

Check out Your References . . .

A company in Humboldt, Saskatchewan is using one of our members as a reference for the sale of liquid fertilizer tanks. Our I.D.E.A. member has not bought any of these tanks and says that after viewing them himself, he finds them inappropriate for the liquid fertilizer industry. So, be sure to check out the references you receive from any would-be suppliers.

Venture Capital Fund for Agriculture . . . by Kevin Hursh

The Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation (SAC) has gained the support of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) for the establishment of a labour sponsored venture capital fund. Called the Saskatchewan Works Fund, its primary purpose will be investment in rural based, value added, agricultural initiatives and enterprises.

SAC is a non-profit group dedicated to acting as a catalyst for agribusiness development in the province. For years, it has been working on the concept of an investment fund for agriculture. It has lobbied the provincial and federal government on the issue and now has the necessary support of a labour organization.

Both SAC and the SFL say they will work diligently to secure seed capital from both levels of government. They anticipate that a commitment of ongoing funding from government, in addition to the existing tax credits for a labour sponsored venture capital fund, will attract additional investment from within and outside the province.

"We are seeking an unequivocal indication of support and commitment from the provincial party leaders during the current election campaign-that once the election is over, the province will be committed to providing seed capital to get the fund up and running," said SFL President Larry Hubich. *(Reprinted from the AgExpert Express newsletter by permission of AgExpert Management Software and Farm Credit Canada.)*

I.D.E.A. 5th Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Thursday January 29 and Friday January 30, 2004

Howard Johnson Hotel, Canmore Alberta

(1402 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore, AB, Toll Free: 1-888-678-4656)

Watch for details, coming soon.