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**Pilot Scottish venison local chill/processing project**

This communication follows up the previous circulation of a questionnaire (June/July 2021) to gauge initial response to a pilot venison local chill/processing project.

The Scottish Venison Association (SVA) is pleased to announce that it has secured funding from the Scotland Food & Drink Covid Recovery Fund to specifically support the development of local chills and/or primary processing. The aim is to test the feasibility of how such units may further enhance the capacity and capability of the sector to supply top quality venison either directly to the consumer, or to added value processors for further processing. Potentially up to three projects could be supported from the fund as part of a pilot exercise.

Activities must:

* demonstrate how they contribute to adding value to wild venison processing and the sale of local produce in Scotland
* demonstrate collective benefit to the supply chain
* be based and delivered in Scotland
* align with the Scotland Food & Drink Partnership’s Recovery Plan and the Scottish Venison Strategy and specifically demonstrate how the project will contribute to sector recovery at a regional level
* demonstrate legacy, with a plan for continuity and growth

If you have previously submitted a completed questionnaire please confirm that you now wish it to be taken forward as your formal application for support as a potential pilot. **Note that you should also complete the additional requested information below (**even if some of this information may already be included in your questionnaire response).

If you wish to amend or add more details to your original questionnaire response, please submit an amended version along with the additional requested information.

The amount of funding available is finite and is to support this pilot exercise only. Applications will be scored by a panel and decisions on successful pilot projects for support made on the basis of those scores.

The panel comprises representatives of SAOS, NatureScot and SVA, reporting to the Scotland Food & Drink Partnership and the Scottish Government.

If you have not submitted an application and wish to do so, then please either request a questionnaire for completion (or submit the questionnaire that you have) and **note the closing date 12 November 2021** by which date all applications must be received.

In addition to the questionnaire some further aspects/deliverables on which decisions will be based are also now being sought. All amended and/or additional information must be completed, signed and supplied by the closing date.

**1. Criteria for application**

1.1. Applications can be made by any individual, partnership, business or organisation. Where the application is on behalf of an organisation, it must have a ‘constitution’ or similar, stating its objectives, structure etc that can be made available on request.

1.2. Applications must be for projects that are deliverable within the budget advised in the submission. This will be underpinned by a simple business plan, forecasting outgoings and projected income. Before an award is made, the panel may request revised budgets, forecasts or evidence of projected costs.

1.3. Awards granted will not exceed 45% of the project costs (excluding the cost of land and existing buildings as they are not applicable for grant funding). Awards offered may be less than 45% at the discretion of the awarding panel.

1.4. The successful funding awards will be drawn down from the fund to a programme agreed between the panel and the applicant during the development and completion phases of the project. Payment will be made on submission of evidence of spend. Where the full amount of the award is not required then the award will be amended on a pro-rata basis.

1.5. Successful projects will be required to hold two demonstration/knowledge transfer events, one during development and a second post completion. These events will be held in conjunction with the Scottish Venison Association.

1.6. Successful projects will be requested to acknowledge the award through a specific form or words and/or logo to be made available for use on communications in connection with the project.

1.7. SVA and the project’s funding partners reserve the right to feature successful projects as ‘case studies’ which may include details of development costs and running expenses of their enterprise.

1.8. In addition to the questionnaire, completed by applicants in so far as is possible, applicants should also complete an additional short response outlining the key benefits of their project which will include environmental considerations; social, economic, health and well-being. They will also identify opportunities for community involvement/engagement.

1.9. All pilot projects will register with their local authority (and/or Food Standards Scotland as appropriate) to ensure that their scheme is legally compliant. The achievement of this registration and certification is an essential part of the pilot process.

1.10. All pilot projects must, following commissioning, apply to and be approved by the Scottish Quality Wild Venison (SQWV) scheme.

1.11. The closing date for applications is **17.00hrs, Friday 12 November 2021**

**2. Information requested in addition to the questionnaire**

(complete below or on a separate sheet)

2.1 Outline the benefits that will be delivered by your project for the environment (<150 words)

2.2 Outline the benefits that will be delivered by your project for the local economy, for jobs potentially, and for the community (<150 words)

2.3 Outline the benefits that will be delivered by your project in terms of health and well-being (<100 words)

2.4 Outline any other benefits that will be delivered by your project that are not covered in the above and how risks will be minimised (<150 words)

**Confirmation of application for this project to be considered for funding support for the Scottish venison local chill/processing pilot scheme**

Your name

Project name

Signature

E mail:

Tel:

Date:

Encs:
Completed questionnaire/questionnaire previously submitted

Additional information (2.1 – 2.4 above)

**Further information, questions on the above and submission of applications to:**

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26 October 2021