

February 26, 2008

ACAAFS Application Deadlines:

April 4, 2008 for requests over \$10,000.

March 21, 2008 for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

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

The Government of Canada invests nearly \$700,000 to further agricultural innovation in Saskatchewan

The Government of Canada announced the investment of \$665,551 in four innovative projects that will allow farmers to take advantage of new and innovative market opportunities. Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Humboldt, made this announcement on Friday, February 22, 2008 on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board.

“The Government is proud to support an innovative, market-oriented and competitive agricultural sector,” said Mr. Trost. “Projects like these are key to opening up new doors for the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan and across the country.”

These four projects, funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, will support research in bioproducts, new food product development, feedlot sorting, and animal health.

Please click here to read the entire news release (link opens a PDF file).

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. The meeting agenda and the details of the public event following the meeting are still being worked out. Please check our [events](#) page on the ACS website for more information (ACS members will receive their AGM package in the mail in spring).

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

Board Basics workshop set for Swift Current

Cypress Hills College in Swift Current will be hosting a Board Basics Workshop on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The workshop will be held at the College from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Board Basics workshops are designed for non-profit, community, and small business organizations to give them the foundation to establish a board, knowledge on how to conduct good board governance, and what the responsibilities and liabilities of board members are.

To register, please contact Jody by phone at 778-5461 or by E-mail at jodyb@cypresshillscollege.sk.ca.

ACS has new contribution guidelines and logo usage requirements

ACS has recently developed a new logo and new standards for recognizing funding for projects that have received commitments from ACS programs. Funding commitments from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) funded programs including Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS), Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI), and Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS) should now be recognized using the new ACS logo, along with the AAFC logo and the Canada wordmark on all recognition materials. ACS no longer uses the old ACAAFS and CARDS logos.

In addition to the ACS and AAFC logos, project proponents are strongly encouraged to use the accompanying funding statement. You may download copies of the logos, including EPS format logos for high resolution printing, along with our funding statement on the ACS contribution guidelines page at www.sccd.sk.ca/guidelines.html.

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

ACAAFS

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.

For the rest of this article, please [click here](#) for the ACS January newsletter. The story is available on page 5 of the newsletter.

ACAAFS Funding Update

Since April 1, 2007, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **81** projects for a total commitment of **\$5,361,273**. To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 210 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$13,833,674.

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

Internet Marketing Value Chain Workshops set for April

The Internet Marketing Value Chain Workshop will distill the key elements of successful online businesses that have stood the test of time. Participants of the workshop will have the knowledge to formulate a business plan, to draft a request for proposals, evaluate proposal for web site development and promotion as well as to evaluate the work conducted by web site development contractors and web site marketing consultants.

The workshop is divided into three sections which form the basic building blocks to successful web site development and promotion -- keys to helping entrepreneurs build a solid and successful business model on the Internet. Popular myths about Internet marketing will be debunked, providing workshop participants with the tools to circumnavigate the seemingly complex world of the Internet.

The Internet Marketing workshops will be held in Weyburn and Moose Jaw in April (dates will be confirmed shortly). For more information, please contact Bryan Kosteroski, ACS Value Chain Specialist, by phone at (306) 975-6851 or by E-mail at kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca.

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

Saskatchewan Food Processors Association AGM set for March 20

The Saskatchewan Food Processors Association (SFPA) will be hosting their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 20, 2008 at the Western Development Museum. This event will bring together Saskatchewan's vast food processing industry and its associate membership.

The AGM will begin with a complimentary buffet luncheon for SFPA members, followed by an informative speaker, an overview of SFPA operations, and board elections. Any members who are interested in letting their names stand for nomination to the Board please contact Darrell Schneider at (306) 683-2412, and submit a short biography prior to the meeting.

Members who attend are also welcome to tour "Boomtown" free of charge!

For a more information, please [click here](#) to go the SFPA website.

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER COUNCILS

Ontario: Healthy Hearts – Healthy Minds

Childhood obesity is becoming a major concern. That's why the Ontario Student Nutrition Program and the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) have teamed up to create a pilot school nutrition program called Healthy Hearts, Healthy Minds.

The project, funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's CanAdvance program, offers a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables to elementary school children as snacks, giving them a midday nutritional boost – one that's healthier than the high sugar or high-sodium snacks that were typically found in vending machines before the Ontario government banned them in elementary schools in 2004. In many cases, the snacks were produced by Ontario greenhouse vegetable farmers.

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

Teaching kids to play the vegetable game

At a recent test screening, special decks of cards featuring fruits and vegetables were given to a select handful of grade 4 students by a firm contracted by a group of Ontario fresh vegetable growers. Within minutes of being taught how to play, the kids were teaching their elders.

Sue McLarty, manager of the Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario, is quick to admit that she got trounced by a 10- year-old on her very first hand, and was happy about it. "Kids who develop a

healthy pleasure in vegetables will have a headstart on a healthy life," McLarty says. "I don't mind losing at cards if that's the end result. Besides, those kids are quick!"

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

EVENTS & DATES

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 6, 2008: Saskatchewan Wild Rice Industry Annual Conference - La Ronge - La Ronge Motor Hotel. Topics include changes to wild rice regulations, organic certification, crop insurance pilot program, processing and marketing updates. For more information, please call Bill Plunz at (306) 425-2283 or Gerry Ivanochko (306) 425-4400.

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 20, 2008: Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting. Regina - Salon 3, Queensbury Convention Centre, IPSCO Place. The ACS AGM will again be held at the Western Canadian Farm Progress Show. More details will be announced shortly and posted 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.

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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Funding for the ACAAFS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

