

a2TM FARM SUSTAINABILITY FUND



2025 Guidelines and Criteria



Guidelines for Applicants

The a2™ 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.

Project Funding Available

A total funding pool of \$630,000 NZD (excluding GST) is available.

Funding awards are available up to a maximum of \$35,000 NZD (or \$30,000 AUD) per project, excluding GST. Under special circumstances the Investment Committee will consider higher awards.

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.

Eligibility

Key priority areas

- Reduce on-farm GHG emissions.
- Improve resilience or adapt to climate change.
- Improve animal health and wellbeing.
- Improve soil health and soil carbon sequestration.
- Reduce effluent run-off and enhance water quality.
- Increase water use efficiency.
- Increase on-farm natural and indigenous biodiversity.
- Adapt farm management systems to environmental challenges and opportunities.
- Control and protect against invasive species.
- Build sustainable communities.
- Enhance employee health, safety and wellbeing.
- Support people development opportunities.

Eligible to apply for funding

- Open to current contracted a2 Milk™ dairy farms in Australia and New Zealand.
- Projects must relate directly to one or more of the key priority areas.
- Projects must have a measurable impact on one or more key priority areas.
- Projects that require regulatory approval must have obtained approval prior to application.

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.
- Monoculture eg. pine plantation.

Guidelines for Applicants

Key Dates

Applications open	20 January 2025
Applications close	28 February 2025
Successful applicants notified by	18 April 2025
Project start date after	5 May 2025
Final Report due	1 December 2025

How to Apply

Apply for an a2™ Farm Sustainability Fund grant powered by SmartyGrants through The a2 Milk Company's website.

Application steps are as follows:

1. Register through the Smarty Grants link for your region.
2. You can begin your grant application and return to the form at any time.
3. Complete your application online by selecting 'Review and Submit' and submitting your form.

Developing Your Budget

Before working on your budget, please consider the following:

- Cost estimates should be credible and realistic, and supported by quotes;
- 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.

Filling in the budget table:

- **Item Description Column**
List the resources required to carry out the project.
- **Funding Requested – Column A**
Enter the price of the items to be funded. Please note – total funding requested must not exceed the amount of the grant e.g. \$35,000 NZD (or \$30,000 AUD).
- **In-Kind Contributions – Column B**
Enter the cost of the items that are being funded by external sources, if any, including labour.

Reporting Requirements

As a condition of receiving a grant, recipients will be required to complete a final Report. The report needs to include measures of improvement described in the original application, as well as other results, before-after photos, and grant expenditure. Reporting timelines for the a2™ Farm Sustainability Fund for 2025:

Final Report due	1 December 2025
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Completing the application form

- Complete the application form in its entirety. Incomplete sections may result in an unsuccessful application.
- Ensure you include 'before' photographs and maps that help to illustrate the location of the project for the application where relevant.
- Submission deadline: 5pm, Friday 28 February 2025.

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 following 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 after reading these guidelines, please contact your local a2™ farm services representative to discuss the specifics of your project.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are ultimately assessed by the
a2™ Farm Sustainability Fund Investment Committee,
based on how well the following criteria are met:



Essential criteria

Alignment with The a2 Milk Company sustainability objectives.

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

You must include a comprehensive project plan and budget, including all funding sources.

The improvements proposed by your project must have a sound technical basis.
The project must be technically and financially feasible, with a strong probability of success.

You must identify how you will objectively measure and be able to report the improvements achieved by your project.

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

Your project must meet all planning approvals, including relevant region requirements.



Desirable criteria

You may advise whether the project will support broader farm sustainability objectives.

You may make a financial contribution to your project (e.g. in-kind contributions).

You may involve others in your project, such as other farmers, local landcare groups, or the wider community, and also share information about your project.

Preference will be given to applicants who clearly demonstrate:

- An objective rationale for how and why their project will result in an improvement;
- How the improvement(s) will be measured once the project is completed;
- A commitment to ongoing monitoring after completion.

Reporting requirements

As a condition of any award, each successful applicant will be required to submit a final project report. This 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.

Only one application can be submitted per supplier farm.

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.

Funding is provided on a one-off basis and does not include ongoing maintenance. 80% of the funding will be paid 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 required to meet a legal/regulatory requirement.

Recipients must provide receipts or other relevant evidence of where expenditure of grant 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 Investment Committee reserves the right to refuse any application.

