



E-Newsletter

December 21, 2007

Season's Greetings!

ACAAFS Application Deadlines:

February 1, 2008 for requests over \$10,000.

January 18, 2008 for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

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

Stop by the ACS booth at the 2008 Western Canadian Crop Production Show

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) will be at the Western Canadian Crop Production Show, from January 7 to 10. Please stop by our booth in Hall C (booth C33) of Saskatoon's Prarieland Park to pick up one of our new newsletters or to get information on any of our programs.

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

Applications being accepted for 2008 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

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. In 2008, ACS will choose eight Saskatchewan farm operators to receive sponsorship to a maximum of \$1000 to defray some of the costs of tuition, travel and accommodation. This will enable farmers to attend the AEP, held at the College of Agriculture, U of S campus January 20 to 26, 2008.

For more information, please [click here](#) to visit the ACS AEP Website or contact Bev Magill, ACAAFS Project Officer, at (306) 975-8928 or magillb@agcouncil.ca.

ACS to launch new newsletter and Website in the new year

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan will continue to revamp our communication materials in the new year with the launch of our new newsletter and Website. The newsletter will be sent out through our office quarterly throughout the year, with the first issue arriving in the first week of January. You may pick a copy up at our booth at the Western Canadian Crop Production Show - booth C33. Electronic copies will also be available on our website.

The new website will be launched early in the new year as well, bringing all core ACS programs under one unified look. The new site is designed to be simple to use and quick to load over any connection speed. You will find our new website at our new address: www.agcouncil.ca.

For more information or to be included on our print or electronic newsletter distribution list, please contact Dallas Carpenter, ACS Communications Officer, at (306) 975-6856 or carpenterd@agcouncil.ca.

ACAAFS

Great Scott: Realizing the full potential of the Prairie Carnation

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.

For the rest of this article, please read the ACS January newsletter, which will be available on our website after January 3. Please [click here](#) to go to the newsletter archive.

ACAAFS Funding Update

Since April 1, 2007, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **64** projects for a total commitment of **\$4,697,242**. To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 191 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$12,824,645.

ACAAFS is a five-year grant program funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada which provides \$3.22 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

Internet Marketing Value Chain Workshop set for Prince Albert

The Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative of ACS will be hosting an Internet Marketing Value Chain workshop. 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.

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Time: 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Prince Albert, Super 8 Hotel
Registration Fee - \$25.00

The Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative is a strategic partnership of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA) and the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS). The SMA Value Chains Program is a part of the Federal/Provincial Agricultural Policy Framework, while Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program provides funding for the Value Chain Initiative through ACS.

For more information contact ACS Value Chain Specialist Bryan Kosteroski by phone at (306) 975-6851 or by E-mail at kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca.

Western Canadian Value Chain Initiative announced

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) has joined forces with agriculture councils from across Western Canada to form the Western Canadian Value Chain Initiative, an initiative that will unite producers, processors and marketers to increase opportunity and market share for Canada's agriculture and agri-food products.

The Western Canadian Value Chain Initiative will be based on the successful Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative, which has been working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to advance the province's agriculture and agri-food sector since 2005. The Saskatchewan initiative, which is funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Program, consists of support provided by the Value Chains Specialist and a series of workshops aimed at walking participants through steps from introduction to the value chain concept to developing a market-ready product.

"Value chain partnerships enable farmers, processors and retailers to work together to achieve results that they would not be able to realize on their own," said Bryan Kosteroski, ACS Value Chain Specialist. "The collaboration within a value chain allows products to be created to meet existing demand, allowing all within the value chain to share in the profits while minimizing risk."

To read the complete news release, please [click here](#) to go to the ACS website.

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.

