



# Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative

## Alabama and Mississippi

While SDBII grant opportunities were originally available to Tennessee processors at the start of the program in 2020, the program reach expanded to include the states of Alabama and Mississippi in 2022 and further expanded to offer production-focused opportunities in 2023. Since funding opportunities have been available in Alabama and Mississippi, SDBII has awarded \$1.43 million across 12 grants for production and processing.

3

Farm-focused awards across 3 distinct dairy farm operations

8

Processing-focused awards across 7 distinct farmstead processors

1

Business planning award for a feasibility study

### Alabama and Mississippi Partnerships:

- SDBII partners:
  - University of Tennessee
    - Program contact for Alabama
  - North Carolina State University
    - Program contact for Mississippi
  - Assists with application development, technical assistance, and training for dairy businesses within the region
- SDBII contacts
  - Mississippi State University



### Previously Funded Processing Projects in AL & MS:

- Purchase and installation of a milk silo tank, chiller, somatic cell counter, and other equipment to expand the receiving and processing capacity of the farm
- Purchase and installation of a semi-automatic labeler with integrated batch coding printer to decrease production costs
- Purchase of two robotic milking systems to improve animal health and performance, and enhance labor efficiency
- Completion of a feasibility study to determine impacts of launching a value-added, organic dairy operation to the farm