



News Release

For immediate release

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$695,000 TO ASSIST AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, August 27, 2007 – The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, today announced over \$695,000 in funding for two projects that will benefit producers and processors in Saskatchewan and across the country.

“Canada’s New Government is working with farm families to keep our high quality food safe and to protect the environment,” said Mr. Ritz. “We’re proud to partner with producers on projects like these to benefit all Canadians.”

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre will receive \$328,340 to assist the industry in developing and implementing food safety and quality programs, including the development and delivery of audit programs, while the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association is being provided \$366,729 to use natural selection to obtain productive, gentle honeybee lines with improved tolerance to mites and brood diseases.

Funding for these projects is made available through the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS), formerly known as the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development, which delivers Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program in Saskatchewan.

“These projects are proof that there are dedicated organizations in Saskatchewan looking for unique and innovative solutions to challenges facing the agriculture and agri-food industry,” said Garth Patterson, Chair of the ACS. “It was clear to ACS that these projects are strong and that they have the potential to have a wide and significant impact on the sector. It is projects like these that show how valuable the ACAAF program is to Canada’s agriculture and agri-food industry.”

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre project aims to help provincial food processors remain competitive and profitable by implementing food safety and quality programs, including HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points), GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices), organic certification, vendor recognition and in-house employee food safety training. It will also help to develop a food safety audit program.

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association project will use natural selection and established breeding methods to develop honeybee lines with genetic resistance to parasitic mites, eliminating or reducing the need for chemicals. This practice protects the environment from harmful organo-phosphates, the consumer from any food safety or quality concerns, and the beekeeper from bee colony losses.

To obtain more information on ACAAF, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/acaaf. Information on ACS is also available online at www.sccd.sk.ca/acaafs.



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