



### NEW GROWING FORWARD PROGRAMS

Growing Forward initiatives to increase your profitability and strengthen your competitive position.

#### **AGRI-BUSINESS AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

This grant program is designed to support agri-businesses that want to commercialize a product, create healthier products or ingredients, or expand their business. Eligible projects include: feasibility studies, market research, product development, label and package design and promotional material development.

#### **AGRI-BUSINESS AUTOMATION AND LEAN MANUFACTURING GRANT**

This grant program is designed to support Alberta processors and producers to create productivity improvements through cost reductions and increases in operational efficiencies. The program encourages the adoption of best practices and new technologies and state-of-the-art processes that improve food safety, food quality and increase value and market access.

#### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANT**

This grant program is designed to assist small agri-businesses in accessing expertise to adapt their business to the changing business environment. Risk management consultants, agri-business advisory services and business management coaches are some of the eligible costs. Individual businesses can receive a maximum of \$15,000 of the eligible costs on a 75:25 government/applicant cost shared basis. When the project benefits a group or industry sector, costs will be shared on a 90:10 government/applicant basis.

#### **How to Apply for these programs**

A detailed project proposal for each grant must be submitted as part of the application process. For more information and to view the project proposal requirements, visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca). To be put in touch with an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development specialist for assistance, call 310-FARM.

### MEAT INDUSTRY CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

March 12-14, 2010

Edmonton Marriott at River Cree

Registration info coming this fall through AFPA.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

(Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access)

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

### ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION COURSES

#### **2 Day COBRA (Commercial Business Return Analyzer) Workshop**

coming up in Calgary at the AFPA offices July 13 and 14, 2009.

COBRA is a financial analysis and projection tool designed to help food processors do financial planning. These financial plans are necessary for reporting to your financial institution to help you obtain financing, investors to help you obtain investment capital, and for the financial management of your own companies. COBRA is a decision making assistant to help you decide on new product development, capital purchases, product sale prices and margins, cash flows and financial risk ratings. The workshop will show you how changes to your company can impact the financial risk that your company faces both positively and negatively.

Only \$75 to register for the 2 days of training to cover meals, snacks and beverages. To register please call Melody Pashko at AFPA at 403-201-3657 Ext. 21 in Calgary.

#### **Fall AFPA Courses:**

- Nutritional Labeling Sept 9 Calgary
- Detection & Management of Allergens Sept 10-11 Calgary
- Prevention of Bacteria Hysteria via HACCP Sept 15-16 Calgary
- HACCP I Sept 28-29 Red Deer
- HACCP II Sept 30-Oct 2 Red Deer

To register call Melody at 403-201-3657 Ext. 21 in Calgary.

AFPA's new brochure of services can be found at

<http://www.afpa.com/notesatt/00505-1.pdf>

### CONFERENCE

#### **Save the Date! - WCFN Annual Conference - Healthy Business 2009, Nov 3-4, 2009 - Edmonton, AB:**

Healthy Business 2009 will explore survival tactics in a competitive marketplace by sharing information on challenges, success and lessons learned by industry while discussing how integrating opportunity & innovation to help create sustainability and profitability in the functional food & natural health product sector. As well, the conference and trade show will foster industry networking & business building opportunities while celebrating our industries best and brightest during the WCFN Excellence Awards. More information including program and speakers coming out soon. For more info, please contact Greg Edgelow at [edge@wcfn.ca](mailto:edge@wcfn.ca) or 604-822-6920.

Your connection to resources for business growth. [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)