



# E-Newsletter

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January 5, 2009

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***ACAAFS Application Deadlines:***

**February 2, 2009** for requests over \$10,000.

**January 26, 2009** for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

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

**\*\*\*The ACAAFS program is nearing full allocation. We advise potential applicants to get their applications in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.**

**ACS is at the Crop Production Show**

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) will be at the 2009 Crop Production Show at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon, from January 12 to 15. Please visit us at booth A58 in Hall A, where we will have newsletters and the latest information on our various programs.

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

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**ACS calls for applications for CARDS funding**

ACS is accepting funding applications for agriculture and agri-food projects under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development in Saskatchewan (CARDS) Program, which is funded by

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. **The deadline for applications is Monday, February 2, 2009.**

This residual funding is available due to under-spending in current projects. **There is approximately \$102,000 available.** Applications will be adjudicated by the ACS Board of Directors at their April 20, 2009 meeting. The project completion deadline is March 31, 2011.

“CARDS funding has provided opportunities to advance agriculture in Saskatchewan, assisting the sector’s competitiveness and entrepreneurial drive,” said Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director. “CARDS funding has also helped organizations leverage other sources of funding, providing new opportunities and knowledge that has had a positive impact on producers, processors and consumers.”

*For more information or to apply, please [click here](#) to go to the CARDS website.*

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### **Agriculture Mentorship Initiative launches in Saskatchewan**

As Saskatchewan’s agriculture and agri-food sector evolves and realizes new opportunities, businesses and individuals within the sector must work hard to keep up in a rapidly changing industry. Those in growing organizations will now have the opportunity to learn from the experience and knowledge of others through the Agriculture Mentorship Initiative, a pilot program delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) Inc.

The Agriculture Mentorship Initiative, which is being run by ACS under the guidance of the Business Mentorship Institute (BMI) Inc., will match entrepreneurs with experienced business owners, establishing a relationship whereby the protégé will learn from the mentor’s experience and industry knowledge. Expressions of interest from prospective protégés and mentors are being accepted by ACS, with the goal of starting the mentorship process in late January, 2009.

“We have heard clearly from those in Saskatchewan’s agriculture and agri-food sector that there need for mentoring,” said Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director. “The Agriculture Mentorship Initiative is designed under the guidelines provided by BMI, which will bring significant benefits to each protégé and lead to lasting connections between each protégé and mentor. We’re hopeful that the program will catch on and grow over time.”

*For more information or if you are interested in becoming a mentor or protégé, please contact Bev Magill, ACS Project Officer, by phone at 975-8928 or by e-mail at [magillb@agcouncil.ca](mailto:magillb@agcouncil.ca). Please [click here](#) to go to the Agriculture Mentorship Initiative webpage.*

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### **ACS launches Food Professionals Management Program**

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) Inc., in partnership with food industry consultants and faculty from the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Agriculture and Bioresources, has created the Food Professionals Management Program. This unique program is designed to deliver management knowledge and skills to agri-food professionals that will facilitate growth of their businesses.

Possible participants for the Program include executives, managers and representatives of retailers, food processors, food service organizations and other agri-businesses. The program will be delivered over four months with two days of training and hands-on exercises devoted to each of the four modules.

Only 24 of the highest potential businesses and individuals will be accepted into the program, which runs from January 14 to April 16, 2009.

Financial support for this program has been provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. The ACAA program is delivered in Saskatchewan by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

For more information and application forms, please go to <http://www.agcouncil.ca> or call Lesley Dirkson at (306) 975-6847.

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## ACAAFS

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### **Stripped Down: Taking Hairless Canaryseed Into the World**

Expensive and time-consuming are two terms that have been used to describe the process of developing canaryseed into a human food crop, but the Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan (CDCS) is sure that the results will be worth the effort.

The CDCS sees a unique opportunity to have Canada be the first to introduce a new cereal crop to the world, and ensure that the country's largest producer – Saskatchewan – benefits from it. "Saskatchewan is the world's biggest exporter," confirms CDCS Executive Director, Kevin Hursh. "There are about 3,000 growers in the province, and about 400,000 acres of canaryseed in Saskatchewan each year."

