

# 2012 Programs and Services for Growth

Development Officers within Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development have created this document to assist agri-processing companies in finding funding programs, services and supports.

This information will help you:

- Discover what's available to help grow your agri-processing business
- Find the programs and services that suit your needs
- Apply to financial cost-sharing opportunities for new initiatives
- Access resources that improve your business

Program Name	Type	Administered By	Description	Maximum Funding	Program End Date	Website
<b>Automation , Technology &amp; Lean Manufacturing</b>						
<b>NEW</b> Agricultural Innovation Program	Grant/ Interest-Free Loan	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>	The program is designed to support research, development, commercialization and adoption of new products, technologies, processes and services. The program had two streams. Stream 1 <i>Knowledge Creation and Transfer</i> is focused on research and development and applied projects where the commercialization is 3-7 years away. Grant funding of up to 75% for not-for-profit groups and 50% for profit companies. Stream 2 <i>Commercialization</i> includes capital equipment but should be new not just to the company but to the sector or region. An interest free loan of up to 50%.	Stream 1: \$4,000,000 Stream 2: \$10,000,000	March 31/2013	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
Agri-Processing Initiative	Grant/ Interest-Free Loan	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>	The program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-processing sector in Canada. Eligible projects include new (novel to facility) machinery and equipment (including the commissioning) that enables the adoption of new manufacturing technologies and processes and consultation, design and advice on new technologies, processes and products which are new to the facility. The contributions are non-interest bearing and unsecured. Companies could receive a repayable contribution of 50% of eligible project costs.	\$2,000,000	March 31/2014	<a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca">www.agr.gc.ca</a>
Alberta Technology Innovation Program	Grant	<i>Food Beverage Canada</i>	The program provides financial support for companies to attend approved National and International technology-related trade shows, conferences, seminars and other industry events to foster support for both company and industry innovation and growth. Approved participants are eligible to receive 50% cost-sharing on economy airfare, event and seminar registration fees and a per diem for out-of-pocket expenses.	-----	April 1/2012 (with possible extension)	<a href="http://www.foodbeveragecanada.com">www.foodbeveragecanada.com</a>
Growing Forward Agri-Business Automation & Lean Manufacturing Program	Grant	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (Crop) &amp; Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (Livestock)</i>	The program is designed to stimulate new investment and capital expansion in the agri-food industry in Alberta. The program contributes to improvements to the productivity of processors through cost reductions and/or increases in operational efficiencies. A maximum of 20% of eligible costs will be payable for capital projects. Non-capital projects, which include third-party costs, consulting and engineering fees, training and eligible travel costs will have a maximum of 50% payable.	\$2,000,000	March 31/2013	<a href="http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca">www.growingforward.alberta.ca</a> <a href="http://www.alma.alberta.ca">www.alma.alberta.ca</a>
Productivity Improvement Services	Resource	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development &amp; Productivity Alberta</i>	These services can help your company increase productivity and competitiveness through on-site operation assessments, practical recommendations and guidance regarding resources for implementation.	-----	-----	<a href="http://www.productivityalberta.ca">www.productivityalberta.ca</a> <a href="http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/productivity">www.agriculture.alberta.ca/productivity</a>

