



PAMI RELEASE

February 12, 2007

Humboldt, Sk

Immediate Release

PAMI Receives Funding for Cattle and Energy Research Centres

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) will receive \$4.4-million in funding to develop two agricultural technology initiatives in Saskatchewan. The funds, announced by Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Chuck Strahl and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman today in Saskatoon, will allow PAMI to develop an Agricultural Energy and Processing Centre within its Humboldt operations, and enhance its Western Beef Development Centre near Lanigan.

"These investments will allow our organization to further advance into two strategic growth areas within our agriculture and food sector," PAMI President David Gullacher said. "Putting the building blocks in place for transformational agriculture takes vision and courage. Ministers Strahl and Wartman have certainly challenged us by this investment, to create new opportunities for prosperity in cattle production as well as in energy production and conservation."

PAMI's **Western Beef Development Centre (WBDC)** will receive \$1.1-million in funding to acquire a new cow herd as well as additional facilities and equipment to carry out beef research. With 13,000 producers, Saskatchewan's cattle industry is one of agriculture's biggest building blocks as producers of high-value food exports and as a user of outputs from the grains and oilseeds sector. Conducting top quality research for cow/calf producers in the province is the aim of WBDC. Enhancing its herd and equipment will allow WBDC to expand its work and to attract a broader base of producer, research, and industry partners.

PAMI's Humboldt operations will receive funding of \$3.3-million for a Bio-Energy and Processing Research Chair. This support will enable PAMI to assemble a leader and a team of engineers to enhance its equipment and facilities for research and development work. Projects will include prairie bio-fuel utilization, the bio-digestion of organic waste into methane, and energy reduction in crop production and processing. The investment will also allow PAMI to enhance some of its facilities for primary processing of food materials. An estimated 100 new projects will be undertaken over the next five years as a result of this investment.

PAMI engineers believe Saskatchewan has the potential to produce abundant energy from non-traditional sources such as crop biomass, ethanol, bio-diesel, manure, wind, and solar and geothermal sources. With current annual farm fuel use at \$400 million and fertilizer and pesticide use at \$1.35 billion, improved efficiency offers the potential of major savings and conservation for the province. PAMI also sees opportunities to grow the province's \$1.9 billion value-added food industry.

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