



News Release

For immediate release

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA INVESTS NEARLY \$700,000 TO FURTHER AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, February 22, 2008 – The Government of Canada is investing \$665,551 in four innovative projects that will allow farmers to take advantage of new and innovative market opportunities. Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Humboldt, made this announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board.

“The Government firmly believes that continued investments in research are critical to this sector’s long-term success,” said Mr. Trost. “Projects like these are key to opening up new doors for the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan and across the country.”

These four projects, funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, will support research in bioproducts, new food product development, feedlot sorting, and animal health.

“The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) is proud to deliver ACAAF on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,” said ACS Vice-Chair Valerie Pearson. “These projects will have a tremendous impact on the agriculture and agri-food sector both in Saskatchewan and across Canada. From increasing the safety of Canada’s food supply to providing innovations in processing, ACAAF funded projects such as these will bring benefits that reach from the producer to the end consumer.”

For more information on ACAAF, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf. To learn more about the ACS and the funding programs it administers, please visit www.agcouncil.ca/acaafs.

-30-

For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
1-866-345-7972
613-759-7972

Margaux Stastny

Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz
613-759-1059

Laurie Dmytryshyn

Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan
306-975-6849



BACKGROUND

Saskatchewan ACAAFF Projects

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program is a five-year \$240 million initiative to assist and encourage the agriculture and food industry to work cooperatively in finding constructive solutions that respond to current and emerging issues.

ACAAF is about enabling regions, provinces and territories to have the opportunity to translate their good ideas into new opportunities that benefit the entire agricultural industry. Three of today's projects are being funded through the industry-led Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS), which is responsible for delivering ACAAFF in their province including:

- \$228,500 to Quantum Genetics Canada to compare a new feedlot sorting technique with traditional practices, ultimately striving to implement more consistent feedlot management;
- \$257,180 to Ag-West Bio to establish a biofuels and bioproducts centre in Saskatchewan that could provide farmers with an alternate market for their crops; and
- \$69,156 to Saskatchewan Egg Producers to develop a new processed value-added egg product, opening new opportunities for the industry.

The ACAAFF program also encourages project collaboration amongst national, multi-regional and regional stakeholders through "collective outcome" projects. Today, three industry-led councils – Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan, B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation, and Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council Inc. – are maximizing the benefits from federal investment:

- The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization is benefiting from \$134,689 to develop an improved vaccination method for cattle (\$110,715 from Saskatchewan, \$7,542 from B.C., and \$16,432 from Manitoba).

Through initiatives like ACAAFF, the Government of Canada encourages the agriculture industry to explore new opportunities and innovative ideas that lead to an improved economy.