



FOOD NEWS

MARCH 2016

Workshops and Congress

Hortsnacks in the Weeds– Invasive Species Identification Workshop

March 22, 2016 – 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. - Edmonton
Cost: \$25 with GST (includes lunch)

Can you tell knotweed from purple loosestrife? Himalayan balsam from Ox-eye daisy? If not this workshop is for you! These invasive species and their cronies will be featured in this interactive workshop. Time will be spent on the basics of plant identification, with lots of hands on time. Barry Gibbs of Alberta Invasive Species Council Executive Director will be on hand to discuss the council and their newly formed “spotter” network. Contact [Dustin Morton](#) or phone 780-679-1314 for more information.

HORTSNACKS AT NIGHT ~ Greenhouse Energy and Material Efficiency

Cost: Free – Snacks provided

March 29, 2016 – Grande Prairie, AB
March 30, 2016 – Bruderheim, AB
March 31, 2016 – Redcliff, AB

Toso Bozic, Bioenergy/Agroforestry Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, will discuss this recent project looking at ways to make Alberta’s greenhouse industry more efficient and what you can implement in your own operation. Please note that all 3 sessions will take place between 7 and 9 p.m. in one of the 3 various locations mentioned above. Contact [Dustin Morton](#) or phone 780-679-1314 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 Alberta bio-based companies with agricultural ties to attend BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology in identifying leads and potential business partners. For more detailed information, contact [Dusan Rnjak](#) at 780-638-3851.

Tradeshaw 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.

Annual Tradeshaw and Conference – Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)

April 12-14, 2016 - Calgary, AB

The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is holding their annual tradeshaw and conference in Calgary this year from April 12 – 14. The show is back in Alberta after being in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

This is a great opportunity for Alberta based vegetable and fruit growers to attend the conference and either walk the trade show floor or exhibit.

All Canadian Retailers and Food Service providers will be there in attendance so the networking opportunities will be in abundance.

More information can be found [here..](#)

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](#) or call 780-427-6057.

Alberta's Agricultural Processing Industry Directory

The 2016 Directory is available online [here](#).

This directory provides a comprehensive database of agricultural processing companies and industry organizations in Alberta. It is maintained as a reference for use by the business community, government agencies, and other interested parties. It serves to update users with current company information including contact personnel, products, and brand names. Industry Organizations are listed for each category where applicable.

The Agricultural Processing Industry Directory is only available in downloadable PDF. Visit the Agricultural Processing Industry Listings [on-line map](#). Requests for correction or addition of new information may be directed to [Joan Bates](#).

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 [here](#) and click on 'The Lean Journey' to jumpstart your journey.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Are you aware of the meaning of the various date labelling terms which can appear on pre-packaged foods?

Durable Life refers to the presumed amount of time that an unopened food product, when it has been stored under appropriate conditions, will retain its taste, freshness, and nutritional value.

"Best Before" date has the same meaning as durable life date. Best before dates and proper storage instructions (if different from normal room temperature) must appear on pre-packaged foods that will maintain freshness for 90 days or less, and are packaged at a place other than the retail store from which they are sold.

Expiration dates mean that the food should not be eaten beyond a certain date; expiration dates are mandatory for certain types of products such as meal replacements, formulated liquid diets, nutritional supplements, human milk substitutes, and foods for a low-energy diet sold by a pharmacist.

For further information on the above, please refer to the CFIA Date Labelling page [here](#).

Alberta Food Processors Association

- Issue 6-7 Conversion Course for Manufacturers BRC Global Standard – April 12 - **Calgary**
- HACCP I Prerequisite Programs – *April 18-19* - **Calgary**
- HACCP II Developing your HACCP Plan – *April 20-23* - **Calgary**
- NEW HACCP For Manufacturing Food Packaging Materials - *April 25-26* - **Edmonton**
- Introduction to Food Safety and HACCP – *April 27* - **Edmonton**
- HACCP for Warehousing and Distributing Operations – *April 28-29* - **Edmonton**
- FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food – ONE TIME OFFERING – *April 27 (2 ½ days)* - **Calgary**

For registration or list of other upcoming courses, go [here](#) or email info@afpa.com.

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