



Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative North Carolina 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 North Carolina in 2021 and further expanded to offer production-focused opportunities in 2023. Since funding opportunities have been available in North Carolina, SDBII has awarded \$5.65 million across 52 grants for production and processing.

21

Farm-focused awards
across 19 distinct dairy
farm operations

23

Processing-focused
awards across 20
distinct farmstead
processors

8

Capacity, feasibility, and
succession planning
grants across 7 distinct
operations

North Carolina Partnerships:

- SDBII partner: North Carolina State University
 - Program contact for North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi
 - Assists with application development, technical assistance, and training for dairy businesses within the region
- SDBII collaborator: North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
 - Provides technical assistance and research on mammary health and milk quality with a focus on North Carolina dairy producers
- Dairy Gauge Benchmarking program
 - Structured way to assess financial performance under standardized financial statements and production measures
 - 6 North Carolina dairy farms have participated in the program

Previously Funded Processing Projects in North Carolina:

- Purchase and installation of processing equipment to begin the production of yogurt
- Purchase of wearable technology to improve cattle health and performance
- Purchase and installation of equipment such as fans, lighting, stanchions, bulk tanks, and more to improve milking efficiency and animal health
- Purchase of cheese processing equipment, such as a refrigerator, pasteurizer and chiller, to improve efficiency and meet demand
- Use of professionals to assist in transition planning as dairy businesses have transitioned to newer generations

