

# FOOD NEWS



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

July 2008

## CALL FOR VALUE CHAIN PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Are you working on a project and require some additional help? Have you thought about utilizing a University based program to add value for your project?

The VCI Action-Based Learning Program is putting out the call for project submissions for Fall 2008. Requests must be submitted by **September 2, 2008**. The program has been developed to provide Alberta business with access to University-based expertise and resources that will help identify opportunities to enhance a competitive advantage for your business and value chain partners. The Value Chain Unit staff work to connect your project submission to teams of students enrolled in the MBA, Master's In Agriculture, Nutrition and Food Sciences or appropriate undergraduate programs to perform business analysis for your project and is supervised by a faculty member at U of A.

Qualified students will apply value chain related business skills to provide case-specific business analysis for you that could include developing business plans, marketing research, demand forecasting, activity costing, inventory control, scanning data analysis, issues related to small product development, etc. At the project's conclusion, students will prepare a report for the business that enables them to gain experience and course credit. The business benefits from obtaining the resources to help them with a specific business problem.

To find out more, go to the Agriculture and Food Council website at [www.agfoodcouncil.com/initiatives/value-chains/action-based-learning.aspx](http://www.agfoodcouncil.com/initiatives/value-chains/action-based-learning.aspx)  
To obtain a copy of the project proposal template or to submit your project request contact **Margurite Thiessen**, Value Chain Specialist at **780-968-3513** or [margurite.thiessen@gov.ab.ca](mailto:margurite.thiessen@gov.ab.ca)

## UPCOMING "MUST ATTEND" INDUSTRY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### Accelerate Your Business: A Management Forum to Create Clarity, Focus and Commitment Across Your Organization

Edmonton – September 30, 2008      Calgary – October 2, 2008

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to have your management team attend this insightful, challenging and uplifting full-day management workshop.

Internationally renowned speaker and business coach, Donald Cooper, will deliver the straight goods on how to create clarity of purpose, focus, passion and accountability in your business. Being "purposeful" about your direction, commitments and outcomes has a huge impact on your bottom line. Stay tuned for additional program and registration details in next month's Food News.

### Low Cost/High Impact Employee Retention Tools for AB Food Processors

Calgary - October 28, 2008      Lethbridge - October 29, 2008  
Edmonton/Leduc – October 30, 2008

Is employee turnover costing your company a tremendous amount of time, energy and money? If so, mark your calendars to attend a seminar that offers low cost/high impact employee retention tools for Alberta food processors. Additional program and registration details will be included in upcoming issues of Food News.

## FALL FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

- **Nutritional Labelling**  
Calgary – September 25, 2008
- **HACCP I: Documenting Your Prerequisite Program**  
Calgary – September 29-30, 2008
- **HACCP II: Development of Your HACCP Plan**  
Calgary – October 1-3, 2008
- **HACCP IV: Validation and Verification of Your HACCP Plan**  
Edmonton – October 14-15, 2008
- **HACCP V: Effective Auditing of Your HACCP Plan**  
Edmonton – October 16-17, 2008
- **Detection & Management of Allergens**  
Calgary – October 28-29, 2008
- **ASQ Certified HACCP Auditor**  
Calgary – November 18-20, 2008

Course and registration details are available on-line at

[www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml](http://www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml)

## FOOD SAFETY FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Food Safety Initiative Program (APF-FSI) will continue for another year making funding toward the implementation of food safety measures available to non-federally registered agri-processors. The program supports the upgrading of food safety systems and training; provides food safety coaching for you or your staff; assists with the identification of food safety gaps and the development of a work plan. For further information, 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 APF-FSI 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.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development  
(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