



E-Newsletter

November 9, 2007

ACAAFS Application Deadlines:

November 16, 2007 for requests over \$10,000.

November 16, 2007 for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

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

ACS to conduct membership survey

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) will be sitting down with our 39 member organizations in November and December to assist us in identifying industry 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 of ACS to ensure we are meeting their needs and we are 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 an interview. If you have any questions about the survey or on becoming an ACS member, please contact Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director, by phone at (306) 975-6849 or by E-mail at dmytryshynl@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 launches new logo

As you have likely noticed, ACS has a new logo. This is the second part, following the name change, of rebranding the organization to better reflect our mission, vision and core business.

The new logo, designed by Tap Communications of Saskatoon, consists of a stylized "ACS," with elements that signify furrows in a field, progress and growth. We are in the process of redesigning our Website, newsletter, brochure and tradeshow booth based on the new logo.

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

ACAAFS

ACS funded obsolete pesticide collection program makes farms safer and cleaner

On October 22, CropLife Canada announced the launch of the Obsolete Pesticide Collection Campaign throughout Saskatchewan. From October 23 to 25, Saskatchewan farmers were able to dispose of their obsolete agricultural pesticides free of charge at 45 collection sites. The campaign was funded by ACS through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) Program.

"The Obsolete Pesticide Collection Campaign gives farmers the opportunity to safely dispose of outdated, unwanted or otherwise obsolete agricultural pesticides during a three-day province-wide campaign," said Cam Davreux, Vice President, CropLife Canada.

The Saskatchewan Obsolete Pesticide Collection Campaign is an industry-led stewardship program aimed at collecting and safely disposing obsolete agricultural pesticides. The campaign is a unique partnership between federal and provincial governments, agricultural retailers and CropLife Canada to make Saskatchewan farms and rural communities safer and cleaner.

"ACS, through the ACAAFS program, is proud to have committed \$172,250 to CropLife Canada for their Obsolete Agricultural Pesticides Collection and Disposal Program," said Laurie Dmytryshyn, ACS Executive Director. "The ACAAFS program is providing funding to many initiatives across Saskatchewan that will advance the province's agriculture and agri-food sector. Through projects like this, ACAAFS funding will allow for a cleaner environment and safer working conditions for Saskatchewan's producers."

For more information on CropLife Canada, please [click here](#) to visit their Website. For more information on the ACAAFS program, please [click here](#).

ACAAFS Funding Update

Since April 1, 2007, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **43** projects for a total commitment of **\$2,845,066**. To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 174 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$11,053,775.

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

Value Chain workshops set for Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative of ACS will be hosting the following workshops later this month:

Value Chain Module 1 Workshop: Introduction to Agri-Food Value Chains & Crafting Value Chain Strategies

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location – Saskatoon - Western Development Museum

Registration Fee - \$50.00

Registration form: [click here](#) for a Word document, [click here](#) for a PDF.

Value Chain Module 2 Workshop: Agri-Food Value Chain Development Planning

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location – Saskatoon - Western Development Museum

Registration Fee - \$50.00

Registration form: [click here](#) for a Word document, [click here](#) for a PDF.

The Saskatchewan Agri-Food Value Chain Initiative is a strategic partnership of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) and the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS). The SAF 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 or to register, contact SCCD Value Chain Specialist Bryan Kosteroski by phone at (306) 975-6851 or by E-mail at kosteroskib@agcouncil.ca.

Applications now being accepted for Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program January projects

Applications for agriculture and agri-food organizations seeking business and marketing plan assistance are now being accepted. The successful applicants will receive a professional quality business or marketing plan produced by students from the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources and will have \$250 of the \$500 cost of the program funded by ACS through the ACAAFS program. **The application deadline is December 10, 2007 for a January 2008 start date.**

Application Forms:

Business Plan Program

For a PDF version, [click here](#). For a Word document, [click here](#).

Marketing Plan Program

For a PDF version, [click here](#). For a Word document, [click here](#).

