



SEPTEMBER 2009

**Alberta Sustainable Agriculture Apprenticeship
Program Farm Tours**

**Grass Finishing & Alfalfa Seed/Leaf Cutter Bee
Management- Principles of Composting**
Wednesday Sept. 9th, 2009, 12-4pm - Grimshaw

Grazing & Soil Nutrition
Eggers Farm with Peter & Levke Eggers
Thursday Sept. 10th, 2009 9am-noon - La Glace

Organic Pig Production
First Nature Farms with Jerry Kitt
Thursday Sept. 10th, 2009 1-4pm – Goodfare

To register contact Becky Lipton at 780.271.1116,
becky.lipton@mail.mcgill.ca

**2009 Canadian Farm Writers' Federation
Annual Conference**

September 10 - 12, 2009 Edmonton Delta South
Edmonton AB

The event is titled "Shaping the Future Marketplace:
The Opportunity Hunters." For general inquiries
email: abfarmwriters@gmail.com

2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

September 15 - 17, 2009 Woodstock ON
<http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com>

Look Ahead At

UPCOMING
EVENTS

August/September 2009

**Reaching New Markets 09
Grow your Business in Challenging Times**

September 16 - 17, 2009

Deerfoot Inn & Casino

Calgary AB

Expand your company into new domestic & international markets. Learn how to break into the most promising markets in the world and acquire the skills & tactics needed for continued success. For more information & to register, visit,

<http://www.reachingnewmarkets.com>

**"Accelerate Your Business"
Management Workshop
Donald Cooper Boot Camp**

September 21, 2009 Grande Prairie AB

A 1-day workshop full of tough questions, new insights and incredible breakthroughs led by management guru Donald Cooper, to create greater focus and commitment across your organization. For more information contact Tatiana Catana @

tatiana.catana@gov.ab.ca or 780.538.5230.

**Getting Started in Farm Direct Marketing Video
Conference**

September 24, 2009

For information & video conference locations visit
The Business Link's website,

<http://www.canadabusiness.ab.ca/brownbag.cfm>

CanWest Horticulture Show

September 23 - 24, 2009

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Vancouver BC

<http://www.canwesthortshow.com>

Alberta Foodservice Show

September 27-28, 2009

Calgary AB

The Alberta Foodservice is designed to showcase Alberta's \$8.4 billion foodservice industry. This year's show is an important market place attracting restaurants, chefs, qualified buyers, industry executives and decision makers. For more information contact Bruce Guerin at 866.751.3833 or visit, <http://www.crafa.ca/tradeshows/alberta/>

OCTOBER 2009

Fresh Summit International Convention & Exposition

October 2 - 5, 2009

Anaheim Convention Centre, Anaheim CA

<http://www.pma.com/freshsummit>

Canadian Greenhouse Conference

October 7 - 8, 2009

International Centre, Toronto ON

<http://www.canadiangreenhouseconference.com>

13th Annual Community Food Security Coalition Conference - From Commodity to Community - Food Politics and Projects in the Heartland

October 10 - 13, 2009

Polk County Convention Centre, Des Moines IA

<http://www.communityfoodconference.org>

Gathering Market Information for New Product Introductions Workshop

October 15, 2009 Grande Prairie AB

This workshop focuses on how to gather market information and prepare for product positioning. Learn how to use the intelligence to get your product ready to enter the market.

Contact Linda Doucette at 780.538.6208 (toll free within AB 310.0000 then the number) or email linda.doucette@gov.ab.ca

Innovation Week hosted by The Centre for Research & Innovation (CRI)

October 19 - 22nd, 2009, Grande Prairie AB

Fall innovation fair, inventor showcase, training workshops and awards night. For more information contact the CRI at 780.539.2054 or email at info@TheCRI.ca or visit www.TheCRI.ca

How to Sell Restaurants and Institutions Video Conference

October 29, 2009

For information & video conference locations visit The Business Link's website:

www.canadabusiness.ab.ca/brownbag.cfm

NOVEMBER 2009

Western Canadian Functional Food & Natural Health Product Network (WCFN) Annual Conference – Healthy Business 2009

November 3 – 4, 2009, Edmonton AB

For more information contact Greg Edgelow at 604.822.6920

Or email: edge@wcfn.ca

Peace Citizens' Recycling Society Alternative Energy Conference & Trade Fair

November 14 - 15, 2009

Northern Lakes College, Peace River AB

For information and registration, contact Wanda Laurin @ 780.624.2751, Fax: 780.624.2870 or email: wlaurin@telusplanet.net

Farm Women's Conference

November 19 - 20, 2009

Grande Prairie

For more information contact: Melinda Trudel in the evening at 780.494.2627 or Cindy Cuthbert during the day at 780.538.5287 (for toll free calling, dial 310.0000 then the number)

JANUARY 2010

Grande Prairie Farmers Market Vegas Night

November 20, 2009

For more information call: 780.814.8224 or email at http://www.gpfarmersmarket@telus.net

**New Product Development
Are You Ready? Workshop**

January 26, 2010 Grande Prairie AB

If you are developing a new product, redesigning or repositioning your product, this workshop will guide you through the planning process. Review product development requirements and market readiness.

Work on your plan.

For more information and registration, contact Linda at 780.538.6208 (toll free in AB 310.0000 then the number) or email linda.doucette@gov.ab.ca

Watch for more details this fall.

