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MAR 15 2019

PRT 248879

The Honourable Diane F. Griffin, Senator
Chair, Standing Senate Committee
on Agriculture and Forestry
c/o Mr. Kevin Pittman
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Griffin:

Please find enclosed, in both official languages, the information requested by the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry following the appearance of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada departmental officials on February 21, 2019.

I trust that the members will find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Sophie Bédard
Director, Parliamentary Relations and Portfolio Coordination

Enclosures

**Information requested by
the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (AGFO)
February 21, 2019**

Senator Raymonde Gagné was asking for examples of projects funded through the Dairy Farm Investment Program.

Response: The Dairy Farm Investment Program is a \$250 million, five-year federal investment, launched on August 1st, 2017. The program is designed to support the productivity and the competitiveness of dairy farmers through targeted contributions, and help the sector adapt to the anticipated impacts from the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Under the program, producers can choose from a wide range of equipment options that are located within the dairy barn. Producers can select which investments best suit their specific needs for both small and large dairy operations.

Examples of eligible equipment include:

- robotic milkers
- automated feeding systems
- barn upgrades such as new LED lighting to reduce energy consumption
- herd management tools such as advanced herd management software
- cow health and comfort equipment such as specialized cow mats
- fans and ventilation equipment
- heat stress equipment
- health and reproduction monitoring systems
- associated costs such as shipping, installation and retrofit activities for purchased equipment.

A complete list of equipment options is available in [Annex A](#) of the [Applicant Guide](#).

Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne was seeking details on the application process for the Dairy Farm Investment Program.

Response: The initial phase of the Dairy Farm Investment Program or Phase 1 used a standard first-come first-served application process that required producers to complete an application form outlining the details of their request. The program was launched on August 1st, 2017. Applications were accepted from August 22 through to August 29. The program stopped accepting applications after receiving over 2,500 applications. Detailed program information, including information on the application process, was available on the departmental website both before and during the phase 1 application process. These requests fell into two categories, small investments of up to \$60,000 in maximum federal contribution; as well as large investments of up to \$250,000 in maximum federal contribution. Over 1,900 projects were funded under Phase 1 of the program representing \$129 million.

Under Phase 2 of the Dairy Farm Investment Program, applicants had from January 7, 2019, to February 8, 2019, to submit a Project Request Form. This form required basic applicant information, the nature of the project, as well as its projected costs. A computerized random selection process was then used to rank projects for assessment and possible funding. This process used a recognized randomization algorithm and was overseen by an independent third party. Applicants whose projects were selected are being asked to submit a Detailed Application form as part of a second step in the application process. Projects will be assessed for their eligibility at this second step. This method was chosen to reduce respondent burden in the industry as a whole as only those applicants whose projects are likely to receive funding will be asked to complete the Detailed Application form. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Program staff are available via telephone (1-877-246-4682) and e-mail (aafc.dfip-pifl-phase2.aac@canada.ca) to answer questions and provide assistance.

Additional information on the application process for Phase 2 of the program can be found in the [Applicant Guide](#).