

October 05, 2017

New Entrant Program (NEP) Consultation & Survey

The BC Milk Marketing Board (the Board) is conducting a consultation, to assist in the development of a New Entrant Program (NEP), which will encourage new people to enter the dairy industry as producers. An effective New Entrant Program will support the sustainability and social license of the dairy industry.

Background on New Entrant Programs at the BCMMB

The waitlist for the Board's previous Graduated Entry Program (GEP) was exhausted in January 2017, when the Board invited the remaining waitlisted Graduated Entry Program (GEP) candidates to begin the GEP process for approval, which includes submission of a five-year business plan, ministry approvals and a Board interview. Those who are approved are expected to begin production by early 2019, at the latest.

Following the Board's thorough [BC Dairy Quota Policy & Governance Review](#) (2013-2014), the BCMMB provided to the BC Farm Industry Review Board, a list of recommendations and a commitment to create a *new program* for new entrants, noting stakeholder support for change to the previous GEP approach to encouraging new dairy entrants. In 2014, the BC Farm Industry Review Board accepted the Milk Board recommendation that the new entrant program be reviewed and updated.

The intention of the NEP Consultation is to encourage input from producers, processors and other interested stakeholders, including the public throughout the seven-month consultation. Ultimately, the Board plans to release the details of a final NEP program by summer 2018, with an eye to approved NEP participants beginning production by mid-2019. See NEP Consultation Plan for more detail on the intended process and timeline: [NEP Consultation Plan](#)

The NEP Stakeholder Survey – launched October 5, 2017

The first step of the NEP Consultation is an online survey, which seeks input from all potentially interested dairy stakeholders: producers, processors and the public at large. Please share the link with others who may be interested.

The survey should only take a few minutes of your time (9 quick questions) and is important to the Board's overall process. The Board wants to hear from you. It will be open for two weeks; the survey closing date: **October 20, 2017**. However, the website will remain open for comments beyond that date, and until the closing of the consultation—April 30, 2018.

Please access the online survey here: [NEP Stakeholder Survey](#)