

April 25, 2008

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ACAAFS Application Deadlines:

June 6, 2008 for requests over \$10,000.

May 16, 2008 for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

[Click here](#) for a full list of upcoming application deadlines.

ACS welcomes our newest member, The Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan

ACS has recently welcomed our 40th member, the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS). Established in 1992, FACS is the first industry-supported, membership-based, non-profit, provincial organization established to collectively represent the livestock and poultry industries regarding animal care issues.

FACS provides straightforward, accurate information about the way Saskatchewan producers assure quality and safety in the food they supply to world markets. FACS also works with producers to advance responsible animal care and handling practices in agriculture. FACS makes every effort to:

- advance producer awareness of emerging animal welfare issues
- assist producers in improving their animal handling skills
- provide information for greater public understanding and awareness about producer commitment to providing humane care to their animals
- encourage animal welfare issues are top of mind on industry boards and committees
- lobby for positive changes regarding animal care issues

For more information on the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan, please [click here](#) to go to their Website. If you are interested in becoming a member of ACS, please [click here](#) or phone (306) 975-6847 or 1-200-641-8256 for more information.

ACS Annual General Meeting to be held on June 20, 2008 at the Farm Progress Show

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Western Canadian Farm Progress Show on Friday, June 20, 2008 at Salon 3 of the Queensbury Convention Centre at IPSCO Place.

If you are a member of ACS, please check our events page on the ACS website for more information. The AGM package, including information on the agricultural showcase and the meeting agenda, will be mailed out to members in May.

For more information, please contact Dallas Carpenter, ACS Communications Manager, by phone at (306) 975-6856 or by E-mail at carpenterd@agcouncil.ca.

Community Development Society International Conference set for Saskatoon this June

Community development practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and citizen leaders from around the world will gather at the Community Development Society's (CDS) 40th annual International Conference in Saskatoon from June 22 to 25, 2008. Approximately 400 national and international community development professionals are expected to attend this engaging event.

Over the past few decades, the practice of community development has evolved considerably as we have now come to better understand the field within various conceptual frameworks as well as its practical applications. Today, there is a growing demand for increased participation in decision making and democracy in communities and organizations.

Through dynamic and engaging workshops and keynote speakers, delegates will hear students, practitioners, researchers and policymakers from around the globe share experiences, expertise and research findings on strategies to improve the process and practice of community development. The conference will begin on June 22 with an address from keynote speaker Sandy Heierbacher, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, who will be speaking on the topic of Dialogue and Deliberation.

For more information or to register, please [click here](#) to go to the CDS website.

We need your opinion!

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) is conducting two surveys to gather opinions and information from farmers to gain a better understanding about human resource and training issues in agriculture.

The first survey is about agricultural training. It can be completed online at www.survey.malatest.com/IDG_trainingusers or you may call 1-877-688-5051 to set up an appointment to complete it by telephone.

The second survey gathers information about the challenges of labour recruitment and retention of workers on the farm. This survey can be completed at: <http://survey.malatest.com/cahrc>.

Participation in the surveys is voluntary and only R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. will see the responses. We would also appreciate your help in circulating this notice to your colleagues to ensure that information is gathered from a representative group of farms.

For more information, visit www.cahrc-ccrha.ca. You can also contact Patrick Kirby from R.A. Malatest and Associates at p.kirby@malatest.com or Jean Sullivan from CAHRC at sullivan@cahrc-ccrha.ca should you have any specific questions.

ACAAFS

ACS provides project funding for new Food Centre technology

The province's "one-stop shop" for food research and development is expanding its territory. With the purchase of a Clextral pilot scale twin screw extruder, the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre Inc. (Food Centre) will broaden its research and development capabilities into exciting new applications.

Food Centre President, Dan Prefontaine, says extrusion is an established technology that is constantly being reinvented:

"Basically, it's equipment that modifies proteins and starches. Have you ever eaten a Cheezie? Well, they are made with extrusion technology. Corn flour is put in the machine, which basically 'squeezes' the corn starch. Ingredients are mixed in, and when the product is 'unsqueezed,' and explodes into cheezie shapes."

The American-made extruder will be installed in the Food Centre's commercial kitchen lab space, and is expected to be operational sometime in June. Funding for the project will come from Western Economic Diversification Canada and from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Program.

For the rest of this article, please [click here](#) to open a PDF copy of the ACS April newsletter. The story is available on page 5 of the newsletter. Please [click here](#) to go to the Food Centre's website.

First Nations youth project receives ACAAFS funding

It is expected that by 2010, 1.6 million new acres of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) land acquisitions, short fall acres and special claims will contribute to a total of as much as 3.2 million acres of First Nations agricultural lands in Saskatchewan. Statistics Canada projects a 40% population surge of 20 to 29 year old Aboriginals over the next decade, more than four times that of the general population. With a large land base and large human resource base, First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FNACS) sees an opportunity to move bands towards self-reliance by creating sustainable options for land utilization.

