The next proAction milestone is the implementation of biosecurity requirements, which will become mandatory in September 2019. Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has been approved for funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program to offset part of the training costs.

In addition to biosecurity requirements, the training program will cover specific animal care issues that have been identified as industry priorities.

Veterinarian training sessions will be held across Ontario in late January and early February 2019. These training sessions will prepare Ontario veterinarians as proAction advisers to deliver the educational toolkit and training program to their dairy producer clients.

**PRODUCER TRAINING FRAMEWORK**

In the current proAction training program, DFO covers the full cost of classroom training, while on-farm training is on a user-pay basis. In the new training program framework, CAP funding will offset part of the cost of on-farm training.

Classroom training is expected to be available to producers starting mid-February 2019, and will be delivered as two-hour group sessions, which will cover the following topics:

- Overview of the biosecurity program and proAction update;
- Down cattle guidelines overview;
- Cull cows – prevention and decision-making.

DFO and CAP funding will cover the total cost of the producer classroom training ($325 per session) if completed by Nov. 30, 2019.

On-farm training will be offered as one-on-one two-hour sessions starting in April 2019 and is expected to focus on:

- Developing biosecurity standard operating procedures (SOPs);
- Updating down cattle corrective action plans, animal health practices and euthanasia SOPs;
- Continuously improving animal based measures (i.e. injuries, lameness, body condition score, etc.), as required.

For on-farm training sessions that take place by Nov. 30, 2019, CAP funding will cover half of the cost, and the other half (or $162.50) will be charged back to each producer who participates in on-farm training.

Although participation is voluntary, producers are strongly encouraged to participate in both classroom and on-farm training to get the most benefit out of the training program. Producers who participate in both classroom and on-farm training get a $650 value for $162.50.

In order to access CAP funding, classroom and on-farm training must be completed by Nov. 30, 2019.