

# It's not clear what animals will occupy prison farm barns

A recent press release indicated the goat part of the project would be put on hold

BY IAN CUMMING  
Ontario Farmer

The May 5, 2021 five-paragraph press release from Correctional Service Canada (CSC) waited until the fourth paragraph to drop its most profound news item.

"Due to the unplanned financial challenges to address the global COVID-19 pandemic across the organization, CSC has decided to focus its dairy operations on the dairy cow program and temporarily pause the implementation of the dairy goat program."

"The dairy goat program will resume once the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can be fully assessed."

The press release also stated they would proceed with the "construction of a new barn at Joyceville Institution."

With no barn being constructed as yet, it is unclear whether the plans were proceeding for a 60-cow dairy herd and 2,200 milking goats to be under the same roof, a barn plan approved by then Minister Ralph Goodale a couple of years earlier.

The barn plans, according to other documentation obtained by Ontario Farmer, are now supposed to be 100,000 square feet, rather than the original 45,000 square feet that had been previously cited.

Ontario Farmer recently received over 500 documents concerning the prison farms under an Access to information

## Chicken Farmers of Ontario garners subsidy

Chicken Farmers of Ontario is receiving a subsidy from the federal and provincial governments to extend its digital platform launched in 2015, but it hasn't said how much money it's being given.

CFO Connects will invest in its farm audit process and improve reporting, which it said will lead to "even greater efficiency and productivity in sector regulation and increased ability for the chicken supply chain to respond to the risk of avian diseases."

request to the federal government. While the goat milking herd proposal from the government had always been rumoured to be linked to the nearby Chinese-owned Feihe plant and its desire to buy, process and export goat milk, the documentation exists that this was the plan.

On Nov. 10, 2017, at a Pen Farm Herd Co-op meeting, minutes of the meeting state that Diane Dowling – who sat on the government-appointed panel to advise them on the prison farm – was asked whether the Chinese plant would be competition on the Canadian market.

Her answer was that Feihe was going to manufacture "baby formula that will be exported to China; so no."

On June 22, 2019, local MP Mark Gerretsen is quoted in the Kingstonist publication that there was "an opportunity for the correctional institution to play a role" in Feihe's operation, stating that with what the Feihe plant would process, "less than one per cent of the goat milk would be coming

from Corrections Canada." A month earlier, on May 2, 2019, neighbouring MP Scott Reid had submitted a series of questions to CSC. Among them he asked for information on "any contracts or relationships with Feihe International or Feihe Canada Royal Milk" that involved the local prison farms.

What Reid had been made aware of was that Canada was a signee to an international agreement to not allow any imports into their country, made whole or in part by prison labour.

Reid's questions resulted in dozens of internal emails among government officials as to how to answer his queries.

Even before COVID hit, the CSC officials operating the prison farms had used their allocated budget. There was \$1,351,981 spent on field equipment for a few hundred acres. Staff salaries and benefits were \$502,930.31.

Consultants cost \$39,788, with \$31,127 spent on travel.

There were the normal farm

expenses of seed, fertilizer and spray for a few hundred acres.

In 2019 there was \$238,287 spent to renovate the old barn at Joyceville and \$325,317 spent at Collins Bay on a couple of grain bins and to renovate an old shed.

In June 2019 CSC had dozens of emails organizing a media blitz of "approved media lines" around the fact that they had purchased six open heifers.

Kelly Hartle from CSC stated

that they would "buckle up" the narrative to make it easy for the media.

CBC, TVO, Global and leading print publications all sought access to the prison farms, plus submitted prior questions and timelines for CSC pre-approval.

One leading publication promised a "good news CSC story." The CBC promised to "highlight the benefits of the prison farm programs."

## Feds announce \$1.44 billion for Telesat

The federal government is investing \$1.44 billion in Telesat to provide broadband internet to Canada's rural and remote areas.

Telesat's Lightspeed global network is composed of 298 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites operating 35 times closer to the earth than traditional telecommunications satellites.

The company has committed to \$3.6 billion in capital expenditures in Canada, as well as \$1.6 billion in Canadian operating expenses

over the next 15 years.

Telesat Lightspeed will enable broadband Internet and LTE and 5G connectivity in Canada starting in 2024, ultimately connecting approximately 40,000 households in rural and remote regions, the company said.

Telesat also attracted \$400-million in investment from the Quebec government earlier this year, and announced a further \$109-million partnership with the government of Ontario in early August.

# FULLLINE

FARM & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2014 JD 469 SILAGE SPECIAL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">NET, MEGAWIDE, PUSHBAR, VARI CORE .....\$29,900</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">JD 8R 230</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PS, INTEGRATED SF 6000, LED'S ..... TRY YOUR TRADE!</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2014 JD 8270R</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">ILS, PS, ACTIVE LEATHER SEAT, 2505 HRS .....\$258,500</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2009 NH BR7060</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PRE CUTTER, WIDE PICKUP, NET WRAP .....\$17,900</p>
<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2017 VENTRAC 4500Z</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">32 HP KUBOTA GAS, LIQ COOLED, 1662 HRS .....\$14,500</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2020 KUBOTA BX2380</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">52" DECK, 66 HOURS, LIKE NEW .....\$21,900</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2016 JD 6120M</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">40K, R&amp;P, LDR JOYSTK &amp; MID VALVE, 786 HRS .....\$121,850</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2021 JD 1590</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PROSERIES, SCALE, SERRATED CLOSERS, 0 ACRES .....\$119,950</p>
<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">JD 9470R</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PS, PTO, HYDRA CUSHION, 710 MICHELINS ..... TRY YOUR TRADE!</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2017 JD 6175R</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">40K AUTOQUAD, DLX CAB, PREM LIGHTS, 511 HRS .....\$209,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2016 SALFORD I-5100</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">16FT, 5" SPACING, TINES &amp; ROLLING HARROWS .....\$59,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">2013 JD 6150R</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">AQ 40K, 3 SCV, PREM CAB, 4700 HRS .....\$96,900</p>

KIPP MCCONNELL **519-476-8030**

COREY SCOTT **519-312-7770**

ANDREW MCLELLAN **519-280-0995**

FULLINE FARM & GARDEN EQUIPMENT LTD. 21911 SIMPSON ROAD, GLENCOE, ONTARIO

519-287-2840 | 877-385-5463

WWW.FULLINEFARM.COM