"There are not only opportunities in farming," says Keith LePoudre, General Manager of FNACS, "But in all agriculture-related jobs, including government. There are a large number of us heading towards retirement, and we will need to fill those positions."

Members of that large workforce of the future are currently under the age of 19. To expose aboriginal youth to indigenous knowledge perspectives towards land sustainability, and spark

their interest in agriculture, FNACS established a Youth Education Program. In just two years, the program's ag-related educational successes include:

- teaching schoolchildren how to grow food in the classroom (and eat their results);
- promoting the value of the land, and agriculture as a career, at elementary and high schools;
- establishing an Agriculture and Traditional Knowledge Resource Bank reaching 70 First Nations, and accessible to youth, educators and community members; and
- partnering with community organizations and academic institutions to develop a youth garden pilot project, which included the seeding of crops in spring and their harvest in the fall.

For the rest of this article, please [click here](#) to open a PDF copy of the ACS April newsletter. The story is available on page 4 of the newsletter. Please [click here](#) to go to the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan website.

ACAAFS Funding Update

Since April 1, 2008, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **5** projects for a total commitment of **\$221,934..** To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 217 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$13,814,326.

ACAAFS is a five-year grant program funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada which provides \$3.7 million in funding annually to Saskatchewan projects to position Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector at the leading edge to capture new opportunities.

For ACAAFS application forms, please [click here](#) for a Word version or [click here](#) for a PDF. For Speaker Sponsorship application forms, please [click here](#) for a Word version or [click here](#) for a PDF.

VALUE CHAINS

Food service value chain workshop set for November 13

The Food Service supply chain continues to undergo significant change. Consolidation, brand wars and intensifying competition make investment decisions by growers, food and beverage processors and foodservice distributors in personnel, marketing and service even more complex than ever. Getting access to the foodservice market is becoming even more challenging for growers and processors. We offer a unique perspective to growers, food & beverage processors, foodservice distributors and group purchasing organizations. The workshop will be delivered by Geoff Wilson, President of Geoff Wilson and Associates and a founding Principal of fsSTRATEGY, and Bill Dover, president of Dover Hospitality Consulting and a founding Principal of fsSTRATEGY.

This workshop will provide participants with:

- a detailed review of the structure of the Canadian foodservice industry;
- An examination of current & anticipated foodservice trends;
- and a hands capability in working in small groups to work on the process of taking a product to the foodservice market.

The workshop will be held at Prairieland Park, Hall E, 503 Ruth Street West in Saskatoon on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop going from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

For more details or to register, please contact Lesley Dirkson by phone at (306) 975-6847 or by e-mail at dirksonl@agcouncil.ca.

Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program application deadline August 18

Developing effective and strategic business and marketing plans are among the most challenging tasks facing Saskatchewan agri-food companies. These firms now have the opportunity to have a team of upper-year university students assist them with these daunting tasks through the Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program.

Interested agri-food companies will be matched up with a team of upper-year students enrolled in an agribusiness courses in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan. Students will contact the firm and will work closely with an individual from the firm serving as a "client" for the student consulting team. The students will complete a full marketing or business plan for the firm. A marketing plan will include market research, competitor analysis, consumer analysis and the development of marketing strategies.

Participating organizations will pay \$250 of the \$500 cost of the program, with \$250 funded by ACS through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's ACAAFS program. The number of organizations selected for a business plan will depend on the number of students enrolled in the course. Students will contact the organization in early September or January and will work closely with an individual from that organization, who is expected to commit at least 20 hours to working with the students during the four months of the project.

For more information and application forms, please [click here](#) to go to the Student Assisted Business and Marketing Program webpage.

CATE

CATE offers education opportunities for farmers

The Centre for Agribusiness Training and Education (CATE) allows farmers to access education and training that will expose them to new ideas and approaches. The CATE website contains a comprehensive listing of educational offerings that have been approved for CASS funding support.

For more information, please visit the CATE Website at www.agtraining.ca or call Lesley Dirkson at (306) 975-6847 or toll free at 1-800-641-8256.

ACS PARTNERS

Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan presents the Rick Mercer Business Luncheon

Rick Mercer is coming to Saskatoon on April 29th, 2008 at TCU Place Saskatoon, SK to deliver an insightful and entertaining look back at his career in television. This 90 minute lunch is a must-see event for Saskatchewan business leaders as they interact with their peers and hear from one of Canada's most well-known political commentators.

The Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan Inc. (EFS) is a member-based, non-profit organization focused on the development of entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan. EFS was created to support small to medium sized businesses seeking commercial investment capital up to \$1 million. EFS works in partnership with the venture capital community, specifically the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund, a provincially-based venture capital fund owned by Saskatchewan Credit Unions and Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Individual tickets are \$70 + GST, while corporate tables are \$500 + GST. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets or online at www.ticketmaster.ca. For more information, please [click here](#) to read the full announcement. Please [click here](#) to go to the Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan's website.

