



September 26, 2016

### **Saskatchewan's bioscience community celebrates 2016 Global Biotech Week**

Biotech Week has gone global! Along with groups across the country and around the world, Saskatchewan is celebrating the first Global Biotech Week. The Government of Saskatchewan and cities of Regina and Saskatoon have proclaimed September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> as Biotech Week. The week is an opportunity to celebrate the researchers and entrepreneurs of bioscience in Saskatchewan.

Global Biotech Week events in Saskatchewan are coordinated by Ag-West Bio, with a committee drawn from Saskatchewan's bioscience organizations.

Ag-West Bio President and CEO Wilf Keller, says "Biotechnology is an important part of Saskatchewan's economy, advancing our agriculture, health and environmental sectors. Hardier crops, vaccines, insulin, and bioremediation – even beer making – are made possible thanks to biotechnology. Ag-West Bio has been a proud participant in Biotech Week for many years, and we are thrilled to see it become a global event."

Saskatoon events include: a kick-off breakfast at Innovation Place, followed by tours of bioscience facilities; Café Sci, a public lecture at Winston's Pub on how plant proteins can be made into 'meat' products; a documentary screening and discussion on social license and agriculture; Trivia Night at Louis' Pub on the University of Saskatchewan campus; and the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Amazing Biotech Race at Innovation Place. Ag-West Bio's Annual Meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the science behind beer (one of the oldest products of biotechnology!) and celebrate Saskatchewan's emerging craft brewing industry. In Regina, the Saskatchewan Science Centre will host a 'DNA Weekend' on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A full listing of Saskatchewan events can be found below. For details, please visit the [event website](#):

To learn more about Global Biotech Week, visit: [globalbiotechweek.ca](http://globalbiotechweek.ca)

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### About Ag-West Bio:

Ag-West Bio is Saskatchewan's bioscience industry association. The company works as a catalyst for developing partnerships and industry growth in the bio-economy through investments, aiding strategic alliances, and providing business planning support, regulatory advice and communications. Funding for Ag-West Bio is provided the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward II program, with support from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the National Research Council-Industrial Research Assistance Program. [www.agwest.sk.ca](http://www.agwest.sk.ca)

### Quick biotechnology facts:

- Biotechnology is defined as “the use of biological processes, organisms, or systems to manufacture products intended to improve the quality of human life.”
- Saskatchewan hosts much of Canada's agricultural biotechnology activity, with many other areas developing, such as genomics, plant-made pharmaceuticals, and industrial bioproducts.
- Modern biotechnology provides breakthrough products and technologies to combat debilitating and rare diseases, reduce our environmental footprint, and help secure a sustainable food supply, natural resource management, providing cleaner energy and more efficient industrial manufacturing processes.

[www.globalbiotechweek.ca](http://www.globalbiotechweek.ca)

### Global Biotech Week events in Saskatchewan:

Monday, Sept. 26 8:00 am	<b>Innovation Place Kickoff Breakfast and Tours</b>	Innovation Place, Saskatoon	Public event (Limit of 80 seats—registration required)
Monday, Sept. 26 8:00 pm	<b>Trivia Night</b>	Louis' Pub, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon	Public event
Tuesday, Sept. 27 7:30 pm	<b>Café Scientifique:</b> “Tastes like Chicken. Looks like Chicken.	Winston's Pub, Saskatoon	Public event Speaker: Shannon Hood-Niefer (Food Centre)
Wednesday, Sept. 28 2:00 pm	<b>Ag-West Bio Annual Meeting</b> “Brew Ha Ha: There's science in my beer!”	Prairieland Park, Saskatoon	Public event, registration required.  Guest speakers: Alex Speers, David Hysert, Brian Rossnagel
Thursday, Sept. 29 1:00 pm	<b>The Amazing Biotech Race</b>	Innovation Place, Saskatoon	Participants: High school and Sask Polytechnic students
Friday, Sept. 30 3:00 – 4:00 pm	<b>License to Farm Film Screening</b>	Room 103, Physics Building, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon	University students  Panel discussion to follow documentary
Saturday Oct. 1 2:00 pm	<b>DNA Weekend</b> “Make a Monster!”	Saskatchewan Science Centre, Regina	Family fun: Explore DNA!
Sunday Oct. 2 2:30 pm			
Date TBD	<b>Walking Dead Dances</b>	Saskatchewan schools	Vaccines and prevention of infectious diseases