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JULY 2022



MWAF NEWS

A new action plan for MWAF to spur its growth.

You may have wondered why we have been quieter than usual on social media the past few months. We've been conducting a planning process that has kept us very busy researching, writing, and developing many things. The result has been a firm action plan for 2022-2023 to open up more opportunities for women, both for those that are or want to become entrepreneurs, and those that seek corporate careers.

On June 27, we hosted a discussion panel focused on financing for women entrepreneurs in agriculture and food. The panelists were:

- Wendy Yan**, Futurepreneur, Business Development Manager
- Genni Hibbert**, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Relationship Manager, Commercial Financing
- Alanna Keefe**, Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba (WECM), Director of Stakeholder Engagement
- Lourdes Still**, Masagana Flower Farm & Studio, Farm Owner/Operator

The goal was to learn about each of these organizations, their services and meet their representatives. If you'd like to have a private conversation with any of them, please, let us know and we'll introduce you to them. [Email Laura](#).

MWAF to launch new website in September/October.

Look out for MWAF's new website that is coming this September/October. The new website will offer improved functionality and a host of new features including online purchasing options for memberships and other services such as MWAF workshops and job posting packages.

In the meanwhile, please be patient with us as not all options on our website are functional as yet. Stay tuned for updates.

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professional co-development opportunities for French-speaking women in agriculture.

The Agricultrices du Québec are inviting all French-speaking women in agriculture, who are living and working outside of Québec, to participate in a new project supporting women-led agricultural entrepreneurship in Canada.

The project, funded by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, gives women working in agriculture an opportunity to participate in professional co-development groups.

The cells are planned for the autumn-winter season of 2022-2023. If you are interested, contact Maria Alkayed, project officer, by email or at 514 431 3756 or register via this [link](#) (indicate your province in the address).

Les Agricultrices du Québec font appel aux ricultrices francophones qui vivent et travaillent hors du Québec pour un nouveau projet de support à l'entrepreneuriat agricole féminin pancanadien.

Le projet, supporté par Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada, offrira aux femmes travaillant en agriculture la chance de participer à des groupes de co-développement professionnel.

Les cellules auront lieu pendant l'automne et l'hiver 2022-2023. Si vous êtes intéressées, n'hésitez pas à contacter Maria Alkayed, agente de projet, mal kayed@upa.qc.ca ou 514 431 3756 ou à vous enregistrer via ce [lien](#) en indiquant votre province dans l'adresse.

Small Scale Food Processors Association seeking grants to support women in agriculture.

The Small Scale Food Processors Association has submitted a couple of large grant proposals to launch initiatives that will support women food processors across Canada. Their goal is to build ecosystems of support to learn and develop a food business, and another focused on financing for women.

"Awesome" Accelerator Program for Women Entrepreneurs

The Saskatchewan Food Development Industry Centre has an accelerator program called "Awesome". The goal is to advance women entrepreneurs skill-development, opportunity-identification, and provide manufacturing and export-marketing advice.

This program offers customized business services, growth and development consulting, skill development training, coaching, networking and other related services that will advance your business, and will help you through the steps of developing your idea, planning your business, and taking action.

Even though they are in Saskatchewan, women entrepreneurs located in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta are eligible. Click [here](#) for more information about the program.

Heather Watson named one of Canada's 2022 Influential Women in Agriculture

Some of you may know that Heather Watson was named one of this year's Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture (IWCA). She is the executive director of Farm Management Canada.

She is one of seven chosen in the 2022 instalment of the "recognition program designed to honour, highlight and celebrate women who are driving the future of Canadian agriculture."

The initial announcement was brief, but in June AgriNews conducted an interview with Heather. See it [here](#) to learn more about Heather and other women who were honoured.

Federated Co-operatives Limited announced as one of Canada's Best Employers for Diversity.

Congratulations to Federated Co-operatives Limited who recently made the 2022 list of Forbes and Statista Canada's Best Employers for Diversity. See the full list [here](#).

MWAF's AGM - IDEAS WELCOME.