VALUE ADDED PARTNERS

Agri-Opportunities Program accepting funding applications

The \$134 million, Agri-Opportunities Program, launched in January 2007, is five-year program that aims to accelerate the commercialization of new agricultural products, processes or services that are currently not produced or commercially available in Canada, and are ready to be introduced to the marketplace. Agri-Opportunities is delivered nationally by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Funding is provided to projects that focus on new agri-food, agriculture or bioproducts, that can be expected to increase market opportunities for the Canadian agricultural industry across the value chain and generate demand for primary agricultural products.

The Agri-Opportunities Program provides a maximum repayable contribution of \$10 million per project and per recipient regardless of the number of projects, over the life of the program, ending in March 2011. **The deadline for accepting full proposals is January 18, 2008.**

For more information on the Agri-Opportunities Program, please click here to go to their Website, call 1-866-367-8506, or E-mail agri-opps@agr.gc.ca.

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER COUNCILS

B.C. Grain Industry to benefit from \$1.5 million investment

The Government of Canada is investing \$1.5 million to create new opportunities for B.C. farmers through a biofuel production study and an assessment to identify the best crop varieties for unique Peace River region growing conditions. This investment was announced today by the Honourable Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George-Peace River, Secretary of State and Chief Government Whip, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"Farmers know the importance of innovation and this Government is making sure they have the best crop varieties and can harness the potential of biofuel production here in the Peace River region," said Mr. Hill. "The Peace region is the largest producer of grains and oilseeds in B.C. and research like this is going to make sure farmers here continue to succeed and grow."

To read the complete news release, please [click here](#) to go to the British Columbia Investment Agriculture Foundation website.

EVENTS & DATES

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 <http://www.cropproductiononline.com/>.

January 7, 2008: Flax Day 2008: Growing Flax First. Saskatoon, Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission website.

January 7 and 8, 2008: Pulse Days 2008: Building the Bioeconomy. Saskatoon, Prairieland Park and Saskatoon Inn. The Saskatchewan Pulse Growers present Pulse Days 2008, Monday evening at Prairieland Park, Hall B. Tuesday at Saskatoon Inn with video feed to Prairieland Park. For more information, please [click here](#) to visit the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers website.

January 8 and 9, 2008: Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Saskatoon Inn - Canadian Ballroom and Ballroom B. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association website.

January 8, 2008: Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission Annual General Meeting - The Boom In Oats - Can It Continue? Saskatoon, Manitoba Room, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission website.

January 9, 2008: Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Ballroom C, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission website.

January 9 and 10, 2008: Canola Days. Saskatoon, Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission website.

January 10, 2008: Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Canadian Hall E, Prairieland Park. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association website.

January 11 and 12, 2008: Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association: 20th Anniversary Conference. Saskatoon, Heritage Inn, 102 Cardinal Crescent. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association website.

January 22, 2008: Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative Internet Marketing Workshop. Prince Albert, Super 8 Hotel. Time: 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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.

January 29 to 31, 2008: Processing for Profit: A Conference For Western Canadian Special Crop Processors. Moose Jaw, Heritage Inn, 1590 Main Street North. This conference will provide crop and food processors with timely information about emerging market opportunities, evolving rules and regulations, and shifts in the industry to enable Saskatchewan processors to strategically position themselves to profit from these trends. For more information, [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership website.

February 12 and 13, 2008: Fueling the Farm - Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association 20th Annual Conference - IPSCO Place, Regina. 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. It combines restaurant and accommodation operators from across the country. It is an ideal environment to understand the key trends influencing consumer tastes. For more information, visit their website: www.crfa.ca.

March 16 to 18, 2008: CREW 2008: Canadian Renewable Energy Workshop. An annual national conference facilitating the continued development of Canada's ethanol and biodiesel industry. Join decision makers and key stakeholders to network and discuss emerging technologies and operating practices. Be informed. Participate in the future of the Canadian renewable liquid fuels industry. For more information, please E-mail Lionel Grant at lgrant@bbibiofuels.com or call 1-800-501-0224 or (519) 576-4500.

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.

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.

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