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<b>Food Safety</b>						
Alberta HACCP Advantage (AHA!)	Resource/Certification	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development	AHA! is a voluntary program that has many excellent resources to assist food processors in developing, improving and implementing a food safety system (i.e., GMP or HACCP system) to meet the requirements of current customers and help gain new customers. These resources include coaching and guidance from experienced Food Safety Specialists, a food safety "how to" manual, personnel training materials, food safety DVDs, template record keeping forms, and more! The program also provides formal third party certification and government recognition for facilities that implement the AHA! program.	-----	-----	www.agriculture.alberta.ca/aha
Gap Assessments	Resource	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development & Alberta Food Processors Association	Gap assessments are available to assist processors in preparing for customer or regulatory audits. This program is also valuable for processors that want to implement a Food Safety program but either aren't sure where to start or want to know where their shortfalls may be prior to proceeding.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com www.agriculture.alberta.ca
Growing Forward Food Safety Program-Processing	Grant	Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development	The program allocates funds for processors to implement food safety systems that result in demonstrated behaviour changes in food safety practices. Non Capital Items - Assistance for non-federally registered food processing companies will be on a 70/30 cost-shared basis (government / applicant) to a maximum of \$25,000. A maximum of \$25,000 for incremental wages for your own staff or a maximum of \$20,000 to hire a food safety consultant to assist in the implementation of food safety programs. Capital Items - Assistance will be on a 50/50 cost shared basis (government / applicant) to a maximum of \$50,000 for capital items that can assist with controlling food hazards.	\$50,000	March 31/2013	www.growingforward.alberta.ca
Online Food Safety Training & Prerequisite Program Management	Resource	Alberta Food Processors Association	This program will enable Alberta food processors to train employees within the facility on seven food safety modules, administer quizzes and present certificates upon completion of the training. It will also give HACCP Coordinators the tools to manage employee training and prerequisite programs to ensure they are current and ready for audits. Technical support is also available to assist processors in entering employee names into the database, downloading SOPs and training to use the system.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com
Onsite Training	Resource	Alberta Food Processors Association	This program is available to Alberta food processors that want to train a group of employees on HACCP or other food safety topics but do not want to go offsite to a publicly offered course. This minimizes the potential expense and time away from production. It also gives a team approach to training, which many companies prefer.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com
<b>Investment</b>						
Agri-Business & Agri-Food Financing	Financing/Loan	Farm Credit Canada	FCC provides financing to processors, wholesalers, input providers, equipment manufacturers and dealers. They offer term and cash flow financing and venture capital.	-----	-----	www.fccfinancing.ca
Canada Small Business Financing Program	Loan	Industry Canada	Under the program, the Government of Canada makes it easier for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk of lenders. Companies must be small businesses operating for profit in Canada, with a gross annual revenue of less than \$5 million.	\$500,000	-----	www.ic.gc.ca
Canada Youth Business Foundation Program	Loan	Canada Youth Business Foundation	This program provides start-up financing of up to \$15,000, with flexible three to five year repayment schedules with no principal payments in the first year. Furthermore, the Business Development Bank of Canada teamed up with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) to provide entrepreneurs with up to an additional \$15,000 to get their businesses off the ground. Expansion financing of up to \$10,000 is also offered for existing CYBF entrepreneurs.	\$15,000	-----	www.cybf.ca
Pre-Commercial Investment Program	Loan	AVAC Ltd.	Investment funds are targeted at pre-commercial and start-up opportunities. AVAC will help entrepreneurs and new venture developers pursue their ideas by sharing some of the early stage risk (less than 50%). Investment return is based on a royalty approach, calculated as a percentage of gross revenue of the client business, or of a specific new product or service.	-----	-----	www.avacLtd.com
Value Added & Agri-Business Program	Financing/Loan	Agriculture Financial Services Corporation	The program is designed to provide enterprises with suitable financing to start, develop and grow their businesses. The loan can be used to start, expand, purchase or upgrade facilities, equipment, or other capital assets needed for your business. VAAP also covers working capital expenditures, including training costs, that support new or expanded operations or products for value added or agri-business enterprises and change of ownership.	\$5,000,000	-----	www.afsc.ca

