

Correctional Services Canada issues dairy barn tender

In 2018, Ottawa budgeted \$4.3 million for barn construction. So far, CSC has spent \$8.8 M on this project

BY IAN CUMMING
Ontario Farmer

On Nov. 25th Correctional Services Canada (CSC) issued a tender notice for construction of a new dairy cow barn at the Joyceville Penitentiary.

Tenders close on Jan. 13,

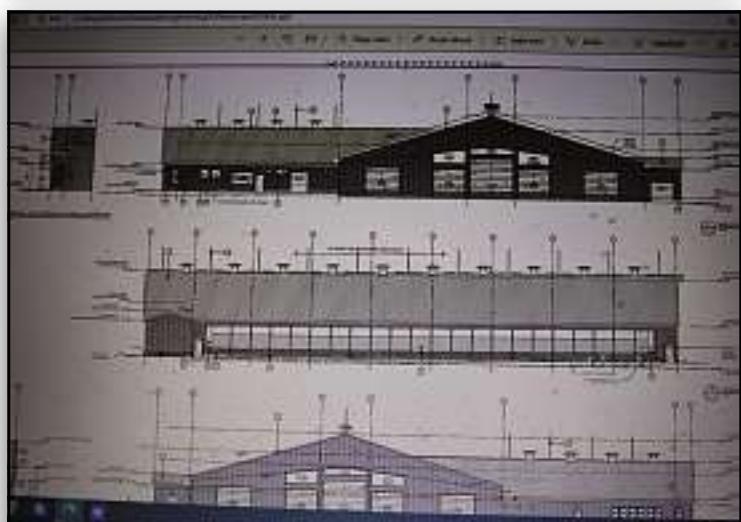
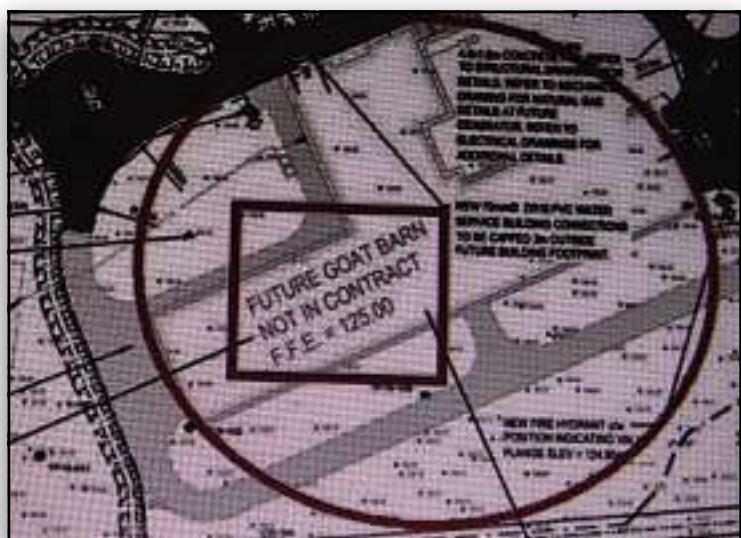
2022. An onsite visit is being organized for all interested parties on Dec. 14th, with a maximum of three people per potential bidder.

"The lowest price will be recommended for the contract award," stated CSC.

The state-of-the-art bedding pack barn with milking parlour, vet office and inmate waiting room will employ 10 inmates. Other older barns on the site have been retrofitted to raise calves and heifers.

CSC was originally issued 32 kg of research quota from Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), which would be filled by 25 normal producing cows. In prior CSC documents gleaned from Access to Information, it was stated in internal emails that there would be no additional quota purchased.

Two prior sets of barn plans had first included a 44,000-square-foot barn for a goat herd. After protesters, with a focus on bringing back the prison dairy herd, raised concerns about there being no dairy cows, a 100,000-square-foot barn encompassing both goats and cows under the same roof was recommended.



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The present plan calls only for a dairy cow barn to be tendered on by contractors, but the overall site plan shows where the future goat barn will be constructed

That plan was scuttled because the committee making the recommendations was not aware that dairy cows could not have other livestock in the same barn. The present plan calls only for a dairy cow barn to be tendered on by contractors, but the overall site plan shows where the future goat barn will be constructed and also details electrical wiring service and roadways, to be set up to potentially run to both barns.

In February 2018, the federal government announced \$4.3 million for barn construction, to be completed after five years.

Thus far CSC has spent \$8.8 million on the project. Documents show a large portion of this went into field equipment, the retrofit of older barns for heifers, purchasing a handful of heifers and bull calves, farm manager wages, plus engineering and environmental fees for three proposed barns.

Europe approves locusts as food

The European Commission has approved the sale of the migratory locust as a human food, but it's not yet clear who applied for permission.

The approval covers frozen, dried and powder forms of migratory locust. It is intended to be marketed as a snack or as a food ingredient in a number of food products, the agency said.

"The Novel Food Regulation is only about the approval of a product, following a stringent scientific assessment made by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)," the EC doc-

ument explained. "

The Authority verifies, in light of the scientific evidence available, that the food does not pose a safety risk to human health."

The investigation was kicked off by an unnamed food operator, who had requested authorization to put the food product on the market in the European Union.

As part of the authorization, the Commission determined that eating the locusts may potentially lead to allergic reactions, so it has mandated labeling caution.