For more information on the Student Assisted Business and Marketing Plan Program, please visit the [ACS Website](#) or contact ACS Value Chain Specialist Bryan Kosteroski 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 allow them to supplement their on-farm income. 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 Pulse Growers issues call for research proposals

Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG) is placing a call for research proposals for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

SPG is the producer organization representing registered growers of pulse crops in Saskatchewan. The continued growth of the pulse industry will depend on expanding demand in the traditional export markets as well as developing new markets; the new markets will include finding new uses for pulses. The SPG has identified these R&D areas as having a higher priority to contributing to industry profitability and sustainability:

1. Pulse Quality Improvement;
2. Pulse Agronomy and Sustainable Production; and
3. Pulse Processing and Utilization.

For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Website.

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-ops@agr.gc.ca.

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER COUNCILS

Food for Health – Fresh Produce = Healthy Living

With Ontario's drug bill topping \$3 billion dollars in 2005, efforts are underway to reduce the risk of disease with a Verified Health Quality campaign encouraging more fruits and vegetables in the diet.

Dr. Gord Surgeoner of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies strongly believes that more fruits and vegetables in our diets are key to improving the overall health of the Ontario population and thereby reducing the growth rate in the use and cost of healthcare. "There's no nutrition labeling on fresh fruits and vegetables," explains Dr. Gord Surgeoner, president of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies. "That's why we're launching a new website under the Verified Health Quality initiative to help consumers understand the nutritive benefits for specific fruits and vegetables and their impact on specific diseases and conditions."

The website, www.vhqfoods.ca went live at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto on November 1, 2006. It's a valuable source of reliable, science-based information on the nutritional values of specific fruits and vegetables and their potential in reducing the risk of certain diseases. For example, a search for "Age-related macular degeneration" brings up an easy-to-understand description of the eye disease as well as nutritional recommendations for eating more citrus fruits and leafy greens which contain carotenoids beneficial for eye health. In total, 54 different fruits and vegetables are profiled for their nutritional components.

For more information, please [click here](#) to go to the Agricultural Adaptation Council Website.

The Craze for a Maze

Anyone can grow corn in straight rows. But to design a corn field in the shape of the Great Pyramids of Egypt or in a message such as "Farmers Fuel the Future" takes extra talent.

Corn Mazes are some of the fastest growing tourist attractions in Ontario. In fact 42 farms with mazes have joined forces in a new "Maze Craze" passport program which is funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's (AAC) CanAdvance program.

Offered through the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association (OFFMA), "Maze Craze"

encourages visitors to navigate a series of mazes located across the province. Upon completion of each maze, a 'passport' is stamped. People receiving four or more stamps can then submit their passport in person, by mail, or on-line through www.mazecraze.ca for a chance to win a series of prizes. The Maze Craze program runs through to October 21st. More details, including lists of all of the participating farms can be found at www.mazecraze.ca.

To read the rest of the article, please [click here](#) to go to the Agricultural Adaptation Council Website.

EVENTS & DATES

November 19 to 24, 2007: Canadian Western Agribition – Regina, IPSCO Place. Canadian Western Agribition is one of North America's largest and best known agricultural marketplaces. Annually, over 4,000 head of livestock including purebred beef, commercial and dairy cattle, heavy and light horses, sheep, goats, and bison are on display during the six day show. Agribition also hosts over 450 trade show exhibits (spanning 186,000 square feet) featuring agri-business & technology products and services, western arts and crafts, home and lifestyle products, as well as food products and samples. For more information, please go to <http://www.agribition.com/>.

November 22, 2007: Saskatchewan Federal Council - Environmental Theme Day - Regina Inn, Regina. The purpose of this policy theme day is to share knowledge and learning for policy action on the Prairie environment. The forum will address long term and short term needs to manage and support environmental change. The day will include policy practitioners, scientists, and senior officials' perspectives on integrative responses for public policy and stewardship in a context of what we know about risk, adaptation, resource management, and ecosystems. For more information, [click here](#) for the conference brochure or contact Dianne MacDonald at dianne.macdonald@wd-deo.gc.ca or Zoran Vracar at zoran.vracar@wd-deo.gc.ca.

December 6, 2007: Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association - Crop Advisors Workshop 2007. For more information, please [click here](#) for a PDF of the workshop brochure.

December 11 and 12, 2007: Capturing Feed Grain and Forage Opportunities Conference – Red Deer, Alberta. This conference has been designed to help you assess challenges & opportunities with regards to biofuel and its impact on feed & livestock production. Topics include global & local perspectives, impact on the feed industry, and environmental considerations. [Click here](#) for more information.

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/>.

February 12 and 13, 2008: Fuelling 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.

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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