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<b>Nutrition/Labeling</b>						
Food labelling Health Benefits	Resource	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) recognizes the important role that the food regulatory environment plays in protecting public safety, promoting health and supporting industry competitiveness. The Food Regulatory Issues Division provides the sector with information and advice on food policy and regulatory issues, particularly with regards to innovative foods with health benefits.	-----	-----	www.agr.gc.ca
Food labelling Information Service	Resource	<i>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</i>	The CFIA Food labelling Information Service consolidates and coordinates voluntary federal food label reviews. This service is particularly directed to facilitating market entry for new businesses. Food processors can receive general labelling advice, including nutritional labelling, and have draft labels reviewed by contacting the Food Safety and Fair labelling offices in Edmonton and Calgary.	-----	-----	www.inspection.gc.ca
<b>Occupational Health &amp; Safety (OH &amp; S)</b>						
Certificate of Recognition Program	Resource	<i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i>	This program is essential to WCB's PIR and a key component of Alberta Human Services Partnerships program. A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is issued to employers who have successfully implemented a workplace health and safety management system that meets partnerships standards. Benefits of obtaining a COR include: minimized accident costs, improved worker productivity, safer workplace and a possible rebate of a minimum of 10% to a maximum of 20% of WCB premiums.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com
Small Employer Certificate of Recognition	Resource	<i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i>	The Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) program provides an option for employers with a small number of workers to develop a safety management system and achieve a Certificate of Recognition. The program is designed to meet the application and training needs of employers with 10 or fewer employees. A SECOR is issued to an employer whose health and safety program meets the partnerships standards. Small employers with a SECOR are eligible to receive a 10% to 20% rebate on their WCB premiums.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com
Workplace Health & Safety Program	Resource	<i>Alberta Food Processors Association</i>	The Alberta Food Processors Association is committed to improving health and safety for the industry and offers extensive educational courses. The following courses are instructed by qualified industry experts: Health & Safety Program Building, Internal Auditor Training, Hazard Assessment, WHMIS Train the Trainer, Incident & Accident Investigation and Roles & Responsibility for Managers and Supervisors.	-----	-----	www.afpa.com
<b>Research &amp; Development/ Marketing</b>						
Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator	Resource	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	A multi-tenant, CFIA registered facility with eight private, fully serviced processing suites dedicated to assisting food processors in the scale-up and commercialization of food products and technologies leading to successful establishment of their own enterprises.	-----	-----	www.agriculture.alberta.ca
Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credit	Tax Credit	<i>Government of Alberta</i>	The provincial tax credit program benefits businesses of all sizes and in all sectors that conduct research and development that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes. The credit is for all expenditures incurred after December 31, 2008 that are also eligible for the federal Scientific Research and Experimental Development Credit (SR&ED). The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is over and above the federal SR&ED credit, helping the research and development investments made by Alberta companies go farther.	Tax credit of up to 10%	-----	www.advancededandtech.alberta.ca
Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program	Grant or Loan	<i>Agriculture &amp; Food Council</i>	The program objectives are to facilitate the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector's ability to seize opportunities, to respond to new and emerging issues, and to pathfind and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues in order to help it adapt and remain competitive. Maximum level of funding will not exceed 85% of total project costs.	\$3,000,000	December 31/2013	www.agfoodcouncil.com
<b>NEW</b> The Canada Brand in the Canadian Market	Resource	<i>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i>	To help increase the competitiveness of Canadian food producers and processors here at home, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has developed a new domestic branding initiative. The initiative will help you promote the advantages of your food products to Canadian consumers, capitalizing on research showing that they prefer to buy domestic foods over imports.	-----	-----	www.marquecanadabrand.agr.gc.ca
Co-operative Development Initiative	Resource	<i>Canadian Co-operative Association &amp; Co-operative Secretariat of Canada</i>	This program is a Government of Canada program delivered in partnership with co-operative sector organizations to enhance the contribution of co-operatives to meeting the economic and social needs of Canadians. There are three program components: advisory services, research and knowledge development, and innovative co-operative projects.	-----	-----	www.coop.gc.ca

