Bessborough

For more information, please visit www.comm-dev.org.

ACAAFS Project Approval Update

Projects receiving ACAAFS funding between July 1, 2007 and November 30, 2007

Applicant	Project Title	Project Cost	ACS Funding
Ag-West Bio Inc.	Development of a BioFuels and BioProducts Centre in Saskatchewan	\$487,380.00	\$257,180.00
Ag-West Bio Inc.	Improving Human Health II: Metabolic System	\$14,734.10	\$7367.05
EPC Ocean Ice Cream Inc. o/a Jerry's Artisan Ice Creams	Training and R and D on Gelato Manufacturing Equipment	\$9,982.61	\$4,992.00
Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan	Farm Animal Council Annual General Meeting	\$26,167.70	\$2,569.00
First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan Ltd.	Saskatchewan First Nations 4-H Initiative	\$251,850.00	\$180,480.00
Llama Canada	Llama Canada 2007 National Conference	\$21,105.01	\$6,745.00
Northern Vigor Berries Inc.	Development of New Value-Added Products and Processes for Sea Buckthorn Berries	\$122,765.42	\$44,283.00
POS Pilot Plant Corporation	Biomass Extraction System	\$395,000.00	\$252,500.00
Prairie Berries Inc.	Technical Analysis for Individual Quick Freeze Technology for Fruit	\$84,770.00	\$42,385.00
Sask Pork	Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium 2007	\$104,486.00	\$6,986.00
Saskatchewan 4-H Council	Creating Future Leaders in Agriculture by Empowering First Nations Youth Through the Education and Knowledge Taught by the 4-H Program	\$856,747.00	\$500,000.00
Saskatchewan 4-H Council	Saskatchewan 4-H Leadership Conference	\$25,601.00	\$6,888.00
Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc.	Developing a National Grains Strategy - Phase II: The Solution	\$150,000.00	\$100,000.00
Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions	Agricultural Regional Seminar Meetings	\$40,600.00	\$6,500.00
Saskatchewan Biofuels Development Council Inc.	Biofuels Website	\$25,000.00	\$20,350.00
Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission	Strengthening Partners Conference	\$19,803.00	\$9,902.00
Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre Inc.	Extrusion Technology Program	\$982,400.00	\$222,950.00
Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association	Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association 20th Anniversary Conference	\$11,845.68	\$3,415.38
Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission	Oat Market Development	\$98,313.00	\$68,819.00
Saskatchewan Science Centre	Agricultural Sciences Educational Gallery	\$650,000.00	\$100,000.00
Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association	SSCA 20th Annual Conference	\$17,077.00	\$8,538.00
Titan Clean Energy Project Corporation	Oat Hull Pyrolysis to Bio-oil and Char	\$1,375,000.00	\$320,000.00
University of Saskatchewan Department of Animal and Poultry Science	Economic Impact Study of the Saskatchewan Dairy Industry	\$14,500.00	\$10,000.00
University of Saskatchewan Department of Animal and Poultry Science	Novel Feed Products Based on Glycerol Co-generation Product from Biodiesel Production	\$129,744.00	\$94,276.00
University of Saskatchewan Department of Animal and Poultry Science	To Develop a Website for Communicating Research and Information About Biofuels and Biofuel Co-products Within the Canadian Agriculture Sector	\$10,780.00	\$7569.00
University of Saskatchewan Department of Applied Microbiology and Food Science	Production of Industrial Hydroxyl Oil in Plants	\$360,000.00	\$138,000.00
Collective Outcomes Projects			
Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta	Establish a New Western Canadian Post Registration Variety Testing Database Record and Data Enquiry	\$68,000.00	\$18,000.00
Canadian International Grains Institute	Development and Commercialization of Barley Foods	\$585,000.00	\$200,000.00
Canadian Professional Meat Cutters Association	Canadian Meat Specialists	\$622,000.00	\$56,400.00
Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council	Western Canada Value Chain Educational Awareness	\$205,858.50	\$22,495.87
Ontario Hemp Alliance	Hemp Grain Variety Characterization and Development	\$275,370.00	\$7,932.00
Ontario Veterinary Medical Association	The Ontario Veterinary Biosecurity Initiative	\$300,000.00	\$12,000.00
Potatoes New Brunswick	Celebrating the Canadian Potato Industry and the International Year of the Potato	\$662,725.60	\$29,866.28
Prairie Swine Centre	Evaluation of a Biological Treatment Approach to Control Emissions from Swine Barns	\$138,000.00	\$7,500.00
Prairie Swine Centre	The Development of Decision Support Software to Support Pork Producer Research Adoption	\$92,900.00	\$45,800.00
Quebec Federation of Potato Producers	Study on Golden Nematode	\$1,686,875.00	\$16,500.00
Saponin Inc.	Selection for Alternaria Resistance in Saponaria	\$239,000.00	\$119,700.00
University of Manitoba	Use of On-farm Composting to Dispose of Johne's-Infected Cattle	\$174,000.00	\$11,500.00
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	Preservation of a Threatened Canadian Species: Reproductive Biotechnology as a Solution to Endemic Disease in Alberta's Wood Bison	\$222,676.80	\$22,267.68
Totals: 39 projects		\$11,558,057.42	\$2,992,656.26