The development of canaryseed for human food use has been stymied by common cultivars, whose pubescent (hairy) hulls are covered with tiny spicules. The needlelike structures contaminate groats during dehulling, and cause severe itching to those involved in production, processing and packaging. Worse yet, they are potentially carcinogenic. "Most of the acreage is still itchy varieties that are really irritating," admits Hursh. "These old varieties seem to yield better, so many producers put up with the inconvenience."

For the rest of this article, please [click here](#) to open a PDF copy of the ACS October 2008 newsletter. The story is available on page 5 of the newsletter.

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### **ACAAFS Funding Update**

Since April 1, 2008, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **62** projects for a total commitment of **\$4,500,036**. To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 267 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$17,903,072.

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.

**The ACAAFS program is nearing full allocation. We advise potential applicants to get their applications in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.**

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

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## VALUE CHAINS

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### Module 8: Developing Value Chains in the Canadian Food Service Industry

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Location: Saskatoon - Prairieland Park, Hall C

Registration at 8:30 a.m., workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Module 8 will teach participants how to develop value chains in the foodservice industry. The session will include instruction and participation in a real-life case study.

Participants will learn:

1. The nature and elements of successful foodservice value chains
2. The challenges that foodservice operators face and how value chains can solve those challenges
3. Best practices in foodservice value chains
4. Implementation and fine tuning techniques to develop and implement successful foodservice value chains

Each module is designed as a hands-on learning experience. Each participant will receive a workbook, designed specifically for the module.

Please [click here](#) for a PDF application form.

Please contact Lesley Dirkson ([dirksonl@agcouncil.ca](mailto:dirksonl@agcouncil.ca) or (306) 975-6847) or Bryan Kosteroski ([kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca](mailto:kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca) or (306) 975-6857) for more information or to register for these workshops.

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### Canadian Value Chain Network website launched

Value chain programs from across the country have united to form the Canadian Value Chain Network.

The network was developed to provide consistent business training in the agriculture and agri-food industry across Canada. Modules one and two of the workshop series focus on value chain development and implementation. Modules three to six focus on developing strategies for meeting the needs of the retail food industry, including how to develop marketing plans, retailer presentations, costing programs, and product placement in stores. Modules seven and eight focus on the foodservice industry, breaking down the food service industry in Canada, providing an overview of the industry and the business expertise it takes to develop products and create demand.

“These workshops are now provided across Canada and have been very successful in educating people in the agriculture and agri-food industry on the benefits of value chains,” said Bryan

Kosteroski, ACS Value Chain Specialist. "As the program grows across the country, we hope to establish many successful value chains that span provincial borders, strengthening the industry across the country.

With funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, the program is bringing together industry councils from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and Prince Edward Island along with provincial government programs such as the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and agencies such as the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan to deliver a set of workshops across Canada. These education and awareness workshops cover all stages of forming a value chain, from introduction to the value chain concept to making sure value chains are market ready.

The Canadian Value Chain Network website lists all the workshops from each province along with other value chain events held by the network partners. In addition, each workshop module is described on the website and links to value chain specialists and programs are provided on the contacts page.

Please go to [www.canadianvaluechainnetwork.ca](http://www.canadianvaluechainnetwork.ca) for more information or contact Bryan Kosteroski, ACS Value Chain Specialist, by phone at (306) 975-6851 or by e-mail at [kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca](mailto:kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca).

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### **ACS hosts value chains experts from Canada and Australia**

ACS hosted value chain specialists from across the country on November 12 and 13 for meetings and tours around Saskatoon.

A special guest from Australia, Value Chain Development Leader Brendan Larkin representing Australia's Department of Primary Industries in Victoria, was on hand to speak to representatives from Saskatchewan's agriculture and agri-food sector at a presentation at the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre.

Mr. Larkin reviewed the current state of Australia's agriculture sector and how they deliver value chain programming. As Mr. Larkin explained, the State of Victoria government has funded the Value Chain Development (VCD) project for many years. The VCD has a primary objective a more effective industry value chain function, comparable to Western Canadian value chain projects.

