

FARM SUSTAINABILITY FUND



GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

2022 INAUGURAL EDITION



SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The a2 Milk Company's New Zealand Farm Sustainability Fund offers financial awards to contracted a2 Milk™ dairy farms to support projects that promote the achievement of the Company's sustainability objectives. Successful projects will demonstrate an integrated approach to a sustainable future and enable a positive and meaningful impact across the environment in which we operate.



Awards will be made on the basis of the Assessment Criteria set out on the following pages. The a2 Milk Company's sustainability objectives are to:

- Support our people, consumers and communities to be healthy and safe to thrive; and
- Protect nature and the planet for future generations

Project funding available

A total funding pool of **\$500,000 (excluding GST)** is available.

Funding awards are available up to a maximum of **\$35,000 (excluding GST)** per project. Under special circumstances the Investment Committee will consider higher awards.

Applicant contributions (cash and in-kind) towards the project cost must at least match the award amount as a minimum; the applicant cash contribution must represent at least 50% of the total award amount.

Eligibility

Eligibility to apply

- The Fund is open to contracted a2 Milk™ dairy farms only.
- Nominated projects must relate directly to one or more of the key priority areas outlined below.
- Applicant contributions (cash and in-kind) must be at least equal to the award amount.
- The applicant cash component must represent a minimum of 50% of the total award amount.

Key priority areas:

- Lowering GHG emissions
- Increasing on-farm carbon sequestration
- Improving farm system resilience
- Improving water quality and use efficiency
- Enhancing on-farm biodiversity
- Animal wellbeing/health
- Managing and improving soil health

Eligible for funding

- Projects that address / adapt to climate change
- Projects that enhance and/or benefit the environment
- Projects that adapt farm management systems for GHG reduction and associated/connected environmental challenges, eg. biodiversity, water quality etc.

Not eligible for funding

- Projects that are required as a condition of any resource consent/s
- Projects that require, but have not been awarded, a resource consent
- Land purchase
- Projects that are required under regulation or statute



Key Dates

Applications open	23 May 2022
Applications close	4 July 2022
Successful applicants notified by	15 August 2022
Project start date	1 September 2022
Progress report due	1 March 2023
Final report due	29 September 2023

Successful applicants

Each successful applicant will receive a letter of offer to sign and return. Funding will be transferred to the applicant's nominated bank account on receipt of the signed letter of offer. Funding will be provided at 80% of the award at project start and 20% at project end.

Enquiries

If you have any questions about completing the application form please contact:
Lisa Shorey | Email: lisa.shorey@lincoln.ac.nz | Phone: 03 423 0586

Completing the application form

- Complete the application form in its entirety. Incomplete sections may result in an unsuccessful application.
- Ensure you include 'before' photographs for the application where relevant.
- **Email your completed application form and photos to:** Applications.RMO@lincoln.ac.nz
- Submission deadline; 5pm, Monday 4 July 2022.

Developing Your Budget

Before working on your budget, please consider the following:

- Cost estimates should be credible and realistic, and supported by quotes, where possible;
- Each item has to be specific, avoid using terms such as 'miscellaneous' or 'other activities'; and
- For each item, include a short description and provide details of calculations used to arrive at the amount budgeted.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are ultimately assessed by the New Zealand Farm Sustainability Fund Investment Committee, based on how well the following criteria are met:



Alignment with The a2 Milk Company sustainability objectives



Project alignment to one or more of the key environmental priority areas of the Company:

- Lowering GHG emissions
- Increasing on-farm carbon sequestration
- Improving farm system resilience
- Improving water quality and use efficiency
- Enhancing on-farm biodiversity
- Animal wellbeing/health
- Managing and improving soil health



Applicant contributions towards the project in cash and in-kind



Project viability, with desirable attributes including:

- a robust project plan and project budget that includes all sources of funding; and
- a clear method of monitoring and measuring the success of the project