Opportunity Knocks

(But Your Engine Won't)

In order to meet the Federal Government's 5% renewable fuel standard for gasoline, which begins in 2010, Canadian producers will need to produce 2 billion litres of ethanol per year. Estimates showed that at the end of 2007, production was only half that amount. With biofuel production showing the potential to bring significant benefits to producers and other



businesses in their area, the Quill Plains Economic Development Alliance formed Quill Plains Biofuel Cooperative Ltd. and applied to the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan for funding under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI).

"We have to produce the grain for ethanol production because of the federal mandate," explains Elaine Cales, Secretary of the Quill Plains Biofuel Co-operative Ltd. "If we don't have a facility at our doorstep we'll be shipping that grain elsewhere. The freight costs our farmers so much. Right now it costs them 35 to 40 cents a bushel to ship to Belle Plains."

The Quill Plains Biofuel Cooperative Ltd. was based on an earlier New Generation Cooperative, the LeRoy Agra Pork Co-operative (LAPC) Ltd. "Because the LAPC was so successful," Cales says, "we thought, 'Why don't we use the same concept for ethanol to apply for The Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI) grant?'" It is hoped the Quill Plains cooperative will be as successful as the LAPC, a venture that has resulted in a successful farrow-to-finish hog operation and feed mill in the LeRoy area, supplied in part with feedstock from the 100 members of the LAPC.

BOPI funding was approved by ACS for the development of the Quill Plains Biofuel Cooperative Ltd. Ethanol Plant Business Plan, which became more of a feasibility study once grain prices rose in summer of 2007.

The business plan examined a proposed ethanol facility capable of producing 50 to 60 million litres annually. Five to six million bushels of the grain of choice (in this case, wheat) would be trucked in by local area farmers – about 200 of them at current estimates – who could collectively own 20% or more of the project. 200 non-investors would also supply the facility with wheat.

In addition to ethanol, the facility would produce 50,000 – 55,000 tonnes of distillers grains, a high-grade protein feed source for livestock. Distillers grains are an alternative to animal-based proteins, which many producers are opting not to feed to their livestock. Once processed, the distillers grains would stimulate growth in the local pork and beef industries: there are 15 hog barns alone within a 25-mile radius of Watson.

Then, Cales says, there are the spin-off benefits from construction that would occur in the estimated one-and-a-half to two years it would take to build the production facility: "Besides employment in construction, there will be benefit to services in the community – buying from the local stores, hotels, restaurants, and all that. And then, when it's complete, around 20 full time jobs."

The business plan was recently completed, and plans are now in place to present the findings first to the members of Quill Plains Biofuel Cooperative and then to the community, mostly through town hall meetings. If it is accepted, this would be the start of the first ethanol co-operative in Saskatchewan. ■

Application Deadlines

ACS Board of Directors ACAAFS Project Review

ACAAFS funding requests over \$10,000

APPLICATION DEADLINE	MEETING DATE
Feb. 1, 2008	April 22, 2008
April 4, 2008	June 4, 2008
June 6, 2008	Sept. 10, 2008
Aug. 29, 2008	Nov. 13, 2008

ACS Executive Committee Project Review

ACAAFS funding requests \$10,000 or less, and Speaker Sponsorship Program applications – maximum \$10,000.

Application Deadline	Meeting Date
Jan. 18, 2008	Feb. 18, 2008
Feb. 15, 2008	March 18, 2008
March 21, 2008	April 21, 2008

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

CONTACT US



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

MAIL:

Box 21038
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
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LOCATION:

207 - 116 Research Drive
(Concourse Building -
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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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