

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate distribution

**Grants for the purchase of automated traceability tools:
the *Growing Forward 2* agreement ends soon!**

Longueuil - November 1, 2017 - Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) would like to remind you that the "Support for the implementation of food safety systems, biosecurity, traceability, and animal health and welfare" program, resulting from *Growing Forward 2*, will close on **March 31, 2018**.

The goals of this program include providing support to agricultural and agri-food stakeholders through consulting services, the acquisition of equipment, and the improvement of traceability facilities. Specifically, the program allows **cattle** (dairy and beef), **sheep** and **deer** production stakeholders to benefit from competitive prices for the acquisition of automated traceability tools.

Traceability tools such as RFID stick readers or PDA-type mobile devices greatly simplify tag reading and information management related to animal identification and movement declarations. In addition to being easy to use, these tools reduce the risk of error and significantly reduce the time required for data collection and transmission to ATQ.

All duly completed applications must be sent to MAPAQ **before February 1, 2018**. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and conditions of the program can receive financial assistance of **up to 70%** of the cost of purchasing equipment or traceability facilities.

Stakeholders wishing to submit an application related to the acquisition of automated traceability tools and who need assistance in completing the form are invited to communicate directly with an ATQ Automation Service Agent. It should be noted that only "enterprises registered with MAPAQ as agricultural operations (with a valid *NIM*) are eligible for the program".

- 30 -

For more detailed information:

Automation Service

Monday to Friday, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm

Toll Free Number: 1 866 270-4319 #3

Email: automatisation@atq.qc.ca