



Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative

The Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) program is based at The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture’s Animal Science Department. Key program collaborators such as the Center for Profitable Agriculture, North Carolina State University, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, and others, offer guidance and support to the program. SDBII’s mission is to spur growth for dairy producers and processors in the Southeast by helping them modernize and diversify through the production of value-added dairy products.



The program is funded by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition to the technical assistance and educational resources provided through SDBII, 50% of the program’s funding is awarded in grants made directly to dairy businesses to assist them in developing new and more profitable products and processes.

13 States/territories eligible for SDBII grant awards

5 Competitive grant programs offered

\$26M Awarded to dairy businesses

276 Unique projects funded
 >> 187 distinctive entities
 >> Benefitting 257 agriculture goods and services providers



Success stories available at sdbii.tennessee.edu

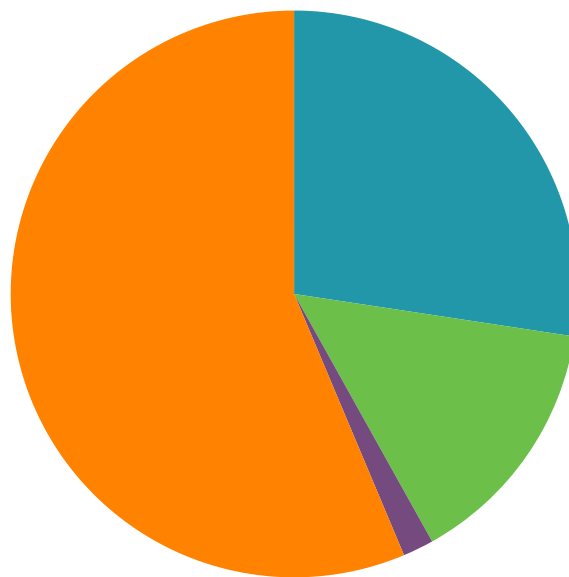


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Aside from **competitive grant opportunities to Southeast dairy businesses**, SDBII utilizes 50% of funding received from USDA-AMS to provide dairy businesses with free or low-cost resources. Funded resources include technical assistance, workforce development, and applied research.

Technical Assistance

- Grant aid to applicants and awarded dairy businesses
- Supporting Dairy Gauge, a farm-specific decision support tool to provide economic benchmarks
- Precision dairy quality lab, with resources such as somatic cell counting and milk and dairy product component analysis
- Exploring alternative revenue streams such as agritourism or on-farm processing



Workforce Development

- Education and leadership building opportunities for dairy producers, processors, and employees
- Internships including the Undergraduate Development and Internship Research Experience (U-DAIRE) program in collaboration with the University of Kentucky, NC State University and North Carolina A&T State University

Applied Research

- Consumer and market insights including willingness to pay for farmstead products and effects of production and retail methods on such, and demand and marketing outlets for farmstead dairy products
- Farm benchmarking and economic viability evaluation on the efficacy of government subsidy programs, rural land loss, on-farm processing costs, investments in precision technology, and small ruminant milk quality and on-farm processing
- Novel products and processes including new feed ingredients, food colorants, and methods to prevent freezer damage on cultured dairy products
- Producer and technology perceptions through producer perceptions of precision dairy technology and applied use precision technology and its data on dairy farms



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Existing Partnerships



6 Departments

4 Centers

32 Faculty & Staff

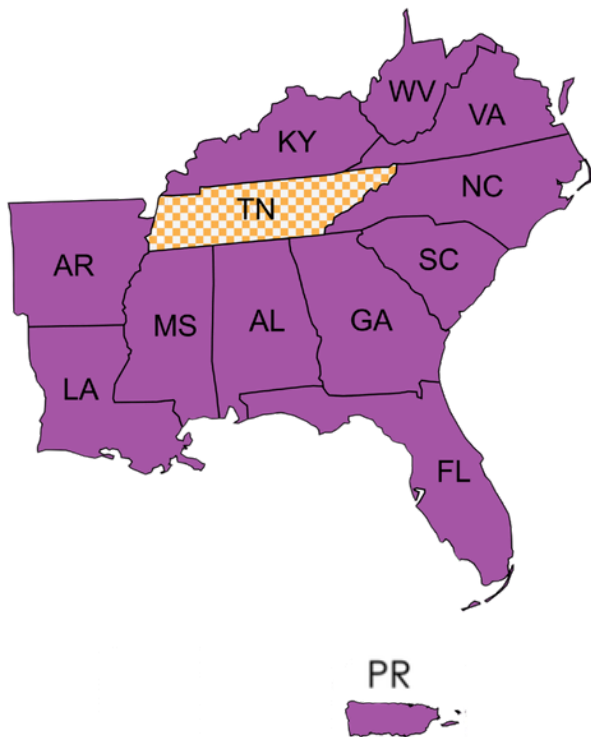
21 Graduate Students

31 Undergraduate Students

2 Departments

3 Faculty & Staff

2 Graduate Students



Southeast Region

10 Universities

6 Producer Organizations

2 Centers

3 Departments of Agriculture

2 Industry Partners

31 Faculty & Staff

3 Graduate Students