



September 20, 2013
For immediate release

**OMG! GMO! Biotech & Beer, and Busting Food Myths:
Saskatchewan celebrates 10th National Biotechnology Week, September 20-27**

Saskatoon, SK: Saskatchewan is hosting a series of exciting events during National Biotechnology Week from September 20-27. Biotech Week is being proclaimed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, the City of Saskatoon and the City of Regina.

Ag-West Bio, Saskatchewan's bioscience industry association, leads a committee to coordinate events during the week. Events this year include a DNA Workshop at the Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina; In Saskatoon, a Food Myth Busters TweetUp; a health innovation panel discussion; a public lecture and panel-assisted Q&A featuring Mark Lynas, called OMG!GMO! Sustainable Agriculture: GMOs, Organic and How to Feed the World; a student event called The Amazing Biotech Race at Innovation Place in Saskatoon; and Biotech & Beer, a networking event at Boffins Club. Details about these events can be found on the following page.

National Biotech Week is an opportunity to showcase Saskatchewan's capabilities and raise awareness locally. Wilf Keller, president and CEO of Ag-West Bio, says "Biotechnology affects all of us, every day, and in many positive ways. From improved health care and disease prevention, to better nutrition, cleaner products and other environmental benefits, biotechnology is an important tool that we need to embrace. Biotech Week is a celebration of science."

Please see the **attached sheet** for briefs about more Saskatchewan events, or visit:
<http://www.agwest.sk.ca/kaizen/NBW2013/NBW2013.htm> for full details and registration information.

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About National Biotech Week

Each year, Canada celebrates the innovation and creativity of Canadian life science researchers and entrepreneurs during National Biotechnology Week, a concept initiated by BIOTECCanada with the collaboration of all the provinces in Canada. Events held during the week include lectures, workshops, education outreach, facility tours, advocacy and networking. Municipal and provincial governments issue official proclamations to support Biotech Week. www.imagenation.ca

About Ag-West Bio

Ag-West Bio is the lead for Biotech Week activities in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan's bioeconomy catalyst, Ag-West helps to grow biobusiness through support and mentoring, funding, strategic alliances, building networking opportunities and communications. www.agwest.sk.ca

Why Health Innovation Matters – Monday Sept. 23

Join us for a beer and an appetizer and hear John Hyshka (Phenomenome Discoveries); Tom Archibald (Eden Health Solutions); Douglas W. Banzet (Westcap Mgt Ltd.) discuss health care innovation and business opportunities. Hosted by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce **3:30–6:30 pm, The Bassment, Saskatoon** <http://members.saskatoonchamber.com/Events>

#FoodMyths TweetUp – Monday, Sept. 23

“Are there antibiotics in my beef? How many pesticides are on my apples?” Experts in the food industry will bust food myths regarding food safety and regulations via Twitter: Follow @agwestbio and @food_centre and #FoodMyths to join the conversation. **Your computer/mobile device, 1:00–3:00pm**

Mark Lynas Public Lecture – Tuesday, Sept. 24

An engaging speaker and author, Mark has been invited to universities and conferences around the world to deliver his message about why he changed his mind about genetic modification and the importance of biotechnology. A Q&A assisted by local experts on GM, organics, regulations and public policy will follow the lecture **7:00pm Broadway Theatre, Saskatoon** No registration required – this is a free public event. Details: www.agwest.sk.ca

Canadian Light Source Tours – Wednesday, Sept. 25

Join us in celebrating National Biotechnology Week by taking a guided tour of the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. One hour tours run from **10:00am–5:00pm, Saskatoon**
Space is limited so reserve your tour now: outreach@lightsource.ca or call (306) 657-3644

Start Up Drinks Saskatoon (SUDSk)– Wednesday, Sept. 25

is a networking meetup for people interested in entrepreneurship and technology. Every event brings together an interesting and diverse group of people to meet, talk, make contacts, share war stories, and generally have fun. The events are informal, social, and free. Attendees include active entrepreneurs, technologists, investors, and others interested in the local start-up scene. We keep it very casual because the point is to make connections over drinks and.....relax a little. **Top Floor - Hose & Hydrant Brewing Company 612-11th Street East - There is a CASH BAR**
RSVP marie.s@sasktel.net

The Amazing Biotech Race – Thursday, Sept. 26

Students from high schools, SIAST and the U of S to join forces and connect with industry – with some healthy competition. The teams search for clues and participate in quick lab “challenges” while becoming familiar with Saskatoon bioscience companies. **1:00-3:30 pm, Innovation Place, Saskatoon**

Biotech & Beer – Thursday, Sept. 26

Raise a toast to the science of biotechnology! Educators, students, researchers and business people from our biotech community will gather for refreshments and networking; speakers discuss the role of biotechnology in our lives and career opportunities in science. **Music: One More Troubadour 4:00-7:00pm Boffins Club, Innovation Place, Saskatoon** Registration required: events@agwest.sk.ca

Gee! In Genome Workshops

Ag in the Classroom and Genome Prairie are collaborating to bring biotech to the classroom! If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please contact Chantel Short at Ag in the Classroom: chantel@aitc.sk.ca

Event Website: <http://www.agwest.sk.ca/kaizen/NBW2013/NBW2013.htm>