

Dates to Remember

Globe 2008

March 12-14th, 2008

Vancouver, B.C.

www.globe2008.ca

Canadian Health Food Association Expo West 2008

April 3-6th, 2008

Vancouver, B.C.

www.chfa.ca

Fifth Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology & Bioprocessing

April 27-30th, 2008

Chicago, Illinois

www.bio.org

CSC 2008, 'ResourceFull Chemistry'

May 24-28, 2008

Edmonton

www.csc2008.ca

AFMNET'S Fourth Annual Scientific Conference

May 31-June 1, 2008

Vancouver, B.C.

www.afmnet.ca

Recent News

Local Food Moving to the Mainstream

One of the hottest trends in food marketing these days is the local food movement. Promoting the benefits of buying agriculture products grown right in consumers' backyards is breaking through in nearly every sector.

The marketing is taking many forms, too. Some programs point out how far food travels to reach consumers' plates, while other promotions highlight the economic and health benefits of purchasing food grown closer to home.

The marketing seems to be working. Statistics show the public trend towards purchasing sustainable food has increased 92 per cent since the beginning of 2007, according to Mike Schreiner, vice president of Local Food Plus, an Ontario-based local food organization.

"What's clear to me is that the local food movement has gone mainstream," Schreiner says.

By pointing out that local food supports local agriculture, which supports the local economy while protecting farmland, Schreiner says it creates a winning combination for producers. In addition, local food programs need to stress that food purchased from nearby farms is often as affordable as non-local food, and of higher quality. Price is often the scapegoat of why shoppers stray to imported food, but Schreiner believes consumers are willing to pay more now.

"The number one desire of consumers is an authentic food experience. People want the real deal and they vote with their dollars," he states.

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Bio International Convention

June 17-20th, 2008

San Diego, California

www.bio2008.org

IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo

June 28-July 1, 2008

New Orleans

www.am-fe.ift.org/cms/

News Cont.

And while it creates the opportunity to turn much of agriculture into a “value driven market,” Schreiner also acknowledges the realities encountered by farm producers. It’s hard to compete with imported food produced in countries with lower wages, but he maintains that consumers are ready to make the switch to local food.

“Buyers are willing to pay more for products that reflect their values,” Schreiner says, adding that if local food practices are agreeable to neighbouring residents, customers will support the initiative.

Schreiner believes this rising interest is about to plateau and hold steady.

“We’re in this huge spike upwards – the interest is going to wane soon and local food is going to become the new norm,” he predicts.

http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/learningcentre/journal/stories/200801-1_e.asp

Dietitians’ News: Flax and Its Mammalian Lignans Inhibit Tumour Growth in Mice

A recent study has shown that flax and its mammalian lignans, enterodiol and enterolactone, exerted potent antiestrogenic effects on estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer by inhibiting tumour growth and angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels).

The flax and mammalian lignans acted by blocking two actions of estradiol: its

ability to increase the expression (activation) of VEGF receptor 2 and also its ability to increase VEGF secretion. The flax and mammalian lignans reduced VEGF receptor 2 expression and decreased VEGF secretion, while also inhibiting angiogenesis and tumour growth, all without exhibiting estrogen-like actions themselves. These findings suggest ways in which flax and its lignans may help prevent ER+ breast cancer in humans.

http://www.flaxcouncil.ca/english/pdf/Feb_08_flax_inhibits_tumour_dietnews_FINAL.pdf

DuPont and BP: Biobutanol Blending at Higher Level Than Ethanol Won't Hurt Performance

NEW YORK (AP) -- EI DuPont de Nemours & Co. and BP PLC said on Feb 14 that their testing of renewable fuel component biobutanol has shown that it can be blended with gasoline at a higher proportion than ethanol without hurting fuel performance.

DuPont and BP said they were able to create a fuel blend with a 16 percent concentration of biobutanol. Ethanol is generally blended at 10 percent.

BP performed testing on fuel formulation and short-term engine performance, as well as long-term, no-harm and durability tests over the past year. Results showed “comparable” results to regular gasoline, and the biobutanol did not “phase separate,” or form two solutions, in the presence of water. Ethanol has a tendency to phase separate, which can cause engine damage over long periods of time.

BP and DuPont are each contributing \$18 million toward a biobutanol research facility in Hull, northern England. The facility will use wheat as a primary feedstock, but also consider corn, rye and barley as possible fuel sources.

BP, DuPont and Associated British Foods PLC have agreed to develop a \$400 million bioethanol plant at the Hull location as well. BP, a major integrated oil company, is seeking alternative fuels. DuPont, a science and technology company, has been at the forefront of such research, while Associated British Foods is involved with the agricultural components.

Premier Stelmach promises tax credits for development beyond oil and gas

CALGARY (Feb 19) — Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says his government will continue to promote economic diversification away from oil and gas through development tax credits.

Stelmach says the province will put aside \$150 million a year for the 10% scientific research and experimental development credit.

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He says that while the energy sector is the foundation of the province, now is the time to encourage new, emerging industries.

At a stop near the University of Calgary campus ahead of the March 3 election, the premier said Alberta needs to stabilize its revenue stream.

It's one of the most volatile in North America because of the cyclical oilpatch.

Stelmach also pledged to create an enterprise fund to attract venture capital to develop the high-technology and alternative energy sectors.

Selected Recent Investments

- Tekle Technical Services Inc.
- Highmark Renewables
- Botaneco Specialty Ingredients Inc.
- BioNeutra Inc.
- PEAK Swine Genetics Inc.

IVAC Program Gaining Momentum

The IVAC Capacity Builder Program is a new initiative from AVAC that provides investment and other assistance to Alberta businesses in the ICT, life sciences and other industrial technology sectors. The fund addresses a shortage of available funding for pre-commercial companies and also provides mentoring, guidance and other support.

The AVAC team is aggressively reviewing more than forty applications for investment and expressions of interest received so far. Roughly 50% of the applications are from the ICT sector, 25% from the industrial sector and the remaining 25% are life sciences companies. The first Capacity Builder Investment was made recently to support the commercialization of Myotis Wireless Inc.'s wireless radio technology. Watch for several investment announcements over the next few months as the program begins to approve its initial investments.