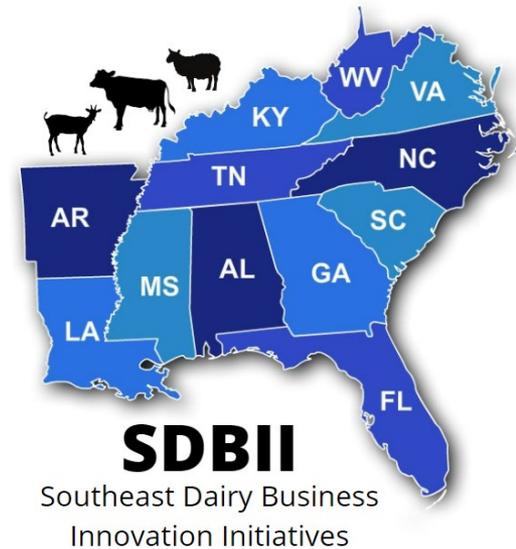


# Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives: Dairy Farm Business Grants

## 2024 Round Opens in January



# 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

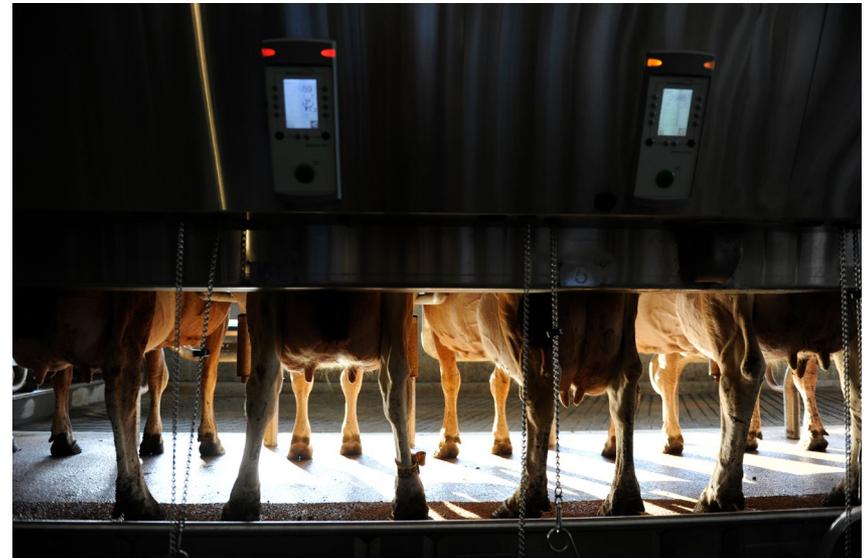
- > Lots of applications, limited funds, don't just think about what's broken or needs to be replaced today

## 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](mailto:ncdairyextension@ncsu.edu)
- <https://dairy.ces.ncsu.edu/>



