

Agriculture Alert – December 14, 2018

Dairy Farmers Investment Program Reopening: DFIP Phase 2 Announced

Phase 2 of the Dairy Farmers Investment Program (“DFIP”) has been announced with the next intake period opening on January 7, 2019. This funding is intended to assist dairy producers adapt to the anticipated impacts of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The government has made some significant changes from Phase 1 of the program to try to make it more equitable. Some important facts to note:

- A cap of \$100,000 of grant funding is available on a 50% cost share per producer
- Only one project submission per dairy license
- If you received funding from Phase 1 you are not eligible to receive funding under Phase 2
- Projects started on or after August 1, 2017 are eligible for funding
- Project activities must be completed by March 31, 2022
- A two-step application process that involves the following timing and submissions:
 1. January 7 and February 8, 2019 – Project Request form submitted
 2. Late February 2019 – Submitted projects will be selected at random until all funding has been allocated.
 3. Early March 2019 – Selected projects will be informed of approval and will be given 4 weeks to complete a Detailed Application
- Projects can be submitted online using a fillable PDF
- Any funding under Phase 2 will not be given until 2020 at the earliest
- There is not expected to be Phase 3 under the program and so this is your last opportunity to obtain funding
- Only new equipment is eligible, purchase of used equipment is ineligible
- Only the cost of equipment used and/or installed **in** the barn is eligible
- The construction of a new barn is not eligible, the equipment in the barn may be eligible
- If you have multiple projects that may be eligible you need to consider which project will provide the largest funding opportunity

Some examples of projects areas are:

- Barn lighting equipment
- Manure management system and equipment
- Ventilation equipment
- Cow comfort items (mats, brushes, stabling, bedding)
- Feed and water systems and equipment
- Herd management (activity monitoring equipment, sorting equipment)
- Parlour, robot or tie-stall milking systems and equipment

- Costs associated with the above including consulting, installations, training etc. are also eligible

The first step in applying is to complete a Project Request form. This will be available online as of January 7, 2019. While official quotes or invoices are not required for the initial Project Request form it is encouraged that the costs included with the submission are accurate and so we suggest you contact suppliers as soon as possible to obtain quotes for use with your Project Request form.

More details on the program can be found here:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/dairy-farm-investment-program/?id=1491935919994>

We encourage you to give some thought to the projects you have completed in the past six months and those you anticipate might occur over the next four years. We had many clients that received funding in Phase 1 and Ward & Uptigrove is happy to assist you with your project applications. Please contact us if you need assistance with the application process or to discuss potential projects in further detail.