

Food News

July 2022

Webinars, events and programs

Government of Alberta: Alberta Jobs Now Program

The Alberta Jobs Now program provides private and non-profit businesses with job supports to get thousands of Albertans back to work. Employers can apply for Jobs Now funding to offset the cost of hiring and training Albertans in new or vacant positions. Alberta Jobs Now supports our province's recovery, helping businesses re-open or grow their workforce and giving Albertans an opportunity to gain the skills they need in today's job market. The program's third intake is now open and will close when all funds are allocated. More information and apply [here](#).

Leduc County – Local Farmers, Local Food Ag Tour

Sunday, July 17 and Saturday, August 20

This summer, join Leduc Farm Friends and Leduc County for two local agriculture tours. The tours will connect you with diverse types of agriculture, as they showcase food, farms and experiences in the region. Learn more and register online [here](#). For more information, contact Sharon at sharon@leduc-county.com or 780-770-9271 or Jolene at leducfarmfriends@gmail.com.



Venturepark Labs - Accelerator Program: Guiding cohorts of innovative Canadian food & wellness entrepreneurs who are ready to scale

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis for spring and fall cohorts

Do you have a consumer food or wellness product with some initial sales? In this intensive learning experience, participants receive one-on-one guidance from industry experts to develop their growth strategy over a four-month period. The program is delivered remotely through classroom sessions, weekly advisory meetings, and cohort regrouping sessions for peer support and shared learning. Successful graduates are invited to participate in a founders' session with CEO Arlene Dickinson and present at Demo Day to build connections with retailers, distributors, and investors. More information and apply [here](#).

Resources

Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED): Alberta Approved Farmers' Market App is available for download

Farmers' markets are business incubators where small entrepreneurs can test their product ideas and learn valuable business skills. Alberta has more than 150 Alberta approved farmers' markets serving over 100 communities. Almost 80 per cent of Alberta households shop in this market channel. Customers spend about \$70 per visit with more than 80 per cent of this spent on local food. A minimum of 80 per cent of Alberta approved farmers' market vendors are Albertans making, baking, or growing the products they are selling. AFRED has a mobile app and website (sunnygirl.ca) that shows all the approved farmers' markets, where they are located, when they operate, and contact information. Download the free app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

AFRED: Business Development Webinars

AFRED's Food Processing Development Centre experts deliver business development webinars to support growth in Alberta's agri-food processing sector. Video versions of all webinars are posted to AFRED's Agri-Processing Business Resources [webpage](#). Additional new business development

focused webinars are coming this fall. Direct links below will take you to our current business development webinar videos.

- [Co-packing Best Practices – Introduction to Working with a Co-packer \(video\)](#)
- [Getting Into Local Food Webinar Series – Selling Local Food in Alberta; and Marketing and Merchandizing \(video\)](#)
- [Pricing 101 Webinar Series – Know Your Cost of Production \(video\)](#)
- [Getting Into Retail Webinar Series – Food and Retail Landscape \(video\)](#)
- [Getting into Retail is Hard. Staying in is Even Harder \(video\)](#)
- [Distributors and Brokers – Are You Ready to Work With Them? \(video\)](#)

AFRED: Food Processing Development Centre (FPDC) & Agrivalue Processing Business Incubator (APBI)



Photo: FPDC/APBI in Leduc

FPDC Protein Functionality Testing

Effective utilization of novel plant-based and alternative proteins continues to be an area of intense interest in the food industry. Better understanding of the structure-function relationship in proteins may lead to more purposeful function-based selections during product development. Protein functionality can be adjusted, and in some cases specifically tailored. Although there is not a 'one size fits all' test, certain profiles of protein functionality have been linked with improved performance in certain food products. Therefore, protein functionality testing is useful for assessing, and predicting, which proteins (and which protein modifications) will exhibit superior functional characteristics in a given food product category. FPDC adds value to plant protein process and product development projects with services including protein functionality testing for clients. For

more information, or to engage in potential project discussions please reach out to fpdc@gov.ab.ca.



Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA)

Food Safety Training

- Full course schedule available [here](#) (virtual instructor lead)
- GMP, Preventative Controls & HACCP Implementation (with exam). This course is recognized by the International HACCP Alliance – *New dates being announced soon.*
- Consulting is also available as well as GAP assessments or Internal Audits

Workplace Health & Safety Training

- Full course schedule available [here](#) (virtual instructor led or offering in person, onsite upon request)
- OHS System Building – *September 28-29*

Consulting is also available to create, develop, and implement your health and safety management system, all 10 elements as well as onsite training!

One-stop for industry-specific online self-paced learning content at afpaondemand.com. Just added and free for members (great for short onboarding training): Root Cause Analysis; Supplier Quality Assurance; Document Control; Food Fraud; Risk Assessment; and, Food Safety.

Reach out to melody@afpa.com for additional information or questions.