

Dates to Remember

Deal Generator

Dec 4

Royal Glenora Club, Edmonton

Dec 5

Calgary Technologies Inc, Calgary

www.dealgenerator.com

Alberta Barley Commission 2007 AGM

Dec. 7

Banff

Alberta Beef Producers AGM

Dec. 10-12

Sheraton Cavalier Calgary

Nutri-Net Canada – Western Canadian FFNHP Industry Strategy Workshop

December 13, 2007

Agri-Business Centre, Leduc, Alberta

FarmTech 2008: Global Perspectives: Local Knowledge

Jan. 30 to Feb. 1

Mayfield Inn & Suites Edmonton

www.farmtechconference.com

Recent News

AVAC's Role in Health and Wellness

With Type 2 diabetes reaching epidemic proportions there is a push from consumers and health care providers for industry to provide products that are not only more healthy but that can also contribute directly to battling this disease. AVAC's focus in the health and wellness area has provided investment that not only produces products to help fight diseases such as diabetes but also helps companies and entrepreneurs to build a healthy and vibrant industry in Alberta. In the Winter 2007 issue of Growing Alberta's Food For Thought magazine, AVAC investee companies are highlighted in a four page advertorial that outlines their role in fighting diabetes and how AVAC enabled them to achieve their current success. Look for the Winter 2007 Food For Thought issue in stores in the next week or online at www.growingalberta.com

The Alberta Prion Research Institute (APRI)

Supported by Alberta Agriculture and Food (AAF), PrioNet Canada and AVAC, hosted a one-day workshop on Nov. 19 in Calgary that focused on Specified Risk Material (SRM): Regulation and Disposal. Over 60 participants from federal and provincial governments, universities, the cattlemen's and renderers associations and industry were at hand to understand and grapple with the impact of the July 2007 federal feed ban regulatory program on the cattle and rendering industries. To comply with the new regulations, the actual disposal costs have been estimated to be 3.5 times higher than originally estimated by the Canadian Meat Council for under thirty months old cattle, and 1.6 times higher for those over thirty months old. Opportunities exist in creating viable solutions for SRM waste management, such as the Integrated Manure Utilization System from Highmark Renewables/Alberta Research Council, the new biofuel venture of GP Hairy Hill, high value bio-industrial applications from the research at

[Cont. on Page 2](#)

Biopartnering North America 2008

February 3-5, 2008

Westin Bayshore Resort, Vancouver,
British Columbia

[http://www.techvision.com/bpn/
registration/](http://www.techvision.com/bpn/registration/)

Globe 2008

March 12-14, 2008

Vancouver

www.globe2008.ca

University of Alberta/Sanimax, and cold climate composting solutions from AAF/EcoAg. Potential funding support includes prion research (APRI and PrioNet), infrastructure (AAF) and value adding to SRM (AVAC).

Agriculture Ministers Announce Progress on New Programs for Canada's AG Sector - Toronto, November 17

Ministers of Agriculture from federal, provincial and territorial governments met this week in Toronto, announcing significant progress on programs in the new Business Risk Management (BRM) suite for farmers and other elements of Growing Forward, the new policy framework for Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry.

Recognizing the importance of a smooth transition to Growing Forward, Ministers also announced they intend to seek the authorities needed to continue non-BRM programming currently in place under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) for up to one additional year. This would provide for a transition period while Growing Forward programs are developed and implemented.

The Suite of BRM Programs

AgrInvest, AgriStability, AgriRecovery and AgriInsurance were announced in June and form a new suite of BRM programs for farmers. Ministers agreed to seek authorities from their governments, and pending finalization and approval, to implement the following

- AgrInvest, producer accounts that provide coverage for small margin declines
- AgriStability, the improved margin-based program that provides producers with assistance for larger income declines
- AgriRecovery, the disaster relief framework

Progress Report Confirms Government's Commitment To Rural Alberta

November 21, 2007

Edmonton... Millions of dollars for infrastructure, seniors housing and apprenticeship training are just a few of the highlights noted in a progress report on Alberta's rural development strategy. The Report on Progress

highlights achievements in nine priority areas identified in A Place to Grow, the province's rural development strategy, released in 2005. The strategy targets economic development, building community capacity, improving access to health care, expanding learning and skill development, sustaining and enhancing the environment, providing youth with opportunities, engaging and supporting seniors and encouraging participation of Aboriginal people.

"When we released our rural development strategy, we put in writing this government's commitment to ensure rural Alberta and those who live in rural Alberta can continue to benefit from our growing economy," said Iris Evans, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry. "This progress report shows we've kept our commitment and that we will continue to do so." Highlights of the progress report include:

- \$100 million to fund innovative community-building projects through Rural Alberta's Development Fund;
- \$500 million to help rural municipalities develop core infrastructure;
- \$39.7 million to develop affordable supportive living for seniors through the Rural Affordable Supportive Living program; and
- The creation of more than 1,000 additional apprenticeship technical training seats, and more than 600 spaces in certificate, diploma, and degree programs at post-secondary institutions in rural Alberta.

The strategy recognizes the importance of rural Alberta and takes its needs into consideration when implementing programs and policies. Ministries support this strategy by developing initiatives through their own business planning. This ensures the entire government is working with rural communities so they have the tools and environment necessary to prosper.

To view the full report, visit www.employment.alberta.ca/rural.