We are still accepting ideas for topics or speakers you would like to see on the agenda at our in-person AGM, as well as your preferred location.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Prairie Watersheds Climate Program - Prairie On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Prairie Watersheds Climate Program has been launched by the Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW), Prairie On-Farm Climate Action Fund information is available through Manitoba Watershed Districts and Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds. Application intake information will follow in summer 2022. Learn more [here](#): or contact pwcp@manitobawatersheds.org

Supply Management Processing Investment Fund.

A program to help processors of supply-managed commodities adapt to market changes. It provides non-repayable contributions to support investments in dairy, poultry, and egg processing facilities that improve productivity and/or efficiency through the purchase of new automated equipment and technology. The application intake is now open [here](#).

Workforce Development Program

This program assists companies to assess human resource (HR) management needs and develop and implement HR and workforce training and development plans. Funding is variable and can be used for a variety of objectives including to hire external support to build company capacity, and/or to develop and deliver internal training. [Find out more here](#).

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CanExport Innovation.

Innovators from Canadian organizations may access up to \$75,000 in funding to assist with research and development (R&D) for a single technology. The program covers up to 75% of costs to pursue and sign collaborative R&D agreements with international partners and investors. More details [here](#).

FEATURED CAREERS

SWT- Farm Marketing Rep (FMR) - Grain - Shaunavon, SK

(Closing date: August 12, 2022).

FCC - Senior Relationship Manager, Commercial Financing - Kelowna, B.C.

(Closing date: August 5, 2022).

To see these, and all current opportunities visit our [job board](#), which is updated regularly.

DO YOU SELL FARM-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES?

You can advertise them on MWAF's Facebook page each Friday. This is a free service for members who have paid for the 2022 membership. Membership information can be found [here](#). **If you are a member, send us a brief Ad about your product or service to mbwomeninagnfood@outlook.com** The Ad should say what you are offering, contact information and a link if available.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022

Your 2021 membership has expired. Please, see our [membership page](#) for information on how to renew or join as a new member.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

Food & Beverage MB CULTIVATE: Sustainability Conference & Trade Show September 7, 2022 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (CDT) - Winnipeg, MB

The inaugural "CULTIVATE Sustainability Conference and Trade Show" is a day of knowledge sharing and engagement with industry thought leaders and innovators in sustainability, packaging, technology, automation, supply chain logistics, equity, diversity, inclusion, and more.

Interact with an extensive array of industry investors and innovators at the trade show. Network with practitioners and fellow food and beverage processors and make the connections you need to turn your sustainability integrations into your competitive advantage.

For more information on sponsorships, trade show booths and attendance contact: Karina Shaw, 204-982-6375, KarinaS@foodbeveragemb.ca

Learn more and register [here](#).

MFGA'S 2022 REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 14-15, 2022, VICTORIA INN, BRANDON, MB

Lock down your calendar right now for the **2022 MFGA Regenerative Agriculture Conference**, to be held November 14-15, 2022, Victoria Inn, Brandon, Mb. This 1.5 day event will feature North American keynote speakers, including Kara Kroeger and Fred Provenza, along with local producer panels, all focusing on regenerative agriculture and the great potential of profitable farm operations via your farm's soil, herds and learning more about the potential for human health benefits from soil-benefiting agriculture practices. *Stay tuned for registration and agenda details.*

COMPETITIONS AND GRANTS

Grant opportunity for farmers: Ag Action Manitoba Training - Training and Consulting - applications on a continual basis subject to funding. Final deadline November 18, 2022.

This grant helps farmers improve their business knowledge, develop management skills and develop farm business plans, for the purpose of growing profitable farming operations in Manitoba. Farmers under 46, and beginning farmers are eligible to apply. The grant covers 50 per cent of eligible expenses, with funding caps from \$500 to \$2,500 for eligible activities. More details [here](#).

BECOME AN MWAF MEMBER TODAY

JOIN OUR BOARD OR VOLUNTEER

Are you looking for a rewarding experience? Get involved in MWAF and grow your potential. You'll develop management and team skills, learn, build a network, and get your name out there. Choose the type of work you want to do and how much time you commit. At MWAF, we believe that "we do what we can and not more".

We have a number of opportunities such as social media, fundraising, membership, networking, website development and marketing but you can choose the role that fits your interests.

Or maybe you have children that need to do volunteer hours for school? There are lots of opportunities to help. [Contact us](#) and let us know what you would like to do.



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