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<b>NEW</b> Developing New Alberta Crop-Based Products	Grant	<i>Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF)</i>	This program is targeted to work with Alberta's agricultural crop-based manufacturers and growers to grow their own businesses. The program increases manufacturing using Alberta grown crops, through development of new commercial ingredients and products. Enriching supply chain business relationships is highly desirable. Ultimately the success of this program will be a significant increase in demand and use of Alberta grown crops in Alberta based manufacturing. ACIDF will provide up to 25% of eligible project cash costs up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.	-----	December 31/2014	www.acidf.ca
Food Processing Development Centre	Resource	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	The Food Processing Development Centre is a modern, fully equipped pilot plant and product development laboratory facility. It is staffed with experienced food scientists, engineers and technologists. Centre services are designed to strengthen and expand the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the challenges of the marketplace through application of new technology and the development of new or improved products and processes.	-----	-----	www.agriculture.alberta.ca
Growing Forward Agri-Business & Product Development Program	Grant	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (Crop) &amp; Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (Livestock)</i>	The program targets agri-food and agri-based processing companies and producers with innovative, market driven opportunities to commercialize a product, create healthy or healthier products or expand their business. Projects under this program include: product development, market research and development, labelling and packaging development, and expanding an agri-business. Eligible expenses will be funded at 50% to a maximum of \$400,000.	\$400,000	March 31/2013	www.growingforward.alberta.ca www.alma.alberta.ca
Industrial Research Assistance Program	Resource/Grant	<i>National Research Council</i>	This program supports small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada to build their technology and innovation capabilities. Industrial Technology Advisors work with small and medium-sized enterprises on-site to assess needs and design solutions which can be tailored to each business. NRC-IRAP offers direct technical assistance, access to the latest technological advances, expertise, facilities and resources. NRC-IRAP may also provide cost-shared financing of innovative technical projects to qualified firms.	-----	-----	http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/ibp/irap.html
Matching Investment Fund	Grant	<i>Canadian Dairy Commission</i>	The \$6 million fund is designed to encourage growth and innovation in the manufacturing and use of Canadian dairy products and ingredients. Projects could receive \$50,000 for consultations or \$250,000 for product development. Funding must be matched in cash or in-kind by the business.	\$250,000	-----	www.milkingredients.ca
<b>NEW</b> Product Demonstration Fund	Grant	<i>Alberta Innovates</i>	The Product Demonstration Fund (PDF) will assist Alberta businesses across the province at a challenging time in the commercialization phase of their development. PDF funding, typically ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000, will help businesses demonstrate their new products or services in a real-life, end-user environment.	\$300,000	-----	www.albertainnovates.ca
Scientific Research & Experimental Development Program	Tax Credit	<i>Canada Revenue Agency</i>	This program is a federal tax incentive program to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada that will lead to new, improved or technologically-advanced products or processes. Companies can apply for SR&ED investment tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead and SR&ED contracts.	Tax credit of up to 35%	-----	www.cra.gc.ca
<b>Sustainability</b>						
ecoEnergy for Industry Assessment Incentive Program	Grant	<i>Natural Resources Canada</i>	Financial incentives for two types of assessments through the ecoENERGY for Industry program. The incentives help industrial companies perform assessments of their operations to optimize their processes, reduce operating costs, and use energy more efficiently. Funding is available for up to 50% of the study cost of a Process Integration study (\$50,000 max) or a Computational Fluid Dynamic study (\$30,000 max).	\$50,000	-----	www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca
<b>Workforce Development</b>						
Agricultural Processing Industry Summer Employment Program	Grant	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	This program provides opportunities for career-related experience and skill training for students employed in Alberta's processing industry. Students must be enrolled full-time in a degree, diploma or certificate program and must be returning to school full-time in the fall or winter. Students enrolled in graduate studies are also eligible under the program. Processors who hire a student for the summer will be reimbursed for one-third of the employee's salary up to \$500 per month.	\$2,000	-----	www.agriculture.gov.ab.ca

