

# Agri-Processing Food News



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

August 2005

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO AGRIPROCESSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Agri-Processing Incentive Program provides grant funding to processors for up to 50% of eligible costs related to value-added growth or improved competitiveness projects. Feedback from previous grant recipients indicates that the program reduces their risks and encourages them to look seriously at opportunities for expanding their businesses and improving their processing and business management.

Effective immediately, the following changes have been made to the Program:

- The maximum amount per company per fiscal year has been increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000
- Costs related to new product development are eligible for support. Eligible items would include: raw materials and ingredients; analytical, packaging and sensory evaluation; food scientist and laboratory support services; related consulting services; and label development costs. Eligible costs are for services/materials provided by a third party.

Cost sharing assistance is also available for a variety of projects including feasibility studies; mentorship and coaching for improved business operations or expansions; lean manufacturing/competitiveness assessments; investigation of new and innovative technologies; competitive intelligence; business management skill enhancement; and business plan development.

For additional application and program details, contact one of the following Agri-Processing Development Officers:

<b>Bakeries, Pasta, Alcoholic Beverages, Grains, Oilseeds, Milling, Special Crops, Malt</b>	Karen Hoover, Lethbridge, 403-381-5814 Nicola Stevens, Airdrie, 403-948-8511
<b>Dairy, Honey, Eggs</b>	Peggy Marce, Edmonton, 780-422-2592
<b>Fruit, Vegetables, Non-alcoholic Beverages</b>	Lynn Stegman, Red Deer, 403-340-7010
<b>Functional Foods &amp; Natural Health Products</b>	Susan Lutz, Edmonton, 780-427-4530 Gail Lemke, Edmonton, 780-422-2552
<b>Meat Processing - Federal Facilities - Retail &amp; Food Service</b>	Gordon Cove, Red Deer, 403-340-5323 Arron Best, Edmonton, 780-422-2043
<b>Meat Processing - Provincial Facilities, Pet Food, Feeds</b>	Cody Cunningham, Red Deer, 403-340-7089
<b>Processed Forages</b>	Gordon Frank, Brooks, 403-362-1310
<b>Snack Foods, Sauces, Spices, Condiments, Confectionery, Specialty Foods, Ready Meals</b>	Suzanne Tenold, Airdrie, 403-948-8504

Keep up with current food trends with [NUTRAingredients.com](http://www.nutraingredients.com), a provider of current news regarding food supplements and nutrition for North America. The information presented includes topics on research, industry, regulation, and consumer trends. It offers free E-newsletters that range from product development to processing and packing. This website is a good source of information and useful resource for today's food processor, available at: <http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/>

## UPCOMING FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

- **HACCP I: Documenting Your Prerequisite Programs**  
Edmonton – Sept 12-13, 2005
- **HACCP II: Development of Your HACCP Plan**  
Edmonton – Sept 14-16, 2005  
Contact **Melody Pashko** at 403-201-3657 Ext 21 or [safety@afpa.com](mailto:safety@afpa.com)

## UPCOMING MISSION TO PORTLAND

*Is your company interested in exporting to the Pacific Northwest?* Don't miss out on this mission to Portland, Oregon on September 22-23, 2005 to meet with independent retailers, brokers and distributors. The mission has been planned to allow processors a chance to coordinate with travel to the Food Processing Machinery Expo and Pack Expo in Las Vegas, September 26-28, 2005. The mission fee is \$200/person to cover all events and store tours. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation and travel costs. Companies may be eligible for up to 50% reimbursement of eligible travel costs through the Market Technology Program offered by Food Beverage Canada at [www.foodbeveragecanada.com/MTP.htm](http://www.foodbeveragecanada.com/MTP.htm). For additional information on this mission contact **Darcy Peters** at 780-980-4228 or [darcy.peters@gov.ab.ca](mailto:darcy.peters@gov.ab.ca)

Need to speak to an agri-processing specialist? Start by contacting the Agri-Processing Branch at 780-427-7325 Fax: 780-644-2400 (Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access)