Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives:
Dairy Farm Business Grants

2024 Round Opens in January

SDBII
Southeast Dairy Business
Innovation Initiatives

Two "Pots" of Money

Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant:
- Maximum Award Amount: $100,000 per grantee
- Matching Funds on Allowable Expenses: 25% match (up to $25,000 in matching funds i.e., total project of at least $125,000 if asking for max)

Precision Technology Investment Grant:
- Maximum Award Amount: $200,000 per grantee
- Matching Funds on Allowable Expenses: 25% match (up to $50,000 in matching funds i.e., total project of at least $250,000 if asking for max)

1 Award/Farm/Year
Must flip-flop between "Pots" in successive years

Examples

Farm Infrastructure

- Equipment to increase parlor throughput and labor efficiency

- Improved feed and forage management and/or storage

- Equipment improvements to animal housing and environments

- Water, waste, and manure management improvements

Precision Technology

- Wearable technologies

- Technology-supported housing and cow comfort improvements

- Biotechnologies that can improve herd performance and longevity

- Automation of milking to improve milk quality and production

Unallowable Costs (examples)

✗Real estate purchases

✗Repayment of loans or mortgages

✗Rent or contract payments for time periods extending beyond the 12-month period allowed for eligible projects

✗Legal fees (for suits, disputes, etc.)

✗Lobbying, fundraising, or other political activities

✗Purchase of Vehicles

Competitive Grants = Thoughtful Proposals

Think beyond today
> Lots of applications, limited funds, don't just think about what's broken or needs to be replaced today

Strategic investments
> Applications that help position the dairy to be more competitive will perform better in review
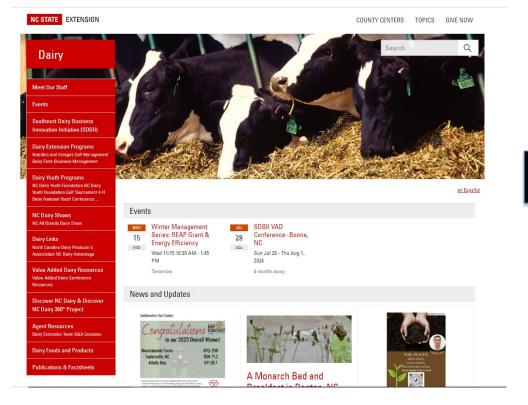
Demonstrate returns to dairy
> No matter what you ask for, show how it will impact your farm in terms of reduced labor, reduced cost, increased efficiency, increased profitability, etc.
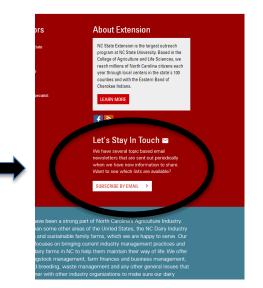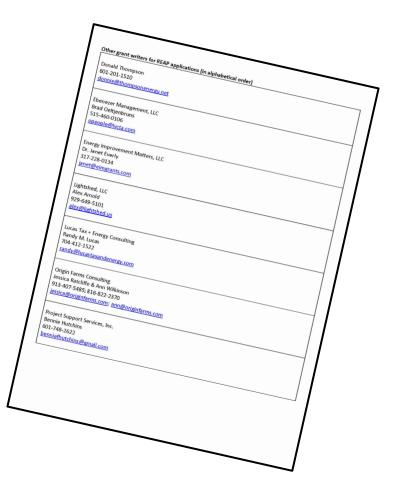
Contacts

Reach out to your state contact:

- ncdairyextension@ncsu.edu

- https://dairy.ces.ncsu.edu/

REAP Resources

> Are you a resource for dairy farmers interested in applying for REAP?
> If so, please submit your information to Brittany before you leave!
> Include your name, organization, contact information, type of service, geographic service area, etc.

Other grant writers for REAP applications (in alphabetical order)

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EnergyCAP Program