

# Food News

November 2025

## News

### iFood360° Program Leverages Virtual Reality for Immersive Training in Food Processing

Food Processing Skills Canada

The iFood360° Program, spearheaded by Food Processing Skills Canada (FPSC) with support from the Government of Canada's Future Skills Centre, is redefining training in the Canadian food and beverage processing sector through Extended Reality (XR) — a combination of Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR).

Designed to simulate real-world production environments in a safe, controlled virtual setting, iFood360° delivers risk-free training for technically demanding or hazardous tasks. Trainees can build proficiency in both industry-critical skills (such as food safety or operational procedures) and soft skills (like communication, adaptability and teamwork). The immersive format helps reduce errors, lower injury rates and increase worker confidence before stepping into the physical workplace.

The program's reach extends to employees, jobseekers and students exploring careers in food processing. FPSC collaborates with manufacturers, educational institutions and employment agencies to deliver iFood360° across Canada, intended to reach nationwide participants and strengthen the sector's talent pipeline.

By shifting away from conventional classroom approaches, iFood360° represents a major leap forward: advancing workforce readiness, operational safety and productivity across the food processing landscape.

**Learn more:** [Program information](#)

## Webinars, events and programs

### Food Safety and Workplace Safety Training

Alberta Food Processors Association

Food Safety

- Root Cause Analysis – November 13
- Brand Reputation through Compliance Global Standard (BRCGS) Internal Auditor – November 26-27
- BRCGS Food Safety Culture – December 2

**Register:** [Event information](#)

Workplace Safety

- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Roles and Responsibilities for Managers & Supervisors – November 19
- OHS Health and Safety Committee – November 26

**Register:** [Event information](#)

### 2025 Agrifood Connector

Strathcona County

*November 3, 2025 – 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Strathcona County and Connect for Food are organizing the 2025 Agrifood Connector event at Festival Place in Sherwood Park, which will connect local food producers, processors, distributors, retailers and more to foster collaboration and strengthen the regional food economy. Highlights include a keynote by Sanford Gleddie of The Little Potato Company, a panel discussion on upcoming challenges, fast-paced networking rounds and a showcase of innovative agrifood businesses.

**Location:** Festival Place, Sherwood Park

**Register:** [Event information](#)

### Food Photo Party

Canada's Premier Food Corridor

*November 13, 2025 – 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, Canada's Premier Food Corridor (CPFC) will host the Food Photo Party at Lethbridge Polytechnic's Garden Court. The event invites Southern Alberta local food and beverage businesses — specializing in custom packaged, fresh, or ready-to-eat products — to

enhance their photography skills and elevate their brand visuals ahead of the holiday season.

Highlights include a Food Photography Masterclass, a hands-on product shoot where participants photograph their items and a friendly competition to showcase creativity and technique. The event also features a networking lunch spotlighting local ingredients and producers.

Registration is free for businesses in Lethbridge, Lethbridge County, Coaldale, Town of Taber, Municipal District of Taber and surrounding communities in Southern Alberta.

**Location:** Lethbridge Polytechnic Garden Court Restaurant  
**Register:** [Event information](#)

## FUTURESUMMIT.AI 2025

Future Summit

*November 18-20, 2025 – 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

FUTURESUMMIT.AI is a three-day event to gather innovators, global investors and government leaders to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming sectors including energy, infrastructure, health, aerospace and especially agriculture and food tech.

Delegates will gain insights into financing, scaling and adopting solutions that deliver real results while also networking with 1,000+ participants and 300+ companies. With partners such as AWS, IBM, Dell Canada and TEDx, the summit offers high-value opportunities for learning, collaboration and growth. A panel in development includes:

- Ag and Food Tech: Financing, Scaling and Adopting Solutions That Actually Work.

Food News subscribers receive a special discount with code **FOODCO10**.

