

Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant

University of Tennessee: Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII)

Eligibility and General Information

The Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant provides reimbursement funds to permitted dairy farm businesses located in the Southeast who are seeking funds to make farm facility updates (See grant RFP for details). Dairy businesses in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico are eligible. Applications may be submitted by current dairy businesses only. For the purposes of evaluating eligibility, dairy businesses are considered to include companies that are engaged in the production and/or processing of milk for commercial consumption and are permitted to do so by state and federal authorities. Eligible businesses may be involved in the production or processing of milk from cattle, sheep, goats, water buffalos, camels, and other dairy species. Projects that involve investments related to the sale of raw milk for human or pet consumption are not allowed. Applications are due March 4, 2026 at 5:00pm Eastern Time. Applications submitted after the deadline or missing key information will not be reviewed.

Project Name*

Please provide the name of your grant submission to the Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant program. Please provide a descriptive title of your proposed project, not just the name of your dairy business or yourself.

Character Limit: 100

Main Contact*

Please provide the name of the primary grant contact. This will be the individual who signs contracts and submits reimbursement requests. Answer should be provided as "Firstname Lastname", i.e. "John Smith".

Character Limit: 20

Email of Main Contact*

Please provide the email of the primary grant contact. This will be the individual who signs contracts and submits reimbursement requests and should be the same individual listed in the above question.

Character Limit: 50

Verify Email*

Please verify the email of the primary grant contact.

Character Limit: 50

Primary Contact Phone Number*

Please provide the phone number of the primary grant contact as (123) 456-7891.

Character Limit: 20

Project Impact*

Please select the target impact area for this project. Here are the definitions the SDBII uses:

Local: Within a few of counties

Regional: Spanning one or multiple states

National: Across the United States and/or in multiple regions

International: Focus on markets outside of the United States

Choices

Local (a few counties)

Regional (throughout the state and perhaps bordering counties)

National

International

Business Location

Please select the state or territory that is your main business location:

Choices

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

South Carolina

Tennessee

Virginia

West Virginia

Puerto Rico

Full-time Employees

Please provide the current number of full-time employees:

Choices

1-5

6-50

51-500

501+

Dairy Species*

Please select the species of dairy animal that your operation milks (select multiple if appropriate):

Choices

- Cow
- Goat
- Sheep
- Water Buffalo
- Other

Product Types*

Please select the type of products that your business produces:

Choices

- Raw Milk (Sold to a Processor)
- Fluid Milk
- Flavored Milk
- Ice Cream
- Cheese
- Yogurt
- Drinkable Yogurt
- Buttermilk
- Butter
- Other

Product Types (Other)

If you selected "other" in the question above, please specify what type of product that your business produces.

Character Limit: 250

Grant Preparation*

If someone other than the named individual above is submitting this grant, indicate your name and affiliation with the entity the grant was created for.

Character Limit: 50

Professional Assistance*

Please indicate below if you received professional assistance with review or completion of your grant outside of SDBII personnel.

Choices

- No
- Yes

Applicants who have been awarded a grant through SDBII in a previous cycle may not apply in the same grant category if they have a previous project in the same grant category that is still open (i.e. an open grant in the Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant category). A project is considered open if the grant contract period is still active, reimbursement funds remain unspent, and the award recipient has not been notified that their project is considered complete by SDBII personnel. Award recipients with an open project in one SDBII grant category may apply for funding in any SDBII grant category where they do not have an open project.

Applicants may not apply for two grants that are offered in the same cycle (e.g., two grants with the same due date such as the Precision Technology & Management and Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grants). Applicants who have been awarded one or more grants in previous cycles of the program may continue to apply and receive funding.

U.S. Business Eligibility*

Are you a current, United States-owned, licensed dairy business that develops, produces, markets or distributes dairy products (based on Code of Federal Regulations Title 15:801.2)?

Choices

Yes

No

UEI

Have you acquired a Unique Entity Identifier from SAM.gov? If so, please record it below. (Note: if you do not have a UEI yet, please apply for one now. Having a UEI is required for the contracting process if you are awarded a grant. Click [HERE](#) to view the website).

Character Limit: 20

Official Business Name*

Please provide the complete name of your dairy business. If you have a UEI from SAM.gov, this name should match that number.

Character Limit: 50

SDBII Assistance/Participation*

Have you received any assistance from personnel associated with SDBII (including over the phone or via email)? Check all that apply:

Choices

Area or state level meetings or workshops

I have not received any assistance from personnel associated with SDBII

In-depth business reviews through KCARD

Leadership (MILK, U-DAIRE, NAFDMA)

One-on-one consultation for farm improvement or value-added processing

Southeast Value-Added Dairy Annual Conference

Other

SDBII Assistance/Participation (Other)

If you selected "other" in the question above, please specify here.

Character Limit: 250

Section 1: GOAL ALIGNMENT & ELIGIBILITY

Goal Areas*

Please identify which of the following grant program goals (see RFP) your application supports. Check all that apply:

Choices

- Improvements to existing facilities to reduce the impact of heat stress
- Investments in raw milk storage, cooling capacity, and/or transportation efficiency
- Modernization and improvements to milk harvest
- Improvements to feed and forage management and storage opportunities
- Improvements to animal housing and environments
- Water, waste, and manure management improvements
- Investments to improve farm business structure

Project Abstract*

Please provide a one paragraph overview (3 to 5 sentences) of what your project will accomplish (including what equipment will be added and why). This will be shared directly with USDA AMS and on the SDBII website if awarded funding.

