

Agri-Processing Food News



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

December 2004

*SEASON'S GREETINGS AND
BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS 2005
FROM ALL OF US IN
THE AGRI-PROCESSING BRANCH
BUSINESS & INNOVATION DIVISION*

MEAT INDUSTRY RECEIVES DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The National Beef Industry Development Fund (NBIDF) recently approved funding to assist the meat industry in an *Application for Designation as a Trade/Occupation under the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act*. The meat industry has identified that the skill sets required in the industry, particularly concerning new technology, food safety, handling, quality and processing safety, are not currently being addressed and will be in higher demand in the future.

Apprenticeship designation will provide the meat industry with the ability to set the standards for certification and training. Established standards and certification will benefit the Alberta meat industry with a trained workforce to remain competitive, personnel with an identifiable career path, enhanced ability to recruit and retain talent, and allow for more employee mobility within the industry. Over the next few months, a survey will be conducted to determine industry support for designation, the skills required in the trade and the anticipated demand for skilled employees. For more information contact **Cody Cunningham** at **403-340-7089**.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND TRADE SHOWS

Planning to attend any of these upcoming events for new product or technology ideas?

- **NASFT Winter Fancy Food Show, San Francisco – Jan 23-25, 2005**
- **ISM Int'l Sweets & Biscuit Trade Show, Cologne – Jan 30-Feb 2, 2005**
- **Canadian Int'l Food & Beverage Show, Toronto – Feb 20-22, 2005**

AFPA's Market Technology Program can provide Alberta agri-processing companies with cost shared assistance with economy airfare, ground transportation, accommodation, and registration fees to attend these and other industry events. For application details, contact **Gail Lemke** at **780-444-2272** or gail@afpa.com Program details are available at www.afpa.com/pro/missions.shtml

NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS (NHP) 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' SESSIONS

Need an update on the new NHP Regulations? Attend one of these informative sessions on the new guidance documents and step-by-step guides from Health Canada:

- **Edmonton – Jan 24, 2005**
- **Airdrie – Feb 8, 2005**
- **Red Deer – Feb 23, 2005**

For more information or to register contact the **Ag-Info Centre** at **1-800-387-6030**

UPCOMING FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

- **ServSafe for Foodservice & Retail**
Calgary - Jan 11-12, 2005
- **Developing Your Allergen Prevention Program**
Calgary – Jan 24-25, 2005
- **HACCP Prerequisite Program: Premises Workshop**
Calgary – Jan 27, 2005
- **HACCP Prerequisite Program: Transportation & Storage**
Calgary – Jan 28, 2005
- **HACCP I: Documenting Your HACCP Prerequisite Program**
Calgary - Feb 7-8, 2005
- **HACCP II: Development of Your HACCP Plan**
Calgary - Feb 9-11, 2005
- **HACCP III: Train the Trainer**
Calgary – Feb 14-15, 2005

Contact **Spring Savage** at **403-201-3657 Ext 25** or safety@afpa.com

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)

Your connection to resources for business growth.
www.agric.gov.ab.ca