**Location:** BMO Centre, Calgary  
Details and agenda: [FutureSummit.ai](#)  
**Register:** [Event information](#)

## Dig into Horticulture Series: Orchard Renovation and Pruning

Parkland County

*November 26, 2025 – 7 - 8:30 p.m.*

This webinar is the first of a two-part series in the Dig into Horticulture roadmap to strengthen horticultural businesses for new and established producers. Learn from Forrest Scharff, Fruit Specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, about revitalizing prairie fruit orchards for longevity. With emphasis on saskatoon berry, haskap, raspberry, sour cherry and black currants, attendees will gain practical tips for pruning, orchard care and long-term productivity.

**Register:** [Fill out the registration form](#)

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## Using Innovation Tools to Grow Your Business

Canada's Premier Food Corridor

*November 27, 2025 – 1 - 2:30 p.m.*

This webinar, organized by Canada's Premier Food Corridor, will help food and beverage entrepreneurs discover interactive and engaging tools to approach challenges and solve them in a new way.

**Register:** [Fill out the registration form](#)

## Introduction to AI uses in the Food Manufacturing/Processing Sector

Agriculture and Irrigation

*December 4, 2025 – 10:30 am - 12:00 p.m.*

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Food and Bio Processing Branch is hosting a webinar on Thursday, December 4, introducing the diverse applications of artificial intelligence (AI) for the food manufacturing and processing sector.

Join keynote speaker Wendy Ell of Industries in Transition Inc. along with Sarah Nisker of Loblaws, Trevor Lamson of AMII and Chris Duke of TELUS Agriculture & Consumer Goods as they introduce attendees to the multitude of ways artificial intelligence is being integrated into the food manufacturing and processing sector. The discussion will feature real world examples highlighting the benefits, challenges and considerations of adopting AI in business. Attendees will gain practical insights and actionable steps to begin their own AI journey in the food sector.

**Register:** [Fill out the registration form](#)

## Funding

### New Grant Helps Alberta Employers Invest in Productivity and Skills Training

Labour and Irrigation

The Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant (CAPG) is now accepting applications through the online CAPG portal. Delivered jointly by the Governments of Canada and Alberta, the program helps employers invest in productivity-driven training for their employees that aligns with business needs.

The CAPG provides partial reimbursement to eligible Alberta employers for direct training costs that enhance productivity, innovation and workforce competitiveness. For existing employees, the employers and government each contribute 50 per cent of total eligible training costs to a maximum of \$5,000 per trainee per fiscal year. For hiring and training unemployed Albertans, up to 75 per cent of eligible training costs may be covered to a maximum of \$10,000 per trainee per fiscal year. Each employer may receive up to \$100,000 in total funding per fiscal year.



Eligible applicants include Alberta-based employers from the private sector, non-profit organizations, First Nations and Métis Settlements and select agricultural operations. Training must be delivered by a third-party training provider and must not begin until the application is approved.

Employers must first register their business through the [Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant Portal](#) using an Alberta.ca Account for Organizations. Business registration approval typically takes three to five business days. Once approved, employers may submit training applications through the same portal.

The Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant replaces the former Canada-Alberta Job Grant and focuses on supporting productivity growth, innovation and competitiveness across Alberta's economy. For food and agri-processing employers, the program offers an opportunity to upskill teams in areas such as food safety systems, equipment optimization, automation and digital transformation.

**Program inquiries:** [jobgrant@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jobgrant@gov.ab.ca)  
**Learn more and apply:** [Program information](#)

### **Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI) helps Prairie businesses respond, adapt and compete amid shifting market conditions**

PrairiesCan

Canadian businesses are facing growing uncertainty as new tariffs impact export markets and global supply chains.

To support companies during this period of trade uncertainty, the Government of Canada has launched the Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI) to help businesses respond to trade disruptions, adapt operations and pursue long-term growth.

The program offers funding and up to \$1 billion in targeted support to Prairie businesses to improve productivity, diversify markets, strengthen domestic supply chains and increase interprovincial trade. The RTRI is part of a broader set of federal measures for tariff support, which includes the Large Enterprise Tariff Loan Facility, the Business Development Bank of Canada's Pivot to Grow initiative and enhancements to the Strategic Innovation Fund.

**Learn more and apply:** [Program information](#)