



Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative

Kentucky Impacts

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 state of Kentucky in 2021 and further expanded to offer production-focused opportunities in 2023. Since funding opportunities have been available in Kentucky, SDBII has awarded \$2.6 million across 32 grants for production and processing.

23

Farm-focused awards across 21 distinct dairy farm operations

8

Processing-focused awards across 8 distinct farmstead processors

1

Business planning award for a feasibility study

Kentucky Partnerships:

- SDBII partner: Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC)
 - Program contact for Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, and Arkansas
 - Assists with application development, technical assistance, and training for dairy businesses within the region
- SDBII collaborator: University of Kentucky Extension
 - Provides technical assistance and research around consumer preferences with a focus on Kentucky dairy producers
- Dairy Gauge Benchmarking program
 - Structured way to assess financial performance under standardized financial statements and production measures
 - 17 Kentucky dairy farms participated in the program in 2024

Previously Funded Processing Projects in Kentucky:

- Purchase and installation of processing equipment to begin the production of yogurt and ice cream for direct-to-consumer sales
- Purchase of a manure spreader to improve environmental sustainability and labor efficiency
- Purchase and installation of equipment such as waterbeds, fans, free stall loops, and gates to improve cow comfort and reduce heat stress
- Purchase of automatic robotic milking systems
- Completion of feasibility study to evaluate local market and demand for certain dairy products to develop an on-farm processing operation

