



BACKGROUNDER
July 28, 2008

SUPPORT FOR THE INNOVATION CLUSTER'S FEASIBILITY STUDY TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAIRY GOATS AND SMALL RUMINANTS

This will lead to commercialization opportunities that will maintain and create jobs in the area, and more importantly, position the Peterborough region as a leader in agricultural research and development, driving an innovative economy.

Andy Mitchell, President/CEO, Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation

Research conducted at the Centre of Excellence for Small Ruminants will position Trent University as a leader in the field of agriculture, and create opportunities for producers in the dairy goat industry at both the provincial and national level.

Dr. James Parker, Associate Vice President Research, Trent University

The feasibility study will assist in understanding how the establishment of a Centre for Excellence for Small Ruminants could foster the transfer of research results into economic opportunities for local dairy goat producers.

G.A. Tilly, President, Fleming College

The Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, is pleased to offer its support and collaboration to the project establishing a centre of excellence for small ruminants at Trent University. We share the belief that a centre to provide support to the goat and sheep sectors would be welcome and beneficial to the industry.

Peter Purslow, Professor of Food Science and Acting Associate Dean (Research), Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph

The Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture feels that not only would the establishment of the proposed Centre of Excellence for Small Ruminants be of benefit to our own community, but would also profit producers in the small ruminants and other agricultural industries across Ontario and the rest of the country.

Paul Andrews, Past President, Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture

This centre will identify lead animals sooner and accelerate our genetic progress. If we have this information the world is our market.

Bruce VandenBerg, Owner & Manager, Lenberg Farms, Mariposa Dairy

We are totally committed to the further development of the sheep industry and the creation of a resource such as a Small Ruminant Centre of Excellence at Trent University would be a tremendous boost to the agricultural industry of central Ontario.

John and Eadie Steele, Ontario OYF 2002, Peterborough County Farm Family 2007

The Ontario Goat Breeders Association is pleased to see interest from the academic community in our industry. We recognize the increased consumer demand for all our products, from food to skin-care to clothing. To have a Centre of Excellence for small ruminants in Ontario speaks well to our industry, even, as we understand that we share this moniker with the sheep industry.

Garry Glaassen, President, Ontario Goat Breeders Association

The Canadian National Goat Federation is pleased to see that our industry is attracting the attention of researchers. We encourage all research into and for the goat industry, and therefore are pleased to support this initiative with opportunities to publicize results in our communications with producers.

Garry Claassen, President, Canadian National Goat Federation

The concept of a small ruminant centre of excellence has merit. The need for improved genetics in our industry is tremendous, and we look forward to a seeing a cross-section of industry, researchers and farmers from across Ontario working together towards the common goal of improving genetics.

Anthony Sjaarda, Chair, Ontario Dairy Goat Co-operative

Conducting a feasibility study will determine the opportunity and community benefits of establishing a Centre for Excellence for Small Ruminants, which will directly impact the local agricultural community.

Stuart Harrison, General Manager, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

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