



# Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative

## Virginia and West Virginia

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 Virginia and West Virginia in 2022 and further expanded to offer production-focused opportunities in 2023. Since funding opportunities have been available in Virginia and West Virginia, SDBII has awarded \$3.19 million across 42 grants for production and processing.

**36**

Farm-focused awards across 31 distinct dairy farm operations

**3**

Processing-focused awards across 3 distinct farmstead processors

**3**

Capacity, feasibility, and succession planning grants across 3 distinct operations

### Partnerships:

- SDBII partners:
  - North Carolina State University
    - Program contact for Virginia
  - Kentucky Dairy Development Council
    - Program contact for West Virginia
  - Assists with application development, technical assistance, and training for dairy businesses within the region
- SDBII contacts
  - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
  - West Virginia Department of Agriculture

### Previously Funded Processing Projects in VA & WV:

- Completion of a feasibility study to determine the value and demand of value-added dairy products in the local market
- Purchase and installation of milk meters, cow monitoring system, and brush to improve animal performance and milk production
- Purchase and installation of a bulk tank, cooling and washing equipment, and plate cooler to improve milk harvest and cooling capacity
- Purchase and installation of milk labeling equipment to improve labor efficiency

