



Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. What is required in my submission package?

The submission package must include a signed and completed application form, written submission addressing the questions outlined on the application form and for the researcher award the resume of the lead researcher,

2. How much does it cost to enter?

There is no registration fee required to enter the Alberta Food for Health Awards program.

3. Where can I get more information?

Award application forms and more details are available at www.AlbertaFoodforHealthAwards.com.

If you would like assistance with the award process, please contact the applicable Agriculture and Rural Development Business Development Specialists. A complete list can be found at: www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv384.

If you would like assistance, or would like to confirm that your submission has been received, please contact 780-643-1611 or e-mail Food.Awards@gov.ab.ca.

4. If I make a submission on behalf of my company, who gets the cash award – my company or myself?

The prize money will be released to the company or academic institution that has been identified on the application form.

5. I am not prepared to apply this year, is there assistance (including financial assistance) for research or product and market development for next year?

Yes, please see the following websites for further information:

Growing Forward:

www.growingforward.alberta.ca/growingforward/index.html

Agriculture and Rural Development - Business Development Specialists:

www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv384

Alberta Innovation Voucher Pilot Program:

www.aet.alberta.ca/technology/support/vouchers.aspx

Food Product Award Categories

1. Does my company qualify to enter the awards?

The awards are open to all food processors and producers. Eligible food products must contain Alberta ingredients and have been processed in Alberta. The food product must also meet the nutrition criteria for either the Choose Most Often or Choose Sometimes categories found at www.AlbertaFoodforHealthAwards.com.

2. Can one food product be submitted into more than one category?

No, products can only be entered into one category and there will be only one winner per category.

3. Do I require a Nutrition Fact table from the food product label to submit my food product?

Yes, you must provide a picture of the food product and a copy of the product's Nutrition Fact table from the food label.

4. I do not have a food label right now, where can I go to get help to create one?

Health Canada has created a website where critical information needed to create a Nutrition Fact Label for a food product label is available. The following websites can help meet your needs:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/label-etiquet/nutrition/reg/guide-nutri_val_tc-tm-eng.php

Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/guide/toce.shtml

Nutrition Labelling, Nutrition Claims and Health Claims

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/nutrition-pagee.shtml

Product of Canada Labelling

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/prodcan/prodcane.shtml

General Information on Product and Sectors that are federally regulated
www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/fssae.shtml

5. How many samples are required to be sent with my application?

Samples are not required to be provided with your initial submission, however, applicants will be asked to submit 15 individual serving size samples for review by the selection committee at a later date. Details will be forwarded to applicants two weeks prior to the convening of the selection committee.

6. My company is going to launch a healthy new product, but it might not be available for another 4 – 6 months. Can I still apply for this year?

All food products entered for an award must be commercially available in Alberta by January 1, 2010.

7. My company has a great new food product that could be sold in a vending machine. We have not been able to sell it to the vending companies but have been selling the product at a retail outlet. Can we still apply?

Yes, food products entered for an award must be commercially available in Alberta by January 1, 2010. But remember, products can only be entered into one category and there will be only one winner per category.

8. I'm not sure if my food product meets the Nutrition Criteria? Where can I get additional assistance to better understand the guidelines?

Nutrition criteria for the food product awards have been based on the *Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth: A Childcare, School and Recreation/Community Centre Resource Manual*. A resource tool has been created to aid the food industry to interpret the nutrition criteria of the Choose Most Often and Choose Sometimes categories. *Understanding the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth: Quick reference Tool for Developing, Producing and Choosing Healthy Food Choices* is available on the website www.AlbertaFoodforHealthAwards.com.

For assistance understanding if your product meets the nutrition criteria, please contact Annette Anderwald Health Opportunity Analyst/ Registered Dietitian for assistance at 780-644-2404 or e-mail annette.anderwald@gov.ab.ca.

9. The Alberta Nutrition Guidelines are for Children and Youth. What about adults?

The guidelines were designed specifically for children; however, the nutrition criteria for each food category are also applicable for adults. It is important to note that adults would require a greater number of portions as identified in *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide*.

10. What should the serving size be for the food product?

Wherever possible it is encouraged to have the serving size be reflective of those recommended in *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide*. For those food products that have no food guide serving size listed, it is encouraged to use the serving size identified in the Canadian Nutrient File (CNF) posted on the Health Canada website at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index-eng.php. All food products labels will be evaluated against one serving from *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* to ensure the food product meets the nutrition criteria.

11. My product is targeted to adults – can I still apply to this award program?

Yes, the product can be submitted as long as the product meets the nutrition criteria, contains Alberta ingredients and has been processed in Alberta.

12. Can a food service menu item be considered for an award?

Yes, it requires to be processed in Alberta, contain Alberta ingredients and sold with through the food service channel. The product must have a Nutrition Fact table on the food label. If the package contains multiple portions, the Nutrition Fact table on the package must be for one serving. The serving size identified in the Nutrition Fact table must count toward 1-2 servings **from *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide***.

13. I process a condiment. Can that be submitted for an award?

No, condiments are not eligible to be submitted for any of the food product awards.

14. Restaurants, school and hospital cafeterias have been selling a “healthy” meal item. Can this product be submitted for an award?

The product can only be submitted for the food-service category if the product has been packaged in a single/multi-serving package, sold through a food service channel and has a Nutrition Fact Table on the food product label which meets the nutrition criteria.

Research Award Category

1. Does my or research team qualify to enter the awards?

The researcher award is open to all Alberta-based research projects that focus on the relationship between food and human health and can include basic research, applied research or clinical research.

2. What phase of research should my research be to be able to apply for the awards?

Research that is being submitted must be completed in order to apply for the awards.

3. I am a researcher employed by a food company, can I apply as an individual or do I have to apply under the company?

If the company has funded the research, then the work must be submitted under the company and you must have been given the authority to sign on behalf of the company, academic institution or research organization.