

*Pennsylvania dairy farms of
ALL scales and types are eligible!*

CLIMATE-SMART TEAM GRANTS

Part of the CARAT Project



**Apply for Funding to
Invest in Climate-Smart
and Profitable Strategies
for Your Dairy!**

*CARAT (Climate-Smart agriculture that is profitable,
regenerative, actionable, and trustworthy) is a project funded through
the USDA Climate-Smart Commodities Partnership.*

As part of the CARAT Project being conducted by the Pennsylvania State University and its partners, dairy farms in Pennsylvania can apply to receive a Climate-Smart Team Grant from the Center for Dairy Excellence. These Climate-Smart Team Grants can be used to support projects and practices in feed, manure, and nutrient management that will lower the farm's greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing its economic sustainability. Practices that mitigate greenhouse emissions related to what goes into the front end of the cow and what comes out of the back end of the cow could qualify. To receive a grant, dairy farms must go through a three-step process that involves identifying the strategies that work best for your dairy. Learn more below.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? Any dairy farm based in Pennsylvania with **35** cows or more is eligible to apply. Dairy farms who meet the basic requirements of the grant will be able to work directly with a technical service provider (TSP) to identify climate-smart solutions for their dairy. With more and more funding becoming available, having those solutions identified will be incredibly helpful in taking advantage of those funding opportunities.

HOW MANY FARMS WILL QUALIFY? About **150** dairy farms will be approved through the pre-qualification process to work with a technical service provider to develop climate-smart plans for their operations. Upon review of those plans, **69** dairy farms representing various scales and types will be selected to receive funding through the CARAT Project to implement strategies identified in the plan. Those not selected will receive a copy of their final plan to use in securing other funding for implementation.

WHAT DOES THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?



WHAT IS A CLIMATE-SMART PLAN?

A technical service provider (TSP) will work with you to build on your Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to develop a climate-smart plan. That plan will look at your farm's existing feed and manure management strategy to recommend implementation strategies that would lower greenhouse gas emissions. You can choose your own TSP to work with. For those farms that don't have their own TSP they prefer to work with, the Center will connect them with a TSP from our list.



WHAT IS A CLIMATE-SMART TEAM?

Farms that are selected into the implementation stage are awarded funding through the Climate-Smart Team Grant. A Climate-Smart Team essentially consists of the farm, the technical service provider (TSP), and an implementation facilitator. The TSP who helped the farm develop the Climate-Smart Plan would work with the farm to identify which strategies they would implement and would then serve as the project lead to work with the farm. The Implementation Facilitator would be someone from Penn State Extension's Dairy Team who could serve as a liaison between the farm and the CARAT partners to ensure deadlines are met, work continues, and funds are reimbursed.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

All costs associated with the development of the climate-smart plan are covered through this grant opportunity. Once the plan is submitted for review, farms that are selected to receive Climate-Smart Team Grants will be awarded funding at the levels listed below. Up to 10 percent of the funding awarded can be used for technical services, permitting and design costs.

FARM CATEGORIES	AMOUNT OF TOTAL FUNDS
Farms with 35 - 199 cows	Up to \$75,000
Farms with 200 - 499 cows	Up to \$141,000
Farms with 500 or more cows	Up to \$250,000

Climate-Smart Teams will help farms identify and pursue additional funding opportunities for projects that exceed these amounts.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO APPLY?

Applications are approved on a rolling basis. The first **150** farms that apply and are accepted into the program will receive funding for development of the Climate-Smart Plan. A review committee will meet monthly to award Climate-Smart Team grant funding to farms with qualifying Climate-Smart Plans. These farms will move into the implementation stage, with funding provided on a reimbursement basis. Climate-Smart Plans will continue to be reviewed and farms will continue to be awarded Climate-Smart Team Grants as long as funding remains. This is a four-year project funded through USDA's Climate Smart Commodity Partnerships Program.



WHO CAN HELP ME APPLY?

The partners involved with the CARAT Project are The Pennsylvania State University, the Penn State Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science, Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, Red Barn Ag, and the Center for Dairy Excellence. Representatives from PDMP, CDE and Red Barn are available to assist with applications. Penn State Extension Dairy Team members are also available to help you navigate the application. If you're not sure who to call for help, start with the Center and call 717-346-0849 or email manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org.

