Instructions for Assisting Non-Internet Clientele with SDBII Grants Process:

All of the information and documentation for the Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) Grants opportunities are available online at the main UT Value Added Dairy page. If you have dairy farm clientele that do not use the Internet, then this guide will help you provide them with the information that they need to apply for the grants.

From https://sdbii.tennessee.edu/, click on the arrow beside "SDBII Business Grants" in the top bar menu, and the dropdown box will open with all the grant options. The current (on-farm) grant opportunities that are open through March 1, 2024 at 5pm, are the first two, "Farm Infrastructure Improvement" and "Precision Technology & Management." Dairy farms may apply for one, but not both types of grants in this cycle. If a farm received either category of grant in 2023, they are not eligible for the same category in 2024. There is also a "SDBII Grant FAQ" document available on that dropdown box that applies to all types of grants.

You may want to download and print all the materials for both types of on-farm grants for your non-Internet audience to review. You can download and print all 5 documents linked to each grant (see next page for screenshot.) However, remind them that they may apply for one, but not both in a single cycle. (They will need to decide whether they want to apply for infrastructure or technology, in other words during this spring 2024 cycle.)

Once the applicant decides which grant the farm will apply for, then they should complete the grant application and budget form for the grant they want to pursue. If they need to mail their completed applications, the address is on the "RFP" document as well as follows: Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, 244 Brehm Animal Science Building, 2506 River Drive Knoxville, TN 37996. Please remind applicants to either type or hand-write legibly so that their application can be read and reviewed easily!

Another item to note is that in order to receive an SDBII (or any other USDA-funded) grant, applicants must secure a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.GOV. If they don't use the Internet, this may be something you have to assist them with, but note that some unique and sensitive business information will be needed to complete the process (EIN or SSN, origination date for business, etc.) This process is free, but processing times are long so this should be started sooner than later. NC State Dairy Extension has posted a helpful guide for the UEI process on its Value-Added Resources Page: https://dairy.ces.ncsu.edu/value-added-dairy-resources/.

Completed SDBII Applications must be received by 5pm on Friday, March 1, 2024. Electronic submissions must be received by that time, so mailed application must be received by that time as well in order to be considered eligible. If you have additional questions, please see below:

Applicant States	Contacts, Phone	Email
TN, AL, FL and LA	Shep Stearns, (860) 595-6053 Liz Eckelkamp, (865) 974-8167	sdbiigrants@utk.edu
KY, AR, VA and WV	Jennifer Hickerson (859) 516-2458	j.hickersonkddc@gmail.com
NC, SC, GA and MS	Stephanie Ward (919) 515-4015	ncdairyextension@ncsu.edu

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