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Biotech Blast a chance for Saskatchewan students to get hands-on bioscience experience

Saskatoon, SK: Extracting DNA is so easy a grade seven student can do it – with the right instruction. A lucky group of kids will have a chance to learn how to extract DNA from kiwis during Biotech Blast, an outreach event taking place on the University of Saskatchewan campus and at Innovation Place on **Friday, November 2, 2012.**

The DNA workshop is just one of 12 workshops that teachers can choose from. Other intriguing titles include: Exploring the Wild-side of Agriculture and Bioresources; Un-earthing Environmental Sciences; Fun with chemistry; Introducing the Extruder (at the Food Centre); Seeds and Weeds; Bugs & Plants in the Greenhouse; Cows Cows Cows; About biotechnology; the Canadian Light Source (morning); Anatomy of a Spikelet; Veterinary medicine (morning); and the Science of Food and Bioproducts.

One of the presenters is Monika Polewicz, Commercialization Project Manager at Ag-West Bio. Polewicz completed her PhD and also has a newly minted MBA. She says she is happy to share her love of science with the next generation. “Bioscience offers great career choices, whether you become a researcher working in a lab or you choose to work on the business side, the opportunities are vast. Young people need to know what choices are available. A hands-on workshop shows the kids that being a scientist can be interesting and even fun.”

The participating students this year are in grades seven and eight classes from St. Luke, St. Mark schools and Montgomery Science Trek in Saskatoon, along with students from Medstead, Wynyard, Bruno, and Langham.

Biotech Blast is organized by the U of S [College of Agriculture and Bioresources](#) and [Ag in the Classroom](#), with support from Ag-West Bio and Saskatchewan’s National Biotech Week committee.

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