Realistic and achievable project milestones and associated budget



An ongoing commitment to maintain and upgrade the project in future years

Reporting Requirements

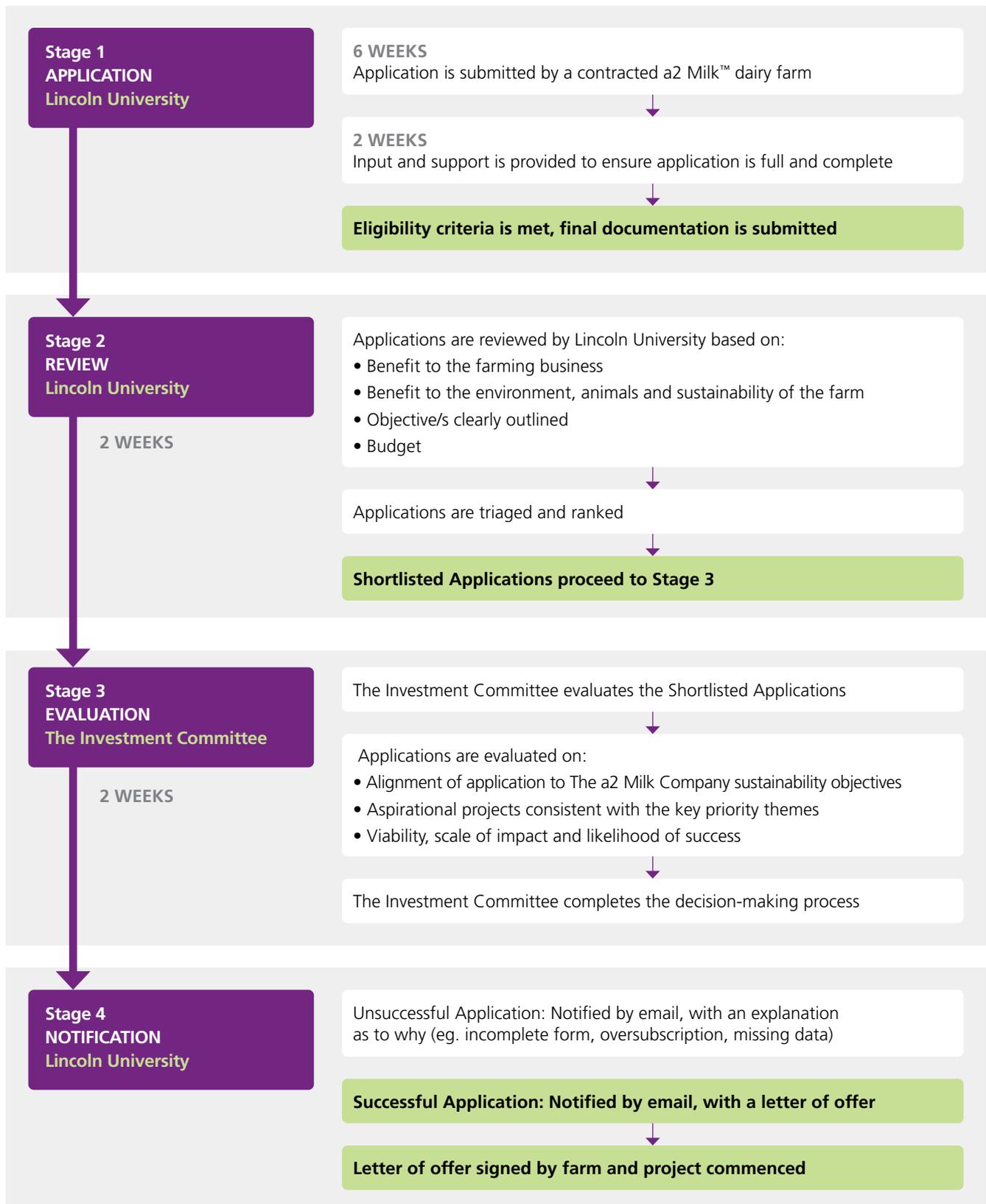


As a condition of any award, each successful applicant will be required to submit a six month progress report and a final project report. These should align to the project plan set out in the application and include a full and complete budget for audit purposes.

Funding Conditions

- Applicants must be contracted a2 Milk™ suppliers.
- Applicants must meet all regional and national standards, laws, regulations and other mandatory guidelines.
- Funding must be allocated only to activities detailed in the funding application, unless otherwise agreed with The a2 Milk Company and Lincoln University.
- Funding is provided on a one-off basis and does not include ongoing maintenance. Payment will be 80% of the funding on receipt of the signed letter of offer and 20% on acceptance of the final report.
- Funding is available for long-term projects but each funding application is for one year only and does not secure or imply funding in subsequent years.
- Refurbishment, upgrades to and/or extension of existing infrastructure, and initiatives to deliver better environmental outcomes are eligible.
- Funding is not available for any projects that are a legal/regulatory requirement.
- Upon request, recipients must provide receipts or other relevant evidence of how the award money has been allocated.
- Recipients agree to the use of third parties in measuring environmental performance.
- Recipients must abide by reporting requirements as outlined above. Recipients must submit high resolution photos and/or video footage of the project as part of their project reporting.
- The a2 Milk Company reserves the right to refuse any application.
- The information requested in the attached application form will be used for assessing applications to The a2 Milk Company and Lincoln University New Zealand Farm Sustainability Fund. All information will be maintained according to strict privacy laws under which The a2 Milk Company and Lincoln University operate.
- Funding awards are available up to a maximum of \$35,000.00 (excluding GST) per project. Under special circumstances the Investment Committee will consider higher awards. The maximum award pool is \$500,000.
- Applicant contributions (cash and in-kind) towards the project cost must at least match the award amount as a minimum; the applicant cash contribution must represent at least 50% of the total award amount.
- Recipients must acknowledge the funding from The a2 Milk Company and Lincoln University New Zealand Farm Sustainability Fund on all published or promotional material arising from the project.
- Successful applicants must provide permission to The a2 Milk Company to use information about the project, progress updates, the final report and any other information deemed relevant in external communications.

Application Review and Assessment Process



Frequently Asked Questions



Can my business / farm submit more than one application?

Yes, multiple applications per business / farm will be considered.



Can I submit my application after the closing date?

No, late applications will not be considered for funding.



When can I expect to start and when do I need to have my project completed?

Lincoln University advises applicants of the outcome of their application approximately one month after the closing date of the funding round. If successful, grant funds must be spent on the project budget items by the final report date, even if a project is ongoing.



Does my farm / business need an NZBN to receive a grant?

Yes, a NZBN is required.



What contribution is required by the business/farm?

Applicant contributions (cash and in-kind) towards the project cost must at least match the award amount as a minimum; the applicant cash contribution must represent at least 50% of the total award amount.



Are staged projects over multiple years accepted as an application?

Staged projects are accepted; however, the applicant must submit a new application for each year, and it is not guaranteed the subsequent stages will be awarded a grant each year.

For any general and farm enquiries,
please contact:

nzfarmsustainabilityfund@a2milk.com

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