



September 24, 2007

ACAAFS Application Deadlines:

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

October 12, 2007 for Speaker Sponsorship applications and requests \$10,000 or less.

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

ACS elects new Board Chair and changes name

The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (ACS) has elected producer Murray Purcell to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors, while re-electing Valerie Pearson to the Vice-Chair position and Darrell Schneider to the Secretary/Treasurer position. This comes on the heels of a name change for the organization, which was previously known as the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development Inc. (SCCD).

To read the entire news release, please [click here](#) for a PDF version.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council becomes the newest ACS member

ACS is pleased to welcome our newest member, the [Saskatchewan Forage Council](#). The Saskatchewan Forage Council was formed as a cooperative in 1987 to enhance the province's forage industry, including production, harvesting, utilization, and marketing. They distribute current information on forage-related topics and encourage the use of forages in production systems. In addition, they communicate and work with government on industry production issues and marketing policies and assist in the prioritization of research in the forage sector.

For more information on becoming a member or supporter of ACS, please [click here](#) to visit our membership page or call (306) 975-6847 or 1-800-641-8256.

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 communications update

Along with a new name, the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) is in the process of developing a number of new communication materials that will enable the council to communicate openly with our members, supporters, and clients. A new [Website](#), newsletter, display and brochure will all be produced, along with a new logo and visual identity that will allow us to effectively market and brand both the council and our programs. We should be unveiling our new communication materials in early 2008.

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

ACAAFS

Minister Ritz announces ACAAFS funding for Food Centre and Saskatchewan Beekeepers projects

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced over \$695,000 in funding for two projects that will benefit producers and processors in Saskatchewan and across the country. The announcement was made on August 27, outside of the ACS offices at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre will receive \$328,340 to assist the industry in developing and implementing food safety and quality programs, including the development and delivery of audit programs, while the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association is being provided \$366,729 to use natural selection to obtain productive, gentle honeybee lines with improved tolerance to mites and brood diseases.

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre project aims to help provincial food processors remain competitive and profitable by implementing food safety and quality programs, including HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points), GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices), organic certification, vendor recognition and in-house employee food safety training. It will also help to develop a food safety audit program.

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association project will use natural selection and established breeding methods to develop honeybee lines with genetic resistance to parasitic mites, eliminating or reducing the need for chemicals. This practice protects the environment from harmful organo-phosphates, the consumer from any food safety or quality concerns, and the beekeeper from bee colony losses.

For the entire news release, please [click here](#) for the English version. Please [click here](#) for the French new release. For past news releases, please [click here](#) to go to the ACS news page.

ACAAFS Funding Update

Since April 1, 2006, the ACS Board of Directors has approved ACAAFS funding for **42** projects for a total commitment of **\$2,959,722**. To date, the ACS Board of Directors has approved 170 projects under ACAAFS and BOPI for a funding commitment of \$10,601,750.

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 to begin across Saskatchewan

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

Agri-Food Internet Marketing Value Chain Workshop: Marketing your Products on the Internet

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location - Regina – Ramada Hotel

Registration Fee - \$25.00

Agri-Food Internet Marketing Value Chain Workshop: Marketing your Products on the Internet

Thursday, October 11, 2007

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location - Saskatoon – Western Development Museum

Registration Fee - \$25.00

Organic Livestock Value Chain Workshop: Overview of the Organic Livestock Market Opportunities & Challenges in Establishing an Organic Wholesale & Retail Distribution Network

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location – Regina - Travelodge Hotel Regina South

Registration Fee - \$ 50.00

Vegetable Growers Value Chain Workshop: Overview of the Vegetable Market Opportunities & Challenges in Establishing a Wholesale & Retail Distribution Network

Thursday, October 25, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location – Regina - Travelodge Hotel Regina South

Registration Fee - \$ 50.00

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

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

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 Agribusiness Student 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 reimbursed by ACS through the ACAAFS program. **The application deadline is December 10, 2007 for a January 2008 start date.**

For more information on the Agribusiness Student Business and Marketing Plan Program, please visit the [Value Chains 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

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 next 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.

EVENTS & DATES

September 25 to 27, 2007: Western Nutrition Conference – Saskatoon, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. As with past years, they are offering an interesting and diverse panel of presenters from across the globe at the 28th Annual Western Nutrition Conference. You will gain an abundance of knowledge and information from the speakers that have been invited. You will also have the opportunity to network with other professionals across the nation who share a common interest in animal nutrition. Call 306-933-4404 or email office@agribiz.ca for more information.

September 30 to October 1, 2007: Ethnic & Specialty Food Expo including All Things Organic - Mississauga, Ontario, International Centre. Ethnic & Specialty Food Expo, including the All Things Organic™ Pavilion, is the only focused forum of its kind in Canada that fully addresses the trends and needs of the food industry, both retail and foodservice, as it responds and evolves to the wants of consumers. Visit <http://www.ethnicandspecialtyfood.com> for more information.

October 3, 2007: How to Market Gourmet and Artisan Foods in the USA – Saskatoon, Span and Candle Room, Atrium Building, Innovation Place. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in partnership with Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food and Food and Beverage Canada, is hosting a seminar on marketing artisan and gourmet foods in the US marketplace. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from distributors and business development officers from the US. Export ready companies interested in meeting with the distributors and/or USA Business Development officers should contact Michele Kuxhaus, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at (306) 975-4094 or kuxhausm@agr.gc.ca.

October 28 to 29, 2007: Alberta Food Service Show - Calgary, Roundup Centre (Stampede Park). Alberta's \$6 billion foodservice industry is the number one growth market for Canada's restaurant business. The Alberta Foodservice Show provides a focus on the dynamic provincial industry where leading suppliers showcase their products and services. This show offers foodservice suppliers a face-to-face marketplace to reach industry buyers who want new products and new ideas to grow their operations. For more information, contact Charlene Delisle, Alberta Foodservice Show Manager, at (403) 454-4999 or cdelisle@crfa.ca.

November 15 and 16, 2007: Western Canadian Functional Food & Natural Health Product Network Annual Conference - Richmond, British Columbia. This year's theme will be Energy, Endurance, & Enhancement: Eastern Traditions & Western Trends. The event will focus on China, Korea, and India with topics including market research, NHP markets, and natural health products. The conference will also feature a Canadian Olympic Medalist speaker as well as a Ministerial address. For more information on the event or to register, please contact the WCFN at 604-822-6920 or email info@wcfn.ca.

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/>.

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. Visit [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/EFE.nsf/all/efe1064](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/EFE.nsf/all/efe1064) 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/>.

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.

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.

You may also go to www.sccd.sk.ca/news.html for more information on ACS or to www.sccd.sk.ca/archive.html for back issues of our newsletters and E-newsletters.

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