ACS was pleased to host the Canadian value chain specialists, along with the representatives from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Brendan Larkin. It was an excellent learning experience that will further the development of value chains across the country.

For more information on the Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative, please contact Bryan Kosteroski, ACS Value Chain Specialist, by e-mail at [kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca](mailto:kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca) or by phone at (306) 975-6851.

## **CATE**

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**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](http://www.agtraining.ca) or call Lesley Dirkson at (306) 975-6847 or toll free at 1-800-641-8256.*

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## **ACS PARTNERS**

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### **2009 Environmentally Sustainable Technologies (“BEST”) Workshop and Trade Show**

The Saskatchewan Biofuels Development Council will hold their second annual Biofuel Environmentally Sustainable Technologies (“BEST”) Workshop and Trade Show Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Yorkton. Learn about the new opportunities in biomass production such as tree plantations, new technologies to produce small and larger scale bioenergy facilities to produce biofuels or bioenergy, financing, and more.

*For more information, contact Judie Dyck, PAg, President, Saskatchewan Biofuels Development Council, at (306) 384-0149 or [president@saskbiofuels.com](mailto:president@saskbiofuels.com) or check out Sask Biofuels website in 2009 for more information: [www.saskbiofuels.com](http://www.saskbiofuels.com).*

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## **NEWS FROM OUR SISTER COUNCILS**

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### **Newfoundland and Labrador aiming for cranberry big leagues**

When it comes to cranberries, Mervin Wiseman is convinced Newfoundland and Labrador can move into the big leagues.

"For years, they said we couldn't grow cranberries here," says Wiseman, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture."

"They were wrong. Our berries are as good as any in North America when it comes to quality, colour, and yield."

That success was on display earlier this year as the federation played host for an annual international cranberry tour that this year focused on Newfoundland and Labrador.

The federation received \$21,000 in funding support for the tour through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program, including \$10,525 from the Newfoundland and Labrador Agri-Adapt Council, \$5,162 from the New Brunswick Agriculture Council and \$4,962 from Agri-Futures Nova Scotia.

*To read the complete story, please [click here](#) to open a PDF copy of the Winter 2008 edition of the Atlantic Agri-News newsletter.*

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## EVENTS & DATES

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**January 12 to 15, 2009:** 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 12, 2009:** Flax Day 2009. Saskatoon, Ballroom C, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission website.

**January 12, 2009:** Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please phone (306) 975-6624.

**January 12 and 13, 2009:** Pulse Days 2009: Celebrating 25 Years. Saskatoon, Prairieland Park. For more information, please [click here](#) to visit the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers website.

**January 13 and 14, 2009:** Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Canadian Room and Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association website.

**January 13, 2009:** Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission: The Oat Advantage. Saskatoon, Courtyard Room, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission website.

**January 14, 2009:** 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 14, 2009:** Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission Annual General Meeting. Saskatoon, Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission website.

**January 16 and 17, 2009:** Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association: 21st Annual Conference. Saskatoon, Heritage Inn, 102 Cardinal Crescent. For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association website.

**January 27, 2009:** Canadian Value Chain Network Module 8 Workshop: Developing Value Chains in the Canadian Food Service Industry. Saskatoon, Prairieland Park, Hall C. Time: 8:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration is \$50.00. 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](mailto:kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca).

**February 11 to 12, 2009:** Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association Annual Conference: Feeding and Fuelling the World. Saskatoon, Saskatoon Inn. To register, call 1-800-213-4287 or [click here](#) for more information.

**April 7, 2009:** Saskatchewan Biofuels Development Council: Biofuel Environmentally Sustainable Technologies ("BEST") Workshop and Trade Show. Yorkton, Saskatchewan. For more information, contact Judie Dyck, PAg, President, Saskatchewan Biofuels Development Council, at (306) 384-0149 or [president@saskbiofuels.com](mailto:president@saskbiofuels.com) or check out Sask Biofuels website in 2009 for more information: [www.saskbiofuels.com](http://www.saskbiofuels.com).

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