

INNOVATION CLUSTER RECEIVES \$31,500 TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAIRY GOATS AND SMALL RUMINANTS

[PETERBOROUGH, Ontario] The Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster, working together with Trent University and the University of Guelph, has been selected to coordinate a feasibility study for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Dairy Goats and Small Ruminants research at Trent University in Peterborough.

As an initial step in the process, the Innovation Cluster has received \$31,500 in funding for this project from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's (AAC) CanAdvance Program, to undertake a feasibility study in the area of dairy goat research. This will provide the opportunity to explore the types of processes, partnerships, and funding models in the context of dairy goat research, but would also eventually be applicable to a range of small ruminants. Once the initial work has been successfully completed, the Cluster intends to broaden the initiative to include an additional small ruminants sector.

The funding provided by AAFC through AAC will cover 53% of the total project cost with the remainder being contributed by the Innovation Cluster and the following Project Partners: the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, Trent University and Fleming College.

With the growing need for research and development and the existing expertise in the area of agriculture and small ruminants in the Peterborough region, the opportunity to discover how research results can be leveraged into market opportunities for Canadian dairy goat and other small ruminant producers is timely.

"This significant support provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council demonstrates a strong commitment to the future economic development of the Peterborough region," commented John Martin, Board Chair of the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster, "through this commitment we will broaden the scope of our organization and intensify our effort to bring new opportunities to the Peterborough region."

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