

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.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SDBII website. The browser's address bar shows 'sdbii.tennessee.edu'. The website's navigation bar includes 'MENU', 'UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE', and a search bar. The main navigation menu has items: 'Value-Added Dairy', 'Home', 'Our Team', 'SDBII Business Grants', 'SEVAD Conference', 'Outcomes', 'Resources', 'Other Opportunities', 'Contact Us', and 'Blog'. A red arrow points to the 'SDBII Business Grants' menu item, which has opened a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu contains the following items: 'Farm Infrastructure Improvement', 'Precision Technology and Management', 'Specialty Processing Equipment', 'Dairy Business Planning Grant', and 'SDBII Grant FAQ'. The background of the website features a photograph of cheese on a wooden surface with a 'Ky Bleu' label and a 'St. Jerome' label. Below the photograph, the text 'VALUE-ADDED DAIRY' is displayed. At the bottom of the page, there is a paragraph of text describing the SDBII program.

Value-Added Dairy

Home Our Team SDBII Business Grants SEVAD Conference Outcomes Resources Other Opportunities Contact Us Blog

Farm Infrastructure Improvement
Precision Technology and Management
Specialty Processing Equipment
Dairy Business Planning Grant
SDBII Grant FAQ

VALUE-ADDED DAIRY

The Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (SDBII) program is based at The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Animal Science Department. Key program collaborators such as the Center for Profitable Agriculture (CPA), NC State, the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC), and others, offer guidance and support to the program. SDBII's mission

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.)

The screenshot shows the website for the Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) at the University of Tennessee. The page is titled "UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE" and features a navigation menu with options like "Home", "Our Team", "SDBII Business Grants", "SEVAD Conference", "Outcomes", "Resources", "Other Opportunities", "Contact Us", and "Blog".

The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Grant Workbook Components:** This section provides information about the Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Request for Proposals and Budget Form. It states that award recipients will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) before the grant contract can be executed. A red arrow points to a list of download links for various forms: "RFP Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant", "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Budget Form", "Example Budget for Infrastructure Grant", "Grant Application Review Rubric", and "USDA AMS Allowable Unallowable Costs".
- Program Contacts:** This section lists contact information for three regions: Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, & Puerto Rico (Shep Stearns & Liz Eckelkamp); Kentucky, Arkansas, Virginia, & West Virginia (Jennifer Hickerson); and North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, & Mississippi (Brittany Whitmire & Stephanie Ward).
- Application Portal:** A link to "Begin Application Here" is provided.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system time as 10:29 AM on 1/29/2024.

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

	Brittany Whitmire (828) 577-8598	
--	----------------------------------	--