

FOOD NEWS



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

October 2008

AFPA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Support for Temporary Foreign Workers and ESL Learners

An increasing number of food processors in Alberta are seeking to address the challenges of a very tight labour market by bringing in workers under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. After a period of time, these workers can apply to stay permanently in Canada under the AB Immigrant Nominee Program, provided they meet criteria that include a minimum level of English language proficiency. AFPA is mobilizing to help companies meet this target through a suite of resources tailored to the food processing industry:

- an [Interview Package for Overseas Recruitment](#) of temporary foreign workers focusing on language proficiency
- an [Inventory of ESL Resources](#) and a file of [English in the Workplace](#) lesson plans for worksite ESL programs
- a [Plain Language Guide](#) to guide the development of clear workplace documentation (manuals, operating procedures, memos & forms)
- a [Picture Dictionary](#) featuring workplace related tools, equipment, personnel and processes including a [Facilitator's Guide](#) to using the dictionary.

Target completion date is March, 2009. For more information on this tool visit www.afpa.com/hr or contact Janet at 403-201-3657 ext 22 or training@afpa.com.

UPCOMING PROCESSING INDUSTRY EVENTS

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

October 28, 2008 9am-1pm Airdrie Agriculture Centre, Airdrie AB

October 29, 2008 9am-1pm Lethbridge Agriculture Centre, Lethbridge, AB

October 30, 2008 9am-1pm Agri-Food Business Centre, Leduc AB

Is employee turnover costing your company a tremendous amount of time, energy and money? If so, mark your calendars and register to attend a seminar that offers low cost/ high impact employee retention tools for Alberta food processors. The seminars are free to attend.

For more information or to register, contact **Karen Gingras** at **780-980-4220** or karen.gingras@gov.ab.ca

Equipment & Technology Expo – Food Processing Development Centre

November 20-21, 10:00 – 4:00 Leduc, Alberta

If you have an interest or are involved in Food Manufacturing and/or Food Processing, you won't want to miss this opportunity to attend and view the newest equipment and technology available. No admission fee charged. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday

11:00 am Innovative Packaging – *Nestor Plawiuk of Multivac*

1:00 pm Trends and Opportunities in the North American Food Market – *John McIsaac of Reiser*

3:00 pm Fundamentals of Chilling Thermo Processed Products – *Bill de Vos & Walter Pozzi of MMIS*

Friday

11:00 am All Natural Functional Ingredients – *David Anderson of Newly Weds*

Contact Information and to Register: Gord DeJong gord.dejong@gov.ab.ca

6309-45 Street Leduc, Alberta T9E 7C5 Phone: **780-980-4889**

FALL/ WINTER EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

- **Solve Your Labour Shortage Seminar**
Calgary – October 23
Edmonton – October 28
Register online at www.albertacanada.com/immigration
Click on 'hiring foreign workers seminars'
- **Detection & Management of Allergens**
Calgary – October 28-29, 2008
Register online at www.afpa.com/snq/train.shtml or contact Tasha at 403-201-3657 ext 25
- **Certified HACCP Auditor (ASQ)**
Calgary – November 19-21, 2008
Potential funding for this course!
Contact Melody at 403-201-3657 ext 21
- **AFPA Plant Floor Supervisory Course – Edmonton & Calgary**
trainings in early 2009
Contact Tasha at 403-201-3657 ext 25
- **Meat Industry Convention**
Calgary – March 6-8, 2009
Contact Melody at 403-201-3657 ext 21

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

AFPA – Edmonton

3 offices to be rented separately or as a whole, furnished or not. Located near St. Albert Trail, 137th Ave, Yellowhead Trail and 149th Street.

Contact Melody at 403-201-3657 ext 21

Alberta Pork – SE Calgary

Fully furnished, includes a large U-shaped desk, fax copier and access to a common area for water & coffee.

Contact Roy Kruse at 403-256-2764 ext 221 or e-mail roy.kruse@albertapork.ca

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
(Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access)

Crop Business Development Branch –
403-340-5322

Livestock Business Development Branch -
403-556-4321

Local/ Domestic Market Expansion Branch -
780-968-3510

Processing Industry Business Development
Branch - 403-340-7625