



September 24, 2018

Saskatchewan's bioscience community celebrates 2018 Global Biotech Week

Saskatoon, SK – Each fall, the bioscience community in Saskatchewan celebrates with events geared towards industry networking as well as public outreach. Fun and information are delivered in equal portions during the week, with events like Biotech & Beer, Trivia Night and DNA Weekend.

The Government of Saskatchewan and the cities of Regina and Saskatoon have proclaimed Sept. 24 to 30 as Global Biotech Week. Ag-West Bio, Saskatchewan's bioscience industry association, coordinates events throughout the week with the help of a local organizing committee.

Wilf Keller, Ag-West Bio president and CEO, says technology is advancing rapidly in this area. "It is more important than ever to keep people informed about the advancements in science. Biotechnology is a huge benefit to society, from insulin and other medicines to nutritious, affordable food. The public should also appreciate that biotechnology helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the amount of land needed to produce our food."

Biotechnology provides products and technologies to combat debilitating and rare diseases, reduces our environmental footprint, and helps secure a sustainable food supply and natural resource management, providing cleaner energy and more efficient industrial manufacturing processes.

- Global Biotech Week kicks off on Sept. 24 at Innovation Place with the Saskatchewan Taste of Innovation lunch, prepared with interesting and delicious made-in-Saskatchewan food ingredients. The audience will be treated to the unveiling of #ScientistsArePeopleToo videos, featuring Saskatchewan scientists. A tour of bioscience companies at Innovation Place will follow.
- A special Café Scientifique "*The "sci" in "sci-fi": The factual basis for gruesome fictional aliens and other predatory horrors of the insect world*" will be presented by entomologist Tyler Wist from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on Sept. 25, downstairs at Winston's Pub.
- On Sept. 26, the movie "Food Evolution" will be showing at the Saskatchewan Science Centre Kramer IMAX theatre in Regina, with two screenings: 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.
- On Sept. 27, 80 high school and Saskatchewan Polytechnic students will join forces to participate in the Amazing Biotech Race at Innovation Place, where teams will move from one checkpoint to the next, competing in "lab challenges," answering skill testing questions, and gathering clues until they complete the race.
- Join us for Trivia Night at Winston's Pub at 7:30 pm on Sept. 27. The event is free, and everyone is welcome.
- The Canadian Light Source is offering extra tours on Sept. 24, 26 and 28, at 2:30 and 7:00 pm.
- An industry networking event, Biotech & Beer, will be held at Innovation Place on Sept. 28.
- And last, but not least, DNA Weekend at the Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina invites families to "Save the Banana" at 2:00 pm each day on Sept. 29 and 30.

For a full list of Saskatchewan events, please visit <http://www.agwest.sk.ca/pages/global-biotech-week-2018--saskatchewan-events>.

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About Global Biotech Week:

Originating in Canada in 2003, Biotech Week is now recognized around the world as Global Biotech Week. Events scheduled throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Canada highlight the innovation and creativity of life science researchers. BIOTECanada spearheads Global Biotech Week in collaboration with partners from across Canada. To learn more about Global Biotech Week around the world, visit globalbiotechweek.ca.

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 by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), with support from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the National Research Council-Industrial Research Assistance Program.