

# FOOD NEWS



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

May 2008

## FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE GMP/HACCP FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Agricultural Policy Framework – Food Safety Initiative Program (APF-FSI) will continue for another year making more funding toward the implementation of food safety measures available to **non-federally registered** agri-processors.

You may be familiar with this funding program, worked with a food safety specialist within our program and received a grant, or this program may be completely new to you. This funding is available to processors to advance their food safety systems development and implementation, which include Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP's) or a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. The program will again support upgrading food safety systems and provide food safety specialists at no charge to coach you or your staff, assist with identifying food safety gaps, and to help with completing the application form as well as answer any questions or concerns that may arise during the process.

The funding guidelines are as follows:

1. If you were previously involved in this program, we would like to provide the opportunity for you to apply for the balance of the original funding grant. You are eligible to apply for the unclaimed/unused portion of the original grant agreement amount (up to \$15,000);
2. If you have not previously accessed any funding under the APF-FSI program, you may be eligible to apply for either \$15,000 to implement GMP's, or \$20,000 to implement HACCP and/or ISO 22000;
3. If you previously applied for and received the maximum of \$15,000, you are eligible to apply for the second level of funding. This second level is an additional \$5,000 to implement HACCP and/or ISO 22000, and requires successfully passing an audit to qualify. Additional details are available upon request.

Should you desire further information about available funding opportunities, or to obtain an application form, please call **780-427-4054** or visit [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/aha](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/aha). Please note, if you have applied for and received previous funding under the Food Safety Initiative program and wish to apply for further funding, a new application form together with all supporting documents outlined on the application will have to be submitted to our office for review and pre-approval.

## DINE ALBERTA: SAVOUR REGIONAL FLAVOUR

Regional cuisine advocates the usage of quality locally grown ingredients, in union with the culture, geography, and history of Alberta. The "**Dine Alberta: All Year Round**" project, now in its fifth year, is a stimulating way to showcase local agriculture products, family owned farms, and value added processing. In doing so it incorporates producers, processors, distributors, restaurants, chefs, media, and most importantly, the consumers. An *Alberta Regional Cuisine Sourcing Directory* has been developed that gives chefs or their product buyers and the public a source for purchasing a wide range of Alberta grown ingredients and/or value-added products. Visit [www.dinealberta.ca](http://www.dinealberta.ca) to find out more about participating in this unique program.

## AFPA ALLERGEN WORKSHOP

- **Managing Allergen Issues**  
Edmonton – May 28-29, 2008  
Course and registration details are available on-line at [www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml](http://www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml)

## UPCOMING INDUSTRY EXPORT EVENT

### Roundtable: Accessing the European Market - June 5, 2008

#### World Trade Centre, Edmonton AB

The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency and the Agricultural Counselor of the Netherlands will be holding a roundtable meeting to discuss business opportunities in Europe and how to access this market through the Netherlands. Topics include: size and potential of the European market; European agri-food sector; accessing the European market; European investment climate; competitive edge of the Netherlands; agri-food-sector in the Netherlands; Canadian companies in the Netherlands. There will be ample opportunity to address individual company concerns.

The seminar will be held in Edmonton on the 6th floor of the World Trade Center, 600-9990 Jasper Avenue, on Thursday June 05 2008 from 10:30-12:00. Meetings with individual companies will take place from 12:00-15:00 on Thursday, and again on Friday June 06. The event is free but registration by Wednesday May 28 2008 is required.

Please e-mail your name, title, company/organization, and contact information to: **Pamela Meier-Duthie** at [meierduthiep@agr.gc.ca](mailto:meierduthiep@agr.gc.ca) with a cc to **Damian Coneghan** at [damian.coneghan@gov.ab.ca](mailto:damian.coneghan@gov.ab.ca). If you have specific questions you want addressed during the meeting, please forward these when registering.

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