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER COUNCILS

Ontario: Government of Canada Invests \$2 Million for Research and Regulator Efficiencies in Agriculture

The Government of Canada is committed to keeping our farmers competitive by removing unnecessary regulations and red tape. That is why we are investing in a project to study the regulatory environment in the agriculture sector with a view to encourage competitiveness and prosperity.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, at The University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business.

"The Government of Canada is committed to giving our world-class farmers the tools they need to compete at home and abroad," said Minister Ritz. "We are committed to funding research and working in partnership with industry, stakeholders and academia."

The federal contribution of \$2,086,250 will assist The University of Western Ontario in the five-year Agriculture and Agri-Food Project (AAFP) that will evaluate the impact of government regulation on the agriculture sector. The AAFP will help industry, government, academia and stakeholders to share knowledge, identify and address emerging issues, and provide advice and recommendations on regulations.

To read the complete news release, please [click here](#) to go to the Ontario Agricultural Adaptation Council website.

BC: Government of Canada invests in opportunities for the dairy industry

The Government of Canada invests in innovation to help the Canadian agriculture sector remain competitive. The Honorable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced funding of \$220,090 for a pilot project that will provide greater market opportunities for the dairy industry.

“The Government of Canada is working with farmers and processors to find ways of maximizing new market opportunities,” said Minister Ritz. “This project is a great example of this Government’s leadership on improving the bottom line for the dairy industry and protecting the environment.”

The pilot project, led by Vitalus Nutrition Inc., will use roller dryer technology to transform the excess liquid materials created during dairy production into nutritious ingredients that can be used in a variety of livestock and pet food. This will not only provide new feed options to farmers, but will also provide a productive use for by-products.

Disposing of by-products is a challenge for the dairy processing industry. Usually, this protein-based excess product is discarded into municipal sewers. Reusing these by-products will help the industry, the economy and the environment.

To read the complete news release, please [click here](#) to go to the Ontario Agricultural Adaptation Council website.

EVENTS & DATES

June 18 and 19, 2008: Saskatchewan Forage Council - Saskatchewan Pasture School, Saskatoon. School is a combination of classroom instruction and field tours. Presentations from producers, researchers, and forage specialists. For more information, please E-mail Janice Bruynooghe at jbruynooghe@saskforage.ca or call (306) 966-2148.

June 20, 2008: Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting and Industry Showcase. Regina - Salon 3, Queensbury Convention Centre, IPSCO Place. The ACSAGM will again be held at the Western Canadian Farm Progress Show. More details are available for members on our [website](#).

June 22 to 25, 2008: Community Development Society Annual International Conference - Saskatoon, Delta Bessborough. Join us in bringing together community development practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and citizen leaders from around the world at the Community Development Society’s (CDS) 40th annual International Conference. Approximately 400 national and international community development professionals are expected to attend this engaging event. Through dynamic and engaging workshops and keynote speakers, delegates will hear students, practitioners, researchers and policymakers from around the globe share experiences, expertise and research findings on strategies to improve the process and practice of community development. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Community Development Society Website.

June 24, 2008: Western Beef Development Centre Annual Field Day - Termuende Research Ranch, Lanigan. For more information, please contact Brenda Freistadt at (306) 682-3139 ext 246 or bfreistadt@pami.ca.

November 13, 2008: Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative – Collaborating to Develop Value Added Products for the Canadian Food Service Industry. Saskatoon - Prairieland Park, Hall E, 503 Ruth Street West. This workshop will provide participants with a detailed review of the structure of the Canadian foodservice industry, an examination of current & anticipated foodservice trends, and a hands capability in working in small groups to work on the process of taking a product to the foodservice market. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop going from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more details or to register, please contact Lesley Dirkson by phone at (306) 975-6847 or by e-mail at dirksonl@agcouncil.ca.

November 14 to 16, 2008: Saskatchewan InDemand 2008. Saskatoon - Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street West. This event provides a forum for those in Saskatchewan's value-added agri-food sector to meet, share ideas, form ventures, conduct business, and learn about opportunities for growing businesses. The event will feature keynote speakers who will address healthy eating, wellness and nutrition. The event will provide Saskatchewan entrepreneurs with the opportunity to showcase and promote their Saskatchewan made products with direct consumer sales. The application deadline is September 5, 2008. For more details or to register, please contact Lori Cates by phone at (306) 931-7149 or by e-mail at lcates@saskatoonex.com.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to unsubscribe from this E-mail, please send an E-mail to info@agcouncil.ca with "**Unsubscribe**" in the subject line.

Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

Box 21038

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 5N9

Phone: (306) 975-6847 or toll free at 1-800-641-8256

Fax: (306) 975-6850

<http://www.agcouncil.ca>

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