**Ag Tourism Clusters: Marketing Collaboratively
for Success Video Conference**

November 26, 2009

For information & video conference locations visit The Business Link's website at www.canadabusiness.ab.ca/brownbag.cfm

**Grande Prairie Farmers Market
Christmas Craft Show**

November 26 - 28, 2009 Grande Prairie AB

Christmas Craft Show at the Crystal Centre

For more information and to book a table, contact Ainsley @ 780.814.8224 or 780.814.8254

FEBRUARY 2010

DECEMBER 2009

**2010 North American Farm Direct Marketing
Association Convention. Theme is
"Recalculating".**

February 1 - 4, 2009 includes bus tours Feb. 5-7 Lancaster PA For more information and registration, visit the web site, <http://www.nafdma.com>

**Discovering Alberta Local Markets
Video Conference**

December 17, 2009

For information & video conference locations visit The Business Link's website at www.canadabusiness.ab.ca/brownbag.cfm

MARCH 2010

Grande Prairie Farmers Market before Christmas

December 23, 2009

For more information call: 780.814.8224 or email at http://www.gpfarmersmarket@telus.net

Meat Industry Convention & Trade Show

March 12 - 14, 2010

Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Edmonton AB
Registration and information, visit the website @ <http://www.afpa.com>

ONGOING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Centre for Research & Innovation

Have an idea? Want to get it into the marketplace? Contact the CRI for confidential assistance: Leanne Kleininger 780.539.2054 or visit their website www.thecri.ca

The **100 Mile Garden** website is now up and running. This is an on-line resource designed to connect local food vendors and consumers in and around the Grande Prairie area. Visit the site at www.100milegarden.com

The **Rural Roots Association** supports and enhances sustainable and organic agriculture and community-based food systems in the Inland Northwest USA. They offer a great variety of farm tours, conferences and workshops including their annual conference, usually offered in February. Keep an eye on their website www.ruralroots.org for current workshop options or call 208.883.3462

The **Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association** offers great workshops for their members. Call 1.800.661.6537 ext 7956 for workshop information or check out their website at www.agga.ca

Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions - CPP Free Signage Program

Hand washing Signage is available online with 15 black & white signs, as well as many with colour options. The .pdf file can be downloaded and printed for your use to inform and educate your consumers regarding hand washing techniques, especially around animal display areas. Go to www.canadian-fairs.ca Find 'CPP Free Signage Program' and click on 'more'.

The **University of Alberta Creating Pathways for Entrepreneurial Families** sponsors many different courses for farm families. Rural clients receive reduced rates. www.creatingpathways.ca

Community Futures Grande Prairie & Peace River If you're starting or expanding a business and looking for direction, you can't afford to miss these great training sessions designed to save you time and money.

Small Business Training Series includes short courses on Marketing, Time Management, Design Techniques, Consultative Sales, Bookkeeping, Staffing and Service Best. Other topics are available through **The Business Link's Brown Bag Presentations** via video conferencing. Explore the services of The Business Link where small businesses and promising entrepreneurs across Alberta can find the information, support and advice they need to succeed.

For information or to register call the Community Futures Grande Prairie office at 780.814.5340 or drop by their location at Viktoria Place #104, 9817 – 101 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0X6. In Peace River call 780.624.1161. Visit the website www.canadabusiness.ca/alberta

Check out locations and times for **Peace Region Alberta Approved Farmers' Markets** by visiting www.sunnygirl.ca or www.albertamarkets.com/Markets/FindaMarket/PeaceCountry/tabid/90/Default.aspx

Alberta Sustainable Agriculture Apprenticeship Program (ASAAP)

The program supports people interested in getting into sustainable agriculture by providing on-farm experience and training through an apprenticeship style program. For detailed information go to the website www.albertamarkets.com/Portals/0/Docs/ASAAPFarmApprenticeshipProgram.pdf

Youth Technopreneurship Program encourages youth to become entrepreneurs. The program includes business plan competitions (with cash prizes) and support to help grow their business ideas through mentorship and business incubation. Visit www.technology.gov.ab.ca for more information.

Biz Info—An Online Roadmap is a website for starting and growing your business. The site provides helpful, topic specific factsheets, publications, industry and web links specific to agricultural ventures in Alberta. “Biz Tips” found at each step in the roadmap highlight key business considerations. Checklists at the end of each section help you answer essential business questions before moving on to the next step in the roadmap.

Find it at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/bizinfo

Edible British Columbia has a great newsletter with wonderful culinary experiences, industry contacts and tourism ideas. Check it out at www.edible-britishcolumbia.com/index.php

Agriwebinar is a unique, online conference series available to anyone with an internet connection. Live, interactive and bilingual, the Canadian Farm Business Management Council offers a web-based series live each Monday at noon EST. Each session is 100% free and is translated simultaneously in both English and French. Just log on via dial-up or high-speed Internet. For the latest updates and information on special events, and a complete list of current Agriwebinar speakers, presentation topics, dates and time, along with an archive of past conferences, visit www.agriwebinar.com

A variety of food safety and quality, nutrition labeling, and workplace health and safety courses are offered regularly by the **Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA)**. Check out the complete listing at www.afpa.com/main.shtml

Growing Forward Program Looking to increase your profitability and strengthen your competitive position? There are a number of grants including:

- **Agri-Business and product development grant**
- **Agri-Business automation and lean manufacturing grant**
- **Business Opportunity grant**

For more information and to view the project proposal requirements, visit www.growingforward.alberta.ca
To be put in touch with an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development specialist for assistance, call 310-FARM.

“Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life.”

- Henry Doherty