

## Dairy Excellence Grant Details

**Objective:** To support improvement projects that would support improved cow comfort, milk production per cow, or efficiency on the dairy.

### **Structure of Grant:**

- Competitive Grant Opportunity with limited dollars available
- Limited Window to Apply (October 1 – November 1, 2026)
- 50 percent match, up to maximum limit matching level of \$5,000
- Committee assigned to select and approve applications.
  - Committee will base its selection on the following criteria:
    - The impact the project would have on cow comfort and overall milk production
    - 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
- Projects would include anything related to improving dairy farm efficiency, cow comfort, milking facilities, housing facilities, or feeding system. The project should focus on improving milk cow comfort, milk production per cow and/or enhancing overall farm profitability and/or efficiency.
- A few ideas of improvements could be:
  - Fans, sprinklers or misters in free stall or tie stall barn
  - Curtains or other ventilation improvements
  - Mattresses or construction to move to deep bedded sand stalls
  - Variable speed vacuum pump
  - Cow brush or foot bath installation
- Part of application would be explanation on how improvement will help overall operation and aid in milk production per cow, efficiency and/or cow comfort.
- Applicant will be notified by November 20, 2026, with expenses/invoices due by June 30, 2027. Those not accepted into the program will have the application fee refunded to them.
- Invoices for each of the expenses sent to the Center for Dairy Excellence must be submitted with a completed CDE expense form before **June 30, 2027**.
  - Matching invoice must accompany expenses to be reimbursed.
  - Invoices must be dated between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.
  - **No expense reimbursements will be made until a W9 is received.**
- Invoices/expenses and expense form to be sent to: Center for Dairy Excellence, Attn: Melissa Anderson, 1140 Mountain View Rd., Shermans Dale, PA 17090.