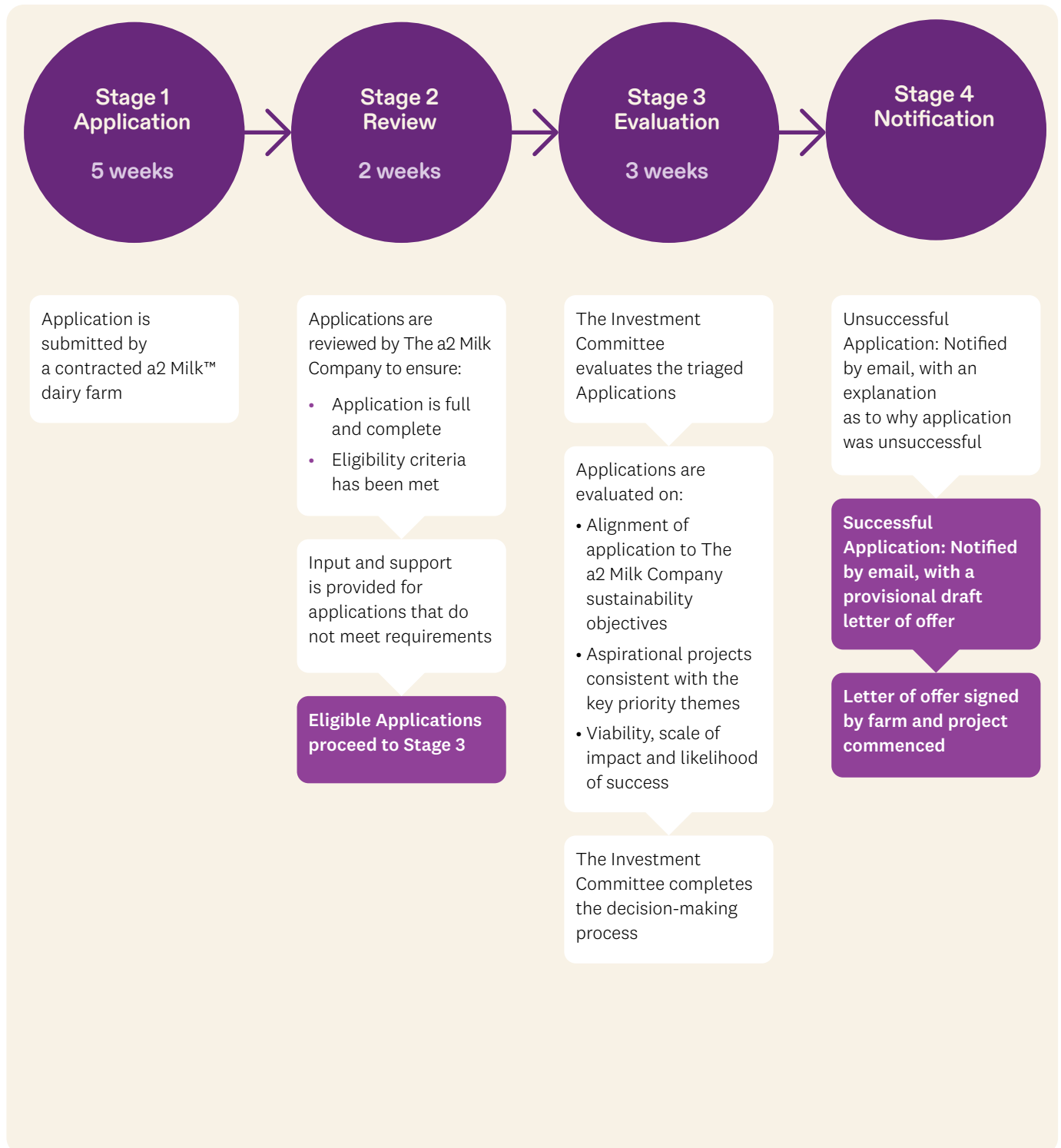
The information requested in the attached application form will be used for assessing applications. All information will be maintained according to strict privacy laws under which The a2 Milk Company and the investment committee operate.

Funding awards are available up to a maximum of \$35,000 NZD (or \$30,000 AUD) per project, excluding GST. Under special circumstances the Investment Committee will consider higher awards. The total award pool is \$630,000 NZD.

Recipients must acknowledge the funding from the a2™ 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?

No, only one application per supplier 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?

Applicants are advised on the outcome of their application approximately 6 weeks 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 / ABN to receive a grant?

Yes, a NZBN or ABN is required.



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.



Who assesses the applications?

Applications are evaluated by an Investment Committee comprised of industry experts in regenerative agriculture, soil health, animal health and wellbeing and farming systems.



For any general and farm enquiries, please contact:
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