



FOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

Workshops

Best Practices Workshop and Mini Tour– Southern AB

February 23-24, 2016

Cost: \$35 with GST

Do you understand where your organization needs to focus to enhance the cultural awareness necessary in its Continuous Improvement (CI) journey?

This two-day event includes a hands-on workshop, an extensive tour of a company practicing visual communication management, and the opportunity to network with other companies at various stages in their CI process. To register, please call 1-800-387-6030 or email [Lisa Iwanyk](#) for more information.

Navigating the road to retail – Demystify the regulations, standards and contract requirements for selling fresh produce.

February 24, 2016 - 1 to 4:30 p.m. - Olds, AB

Cost: \$20 – space is limited, so register early

This half-day workshop is for Alberta fresh produce growers who are interested in the retail or food service market channels and have questions about the regulations and standards. Connie Kehler from Herb, Spice and Specialty Agriculture (HSSA) Saskatchewan will give an overview of the options and what programs such as on-farm food safety and certified organic bring to your business. There will be presentations about on-farm food safety programs, including examples of Canada Gap and GACPs (Good Agricultural Collection Practices) and organics followed by an interactive learning session. Register [here](#).

Webinar

Marketing on a Shoestring Budget

March 8, 2016 – 9 a.m.

In this webinar, Cidnee Stephens of Strategies for Success, a seasoned small business marketer, will introduce a less complicated way to look at your marketing and help you navigate through all of today's shiny marketing objects to help you define the RIGHT tools for you, and an AFFORDABLE approach to take for YOUR BUSINESS. Register [here](#).

Opportunities

Grocery and Specialty Food West

April 4-5, 2016 – Vancouver, BC

If you are thinking of expanding sales beyond Alberta, this will be a great show for you. Exhibit and meet buyers from many of the grocery and specialty food retailers in Western Canada. The First Time Exhibitor Section will be a great place to start: Dive head first into the grocery industry and greet retailers with the newest, freshest products on the market. Tour around Vancouver to see key retailers and food movements. Don't wait too long to register for this show, booth space fills up fast!

Contact [Lindsay Sutton](#) or phone 780-643-3849 for more information.

13th Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology

April 17-20, 2016, San Diego, CA

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is providing support for five Alberta bio-based companies with agricultural ties to attend BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology. The mission will include participation in the World Congress, as well as assistance in identifying leads and potential business partners.

For more detailed information, contact: Dusan Rnjak, at 780-638-3851 or email dusan.rnjak@gov.ab.ca.

Seoul Food Show

May 7-14, 2016 – Seoul, Korea

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Korea Office are coordinating a mission to the Seoul Food Show. Alberta food and food ingredient suppliers interested in the Korean market are invited to join as exhibitors or as part of a walking program. For more information on participation, please contact Katie.Meredith@gov.ab.ca or call 780-427-6057.

Industry Day 2016

The Food Safety Division of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is holding their annual event designed to engage with owners and managers of **AF licensed meat facilities and mobile butchers**. It is an opportunity to share information, collaborate on issues and identify items for further discussions. All AF licensed meat facility owners and mobile butchers are invited to attend. To register, please phone the following contacts by March 31, 2016:

Lisa Ashton, 403-948-8535 (office), 403-370-4325 (mobile) - Airdrie Region,
Nick Hennes, 780-427-9996 (office), 780-717-0079 (mobile) - Edmonton Region,
Kevin Olsen, 403-381-5254 (office), 403-892-5582 (mobile) - Lethbridge Region,
Aaron Chrapko, 780-853-8236 (office), 780-581-4244 (mobile) - Vermillion Region.

Resource Tool - Productivity Improvement: The Lean Journey

Today's competitive business environment requires companies to be more efficient and productive. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry developed an interactive, online resource – *The Lean Journey* - specifically for the food processing industry to learn about continuous improvement. The resource provides a series of modules and activities to start and sustain an organization's lean initiatives. Go to <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/leanjourney> and click on 'The Lean Journey' to jumpstart your journey.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

On February 3, 2016, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has published its [Private Certification Policy \(Food Safety\)](#). This policy will enable the CFIA to enhance its risk-based oversight by considering private certification schemes as one of several factors when planning its activities, and allow the Agency to target its inspection activities in areas of highest risk.

Private certification schemes are formal, documented food safety systems that are developed and administered by the private sector. The policy does not require a change of regulations and does not replace regulatory oversight. The CFIA will continue to verify compliance with regulatory requirements.

The CFIA will not recognize or endorse any private certification schemes. All private certification schemes will be assessed individually. An establishment certified by a private certification scheme that the CFIA has assessed may see adjustments in inspection frequencies as the Agency focuses on areas of greatest risk. Industry remains responsible for choosing certification schemes that suit their needs.

For more information on the policy, email: CFIA-Modernisation-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca

Alberta Food Processors Association

Upcoming Courses

- **BRC Global Standard for Food Safety, Issue 7th – Third Party Auditor**, only offering in 2016

April 11-15, 2016 - Calgary

- **HACCP Refresher Training, reduced price**, only offering in Edmonton in 2016

March 8, 2016 - Edmonton

For registration or list of other upcoming courses, go to: http://www.afpa.com/page_training_food.html or email info@afpa.com.

Food Safety Conference

March 7, 2016 - Edmonton

Alberta Food Processors Association can help you get your COR (Certificate of Recognition). Contact: ed@afpa.com.

Connect with Agriculture and Forestry on Social Media:



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry 310-0000 (AB toll-free)

Crop Extension Branch 780-643-6249

Processing Industry & Workforce Development Branch 403-340-7625

Local/Domestic Market Expansion Branch 780-968-3553

Livestock and Farm Business Branch 780-968-6556