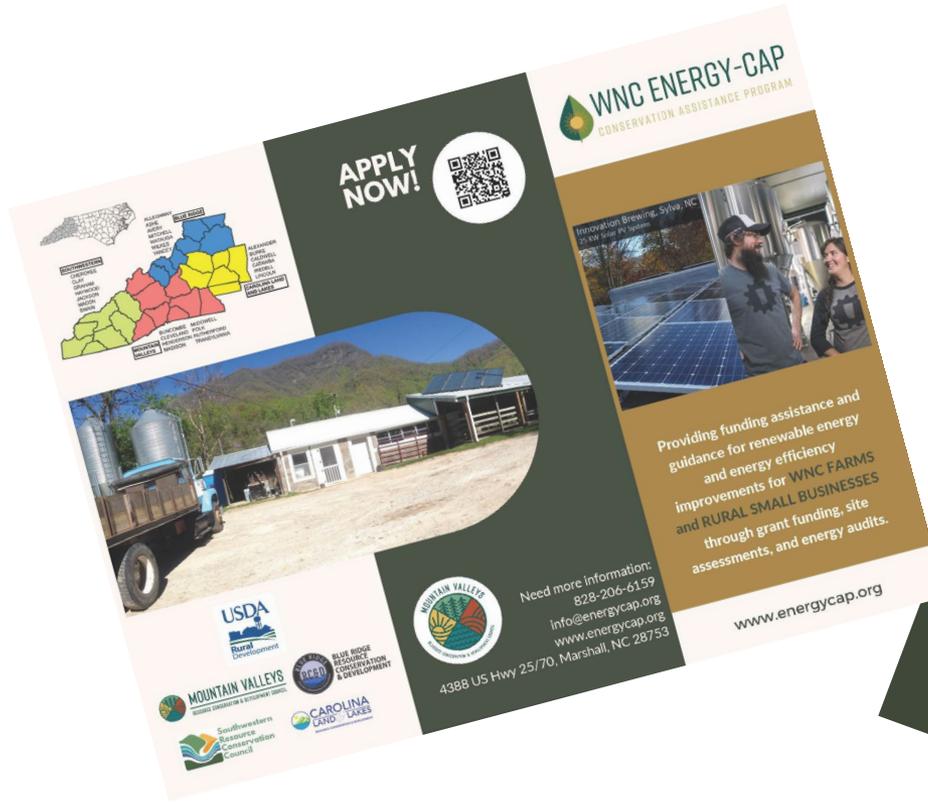
# REAP Resources

- > 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)

Donald Thompson 601-201-1510 <a href="mailto:dornie@thompsonenergy.net">dornie@thompsonenergy.net</a>
Ebenezer Management, LLC Brad Oeltjenbruns 515-460-0106 <a href="mailto:br@eople@lycta.com">br@eople@lycta.com</a>
Energy Improvement Matters, LLC Dr. Janet Everly 317-228-0134 <a href="mailto:janet@eimgrants.com">janet@eimgrants.com</a>
Lightshed, LLC Alex Arnold 929-649-5101 <a href="mailto:alex@lightshed.us">alex@lightshed.us</a>
Lucas Tax + Energy Consulting Randy M. Lucas 704-412-1522 <a href="mailto:randy@lucastaxandenergy.com">randy@lucastaxandenergy.com</a>
Origin Farms Consulting Jessica Ruffruffe & Ann Wilkinson 913-407-5485; 816-822-2370 <a href="mailto:jessica@originfarms.com">jessica@originfarms.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:ann@originfarms.com">ann@originfarms.com</a>
Project Support Services, Inc. Bennie Hutchins 601-748-2622 <a href="mailto:benniehutchins@gmail.com">benniehutchins@gmail.com</a>

# EnergyCAP Program



**WNC ENERGY-CAP**  
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**APPLY NOW!**

[www.energycap.org](https://www.energycap.org)

Providing funding assistance and guidance for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements for WNC FARMS and RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES through grant funding, site assessments, and energy audits.

Need more information:  
828-206-6159  
info@energycap.org  
www.energycap.org  
4388 US Hwy 25/70, Marshall, NC 28753

Logos: USDA Rural Development, Mountain Valleys, Southwestern Resource Conservation Council, Carolina Land, Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development, Mountain Valley.



**RURAL SMALL BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- The USDA uses a set of criteria to define "RURAL" and most cities contain both rural and urban areas.
- You must meet the Small Business Administration size standards.

**CONTACT US TO HELP YOU DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY**

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**USDA Rural Development**

- 50% of project costs** is paid for
- Reimbursement grant (paid after project)
- Efficiency AND renewables
- Maximum \$500,000 grant
- Application deadlines (October/December-March/June)
- FARMS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

**OTHER INCENTIVES**

FEDERAL TAX CREDIT, ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION, AND UTILITY INCENTIVES ALSO MAY BE AVAILABLE.

**NRCS**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- 75-90% of project costs** is paid for
- Reimbursement cost-share (paid after project)
- Efficiency AND renewables for irrigation systems, irrigation & building envelope/lighting
- Applications accepted 1x/year
- FARMS ONLY**

**PROJECT EXAMPLES**

- Solar PV
- Solar hot water
- High tunnel plastic replacement
- LED lighting
- Insulation
- Ventilation and fans
- Wood pellet heating
- Anaerobic digestion of manures
- Air-sealing doors and windows
- Variable-speed drive pumps
- Automatic temp. controllers
- 93% efficient propane heaters
- EnergyStar-rated cooling equipment replacement