



RESEARCH

EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

RESEARCH CHAIRS

2018

## Dairy Apprenticeship Open House

**Project Lead:** Greenbelt Veterinary Services Ltd., Dr. John Dick, Dr. Dan McDermid

**Collaborating Partners:** DIREC

**Total Project Funding:** \$ 2330.00

**Contribution from DIREC:** \$ 1000.00

### Objectives:

- To increase awareness and promote the Dairy Production Technician Level 1 Apprenticeship Program to dairy producers in the Fraser Valley.
- By holding it in Abbotsford, we were hoping to have make it more accessible for producers to attend from the Central and Lower Fraser Valley.
- By increasing awareness and accessibility, we are hoping to increase our enrollment in the 2018-2019 Dairy Production Technician program.
- The second part of the meeting will be to solicit verbal and written feedback on the program and its future. A short presentation on the challenges and future options for the dairy apprenticeship will be made.

### Activity Description:

- Open house and information session held at Quality Hotel, Abbotsford, BC on August 30, 2018.
- A power point presentation was given by Dr. John Dick outlining the current program as well as some potential options for the future.
- Feedback was requested on what could be improved and what else producers would like to see taught.
- There was a time for questions and discussion.
- Activity Description 5

## Benefits & Analysis:

- While the turnout was lower than hoped for, three of the farms represented at the open house enrolled a student in the program for the upcoming year. Another farm represented would like to enroll their son in the program next year when he is in Grade 12. Enrollment is at maximum, 18 students, for the 2018-19 year.
- Ten Program Surveys were completed. Two attendees had previously taken the DPT1 technical training. All attendees who had not taken the technical training indicated they would consider attending.
- Respondents rated the importance of 16 current Level 1 topics, 5 Level 2 topics and 2 proposed topic areas. Over 85% of the topics received either 4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5 for importance.
- All 10 respondents supported development of a revised and updated one level apprenticeship that includes updates to current topics, new topics and some of the existing Level 2 curriculum.

## Acknowledgements:

We appreciate the support of DIREC to be able to move the Dairy Apprenticeship open house from UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz to a more central location in Abbotsford.

## DIREC Mission Statement:

The BC Dairy Association actively funds research and education projects. Our objective is to facilitate, encourage and financially support projects and programs that have been identified by the BCDA to benefit the BC dairy industry.