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Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program	Resource	<i>Citizenship and Immigration Canada &amp; Alberta Human Services</i>	The Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program is a federal – provincial agreement designed to assist employers to facilitate the immigration process so employers can retain the qualified temporary foreign workers they have working in Alberta.	-----	-----	www.albertacanada.com
Alberta Innovates Commercialization Associates	Grant	<i>Alberta Innovates Technology Futures</i>	The Alberta Innovates Commercialization Associates program was developed to increase business management and marketing expertise in Alberta-based start-up and Small/Medium Enterprise (SME) companies by enabling these companies to recruit skilled business professionals. The program consists of an annual stipend of \$70,000 (a minimum): with contributions of \$55,000 from Tech Futures and \$15,000 (minimum) from the company, for up to two years; and an annual commercialization allowance of \$7,000 from Tech Futures to cover qualified costs for travel and marketing intelligence.	\$62,000	-----	www.albertatechfutures.ca
Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit	Tax Credit	<i>Canada Revenue Agency</i>	The federal incentive program is designed to help employers offset the cost of hiring and training employees who have entered into an apprenticeship contract. Employers can take advantage of a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10% of the eligible salaries and wages paid to apprentices in their first two years. Any unused credit may be carried back 3 years and carried forward 20 years.	\$2,000	-----	www.cra.gc.ca
Career Bridge Program	Grant	<i>Career Edge</i>	This program is for employers seeking qualified workers and for recent immigrants seeking professional level positions in their fields of expertise. Career Bridge offers paid internships of 4, 6, 9 or 12 months for recent immigrants. It can help employers fill a wide range of professional and managerial positions while minimizing the recruiting costs and risks.	-----	-----	www.careerbridge.ca
Great People = Growing Profits Toolkit	Resource	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	This online toolkit for employers features practical tools to help immediately address labour shortage issues. The toolkit offers recruitment and retention strategies with tools and templates that can be used independently or incorporated into your current business processes. Access the toolkit online or contact your Development officer for a free copy of the toolkit on CD.	-----	-----	www.agriculture.alberta.ca/workforce tools
Growing Forward Leadership Development Grant	Grant	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	This program is designed to support continuous learning and education opportunities to build leadership skills in the agriculture industry. The program is also available to leadership program developers to assist in the development of new comprehensive leadership development programs in Alberta. Assistance will be provided to successful applicants on a 75/25, government to applicant, cost shared basis. Maximum funding for the life of the program is \$12,000 for individual applicants and \$60,000 for leadership program developers.	-----	March 31/2013	www.growingforward.alberta.ca
Market Development Team	Resource	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	The Market Development Team brings experience in retail, food service, alternative markets such as c-stores and into the world of packaging and understanding consumer insights. This also includes innovation, broker relations, go to market plans and merchandising of products. The team works with agri-food processors as they move through the stages of Start-up, Selling, Established and Capacity Growth. Contact your Industry Development Officer or New Venture Specialist and ask for the Market Development Team.	-----	-----	www.agriculture.alberta.ca
Sectoral Career Focus Program	Grant	<i>Food Processing HR Council</i>	This program offers food processing employers an opportunity to receive a wage subsidy to hire skilled youth, to access some of the skills that can further strengthen the sector: business, marketing, design, processing, engineering or other technical abilities. Eligible participants must be post-secondary graduates in food processing or other related disciplines. The program will reimburse 50% of the eligible wages and related expenses to hire a post-secondary student for a placement between 4 and 12 months.	-----	-----	www.fphrc.ca
Small Business Internship Program	Grant	<i>Industry Canada</i>	The program provides small and medium-sized businesses with up to \$10,000 to hire a post-secondary student to implement e-business (internet-based) strategies for greater productivity and competitiveness. This funding will defray the cost of adopting e-business practices and technologies that allow your firm to actively market its products online, reaching new customers in new markets. The Government of Canada will reimburse 75% of the eligible wages and related expenses to hire a post-secondary student, for a total of 12 weeks, to carry out a project.	-----	March 31/2014	www.ic.gc.ca
Temporary Foreign Worker Program	Resource	<i>Citizenship and Immigration Canada</i>	The Temporary Foreign Worker Program is a federal program. It is designed to meet temporary labour needs – the workers are in Alberta to fill short-term gaps in the labour force.	-----	-----	www.albertacanada.com

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Training & Development Resources	Resource	<i>Food Processing HR Council</i>	Up-to-date training materials, human resources kits, multimedia products, guides, and reports to upgrade your employees' skills and abilities.	-----	-----	www.fphrc.ca
Workforce Development Program	Grant	<i>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</i>	This program provides assistance to address specific workforce issues in agricultural production and agri-processing sectors. Financial assistance is provided to assist Alberta agri-business managers to recruit workers outside of Alberta, reduce worker turnover through the development of retention strategies and assess and adopt technologies and processes which will increase worker productivity. 50% of eligible expenses incurred by a successful applicant in completing the approved project per applicant in a fiscal year (April to March).	\$25,000 per client	Renewed Annually	www.agriculture.alberta.ca/workforce
Youth Employment Program	Grant	<i>National Research Council-Industrial Research and Assistance Program</i>	The program provides financial assistance to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises in Canada to hire post-secondary science, engineering, technology, business and liberal arts graduates. Internships must be at least 6 and no longer than 12 months and are available anywhere in Canada. Support will help to cover a part of the intern's salary but does not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.	\$30,000	-----	www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

**Development Officers serve as the first point of contact for Alberta's growing and established agri-processing companies. In addition to having a thorough understanding of the agri-processing industry, our staff can help you navigate through the numerous programs and services. We are your connection to resources for business growth.**  
**Call 310-FARM to contact a Development Officer today.**  
**For more information or an updated versions of this document, visit: [www.agriculture.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.ab.ca)**

