

FOOD NEWS



News and Information for Alberta's growing Agri-Processing Industry

February 2008

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Alberta agri-processors are eligible for some assistance in hiring post secondary students for summer employment. The Agricultural Processing Industry Employment Program is available to provide career related employment opportunities and skill training for students, in an industry they would hopefully consider for future employment. It also provides an opportunity for small agricultural processors to add some additional or cover-off staff in busy summer months. The program applies to the months of May through August. Employers can be reimbursed for one third of the employee's wages to a maximum of \$500 per month. Employment should provide valuable, safe, learning experiences for the student. Eligible students must be presently enrolled in a post secondary institution and must be returning to school in the fall of 2008. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a school in Alberta. Students cannot be directly related to the employer.

Eligible employers are owners or operators of a value added agricultural processing business, or a business that changes the form of an agricultural product post slaughter or post harvest. The business must be located in Alberta and employers must be eligible for membership in the Alberta Food Processors Association if they produce a food product. Funding is limited this year to one student per business. The employer and the student must submit applications jointly. Alberta Agriculture and Food does not do any matching. Applications are accepted on a first come first served basis. The deadline to apply is April 18, 2008.

Application packages or further information can be obtained by calling the **Ag-Info Centre** at 310-FARM or by request to betty.birch@gov.ab.ca. Further information is available at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv31

UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS

Customer Focused Collaboration: Mastering Value Chain Implementation

March 4-6, 2008 Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary AB
This two and a half day advanced value chain management program is made possible by the Western Canada Value Chain Initiatives and is designed to keep you and your value chain team ahead of the game. You and your team will gain practical business insights and tools to manage your value chain through its next evolution and beyond. Network with other value chain leaders as you practice applications and work together on collaborative problem solving. For additional details, contact **Margurite Thiessen** at 780-968-3513 or margurite.thiessen@gov.ab.ca

Developing Foods for Health and Wellness

March 5-6, 2008 Executive Royal Inn, Leduc-Nisku AB
This informative seminar is being offered to managers, product developers, and marketers of agri-food products. Don't miss out on this opportunity to improve your knowledge and understanding of market trends and developmental opportunities as they relate to issues surrounding health and wellness. Hear presentations from both the industry and highly regarded scientific experts on a broad range of timely topics. For specific program details, contact **Alison Hardy** at 780-980-4246 or alison.hardy@gov.ab.ca. To register, contact the **Ag-Info Centre** at 1-800-3876030.

SPRING FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

- **HACCP IV: Validation and Verification of Your HACCP Plan**
Calgary – April 1-2, 2008
 - **HACCP V: Effective Auditing of Your HACCP Plan**
Calgary – April 3-4, 2008
 - **HACCP I: Documenting Your Prerequisite Program**
Edmonton – April 14-15, 2008
 - **HACCP II: Development of Your HACCP Plan**
Edmonton – April 16-18, 2008
 - **Managing Allergen Issues**
Edmonton – May 28-29, 2008
- Course and registration details are available on-line at www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml

LEAN MANUFACTURING WORKSHOP

Join Gary Loblick of the Winslow Group On March 18, 2008 at the Best Western Village Park Inn in Calgary AB for this hands-on workshop designed to provide company teams with in-depth understanding of lean principles and how they apply in the production environment. Several lean principles will be demonstrated through a role-playing exercise. Registration deadline: March 11th. For more details or to register, contact **Jim Cooper** at 780-679-5173 or jim.cooper@gov.ab.ca or **Ron Lyons** at 780-980-4363 or ron.lyons@gov.ab.ca

PHILIPPINES RECRUITMENT FAIR

Following on a successful recruitment event last November, a second recruitment fair is to be held in Manila, Philippines in April 2008. If you are interested in participating in this job fair, contact **Scott Dundas** at 403-340-5369 or by e-mail at scott.dundas@gov.ab.ca by February 22nd.

Alberta Agriculture and Food
(Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access)
Processed Foods Branch - 780-427-7325
Livestock Products Branch - 403-340-5322
Business Commercialization Branch 780-980-4722