Character Limit: 600

Goal Alignment*

Provide a brief explanation (1 to 3 paragraphs total) as to how your application meets each goal category selected. If you have received technical assistance from SDBII please explain describe that here. Further details are expected elsewhere in the application.

Character Limit: 1500

Previously Awarded Grants

Have you received a grant through SDBII previously? Use the space below to list the title of each grant (if any), year received, and the current status of the project (e.g., complete or on-going).

Grant Title	Year Awarded	Status (Complete/Ongoing)

Section 2: PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Summary*

Describe your project and its intended outcomes. Please include details regarding the existing business such as location, company history, herd size, acreage, and total milk production. List and explain at least two specific outcomes with target completion dates that will result from this project and state the benefits in terms of improvements in profitability, efficiency (labor, time, capacity, production), animal and/or worker health and well-being, worker retention, or addition/maintenance of jobs. Provide background on the decision-making and planning process you engaged in while creating the proposal for this project. As a reminder, services and equipment already purchased and acquired at the time of application cannot be reimbursed in this grant program.

Character Limit: 5000

Street Address

Character Limit: 125

Total Project Cost*

Note: This is the cost associated with the project in its entirety, including requested funds, matching amount, and non-grant expenditures. This value should be larger than the "Requested Funds" value due to the match requirement.

Character Limit: 20

Requested Funds*

Note: These are the funds you are requesting from this grant, NOT the cost of the total project due to the match requirement (see RFP.) The maximum request amount for the Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant program is \$100,000.

Character Limit: 20

Milking Herd Size*

Character Limit: 15

Total Annual Production (in pounds)*

Character Limit: 15

Total Farm Acreage*

Character Limit: 15

Section 3: WORK PLAN AND DELIVERABLES

Planning for Challenges*

Describe the critical issues your business will face in completing the project. Explain how you plan on overcoming problems should they arise.

Character Limit: 5000

Workplan Timeline

Lay out the benchmarks (minimum of 3) and amount of time needed to complete each step of the project within the grant period. Provide a detailed explanation of the steps required to complete the overall project including the dates of completion. All listed items must contribute to your proposal's stated goals. Projects must be completed within 12 months. It is acceptable to complete a project before the scheduled performance period end date, but SDBII encourages initiatives to take the full grant period to allow ample time to complete all projects. Use August 1, 2026 as the estimated start date (note: actual start date will depend on duration of the contracting process) and an estimated end date of August 1, 2027.

Activity Description	Projected Date of Completion

Section 4: BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS

Business Fundamentals*

Use the space below to give projections on how the farm investments included in the project will pay off over time and justify project costs. Please estimate the dollar value of pay-back opportunities (such as increased milk production, decreased labor costs, improved feed efficiency, etc.). Estimate the amount of time it will take in years for this project to pay for itself through savings and/or increased profits. The payback period should be calculated against the total cost of the project rather than the out-of-pocket cost of the project. Explain the logic behind making these improvements given your existing farm infrastructure.

Character Limit: 5000

Section 5: BUDGET FORM

Budget Workbook Upload*

Please use this space to upload your grant budget workbook. You must use the workbook provided on the SDBII website available [HERE](#). Please do not create your own budget sheet. The completed excel sheet should be titled "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Budget Workbook - Last Name" with last name matching the contact shared in Question 2. For example, "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Budget Workbook - Smith".

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Quote Upload

Please use this space to upload any quotes associated with your grant. These should be titled "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Quote 1 - Last Name" with last name matching the contact shared in Question 2. If multiple quotes are attached, please label them sequentially, i.e. the second quote should be titled "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Quote 2 - Last Name", etc. Note** no more than 10 quotes total can be accepted by this form. If you have more than 10, please add those to the additional documentation section.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Quote

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Quote

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Quote

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Quote

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Quote

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Section 6: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of Support

Please use this space to upload any letters of support associated with your grant submission. These should be titled "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant LOS1 - Last Name" with last name matching the contact shared in Question 2. If multiple letters of support are attached, please label them sequentially, i.e. the second letter should be titled "Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant LOS2 - Last Name", etc. Note** no more than 5 total letters of support can be accepted.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Letter of Support

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Letter of Support

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Letter of Support

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Letter of Support

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Section 7: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information*

Use this space to explain anything additional regarding your project that you feel reviewers should know and has not been covered by the other questions. If you have received previous grants through sources other than SDBII, please describe them here (leveraging grant money from other sources is encouraged). If any quotes for equipment or services are missing, please explain why here.

Character Limit: 5000

Additional Document Upload

Please use this space to upload any additional documentation you may have not included elsewhere. This can include additional quotes, business plans, feasibility studies, etc. that could not be included above. Note** no more than 5 additional items can be accepted by this form.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

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You must not purchase anything you intend to request reimbursement for before receiving notification of an award and a fully executed contract with The University of Tennessee. If you purchase anything before this occurs, those purchases are not eligible for reimbursement.