

Dairy Productivity Grant Details

How is the Dairy Productivity Grant different than the Dairy Excellence Grant?

While the Dairy Excellence Grant has been very well received over the past five years, applications had a heavy interest in cow comfort strategies. With Pennsylvania's milk production per cow continuing to be below the national average, this grant will focus specifically on non-cow comfort strategies that directly impact milk production.

What is the objective of the Dairy Productivity Grant?

The Dairy Productivity Grant is focused on first time investments in **Milking Efficiency Technologies** (pipeline, automatic milking technology, robotic milking technology, and direct load milking), **Feeding Technologies** (TMR mixer, feed tracking and inventory technology), or **Activity Monitoring Systems** (Bolus, Collars or Tags).

How is the Dairy Productivity Grant Structured?

- The Dairy Productivity Grant is for first time investment projects only.
- It is a competitive grant opportunity with limited dollars available.
- Limited Window to Apply (December 3 - January 5, 2026). Applicants will be notified by January 15, 2026, with expenses/invoices due by June 15, 2026. Those not accepted into the program will have the application fee refunded to them.
- This is a reimbursable grant with a 25 percent match required to receive up to \$10,000 for the project you described on your application. You must submit documentation of your expenses incurred for that project to receive payment. The total payment you receive will be based on the total cost of the project and will be adjusted to 75 percent of that total cost.
- Acceptable projects:
 - **Milking Efficiency Technologies** (pipeline, automatic milking technology, robotic milking technology, and direct load milking)
 - **Feeding Technologies** (TMR mixer, feed tracking, and inventory technology)
 - **Activity Monitoring Systems** (Bolus, Collars or Tags)
- Committee assigned to select and approve applications.
 - The committee will base its selection on the following criteria:
 - The impact the project would have on the farm's milk production per cow.
 - The detail in which the applicant describes what the project involves and how the project will benefit their operation.
 - The willingness of the applicant to provide requested information or to seek help in providing requested information.
- Invoices for each of the expenses sent to the Center for Dairy Excellence must be submitted with a completed CDE expense form before **June 15, 2026**.
 - Invoices showing total expenses incurred for the project must accompany the submitted reimbursement form.
 - Invoices must be dated between July 1, 2025, and June 15, 2026.
 - **No expense reimbursements will be made until a W9 is received.**
 - Invoices/expenses and reimbursement form to be sent to: Center for Dairy Excellence, Attn: Melissa Anderson, 1140 Mountain View Rd., Shermans Dale, PA 17090.

Guidelines for Applying for Grant:

- Farms that have 35 or more lactating cows or dairy heifer raising operations with more than 100 dairy heifers are eligible to apply.
- Farms may not apply for this grant if they plan on utilizing the funding as a match for another state grant.
- The project must represent a first-time investment in that technology for the farm.