



## Employee Retention

If employee turnover is an issue for your company or you wish to develop or improve your current retention plans, please contact Scott at 403-340-5369.

## Value Chain Workshops

The Canadian Value Chain Network through the extension of a collective outcome project has made Value Chain Workshops available for Modules three to six, between July 2010 and March 31, 2011.

Module 3 - Market Intelligence, gathering and planning for new product introductions

Module 4- Partnering and Collaboration, how to approach retail

Module 5- Understanding category management

Module 6 - Product development, are you market ready

Website with full descriptions on the workshops can be found at <http://www.canadianvaluechainnetwork.ca/workshops.htm>

If your group is interested in hosting a workshop here in Alberta you can contact Margurite Thiessen, Value Chain Specialist Agriculture and Rural Development.

## What is Lean?

Lean is about the elimination of waste from processes; wasted time, motion, inventory, etc. Previously, lean practices were associated with the manufacturing industry; however, in recent years it has been applied to other industries and businesses. Financial companies, service-based businesses and even government agencies have implemented lean thinking principles into their operations to great success.

## Benefits of Implementing Lean Thinking

Results of Lean can be impressive for all areas of business and can include:

- increase in profit
- the removal of wasteful steps in processes
- shortening of process times
- optimization of work space
- improved productivity as a result of an organized efficient workplace
- cleaner, safer workplace.

Watch for more information on Lean in the months to come.

## FREE WEBINAR

[Collaboration's Impact on Product Innovation: Friend or Foe!](#)

**When:** Tuesday, July 13 at 12:00pm

**Duration:** 60 Minutes

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=registration.jsp&eventid=202638&sessionid=1&key=90F5B630C49362BF1C4764A62210CC21&partnerref=june1&sourcepage=register>

Successful product innovation relies heavily on collaboration, however, collaboration can be extremely challenging as a wide range of geographic, technological, and other factors have conspired to limit its efficiency. Collaborating effectively across R&D, quality, sales, marketing, procurement, and manufacturing accelerates time to market and increases product success. Poor collaboration means fewer good ideas, less optimal decisions, and reduced oversight. This educational presentation, delivered by LASCOM Solutions, will explore how successful innovation depends on strong collaboration, suggest strategies to improve both internal and external collaboration, and share customer case studies where such strategies have been successfully deployed.

## New Publication Helps Navigate Available Business Resources

There is a new Food Processing Business Development brochure available. This helpful reference is a guide to the people and programs that exist to help your business in Alberta. If you would like a copy, please contact Joan Bates at 403-340-7625, or [joan.bates@gov.ab.ca](mailto:joan.bates@gov.ab.ca)

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development - 310-0000 (toll-free)  
Crop Business Development Branch – 780-340-5322  
Livestock Business Development Branch - 403-556-4321  
Local/ Domestic Market Expansion Branch - 780-968-3510  
Processing Industry Business Development Branch - 403-340-7625

*Your connection to resources for business growth.*

[www.agriculture.ab.ca](http://www.agriculture.ab.ca)