
Fiscal Year 2024 Description of Funded Projects

Number of Grants Awarded: 4
Amount of Funds Awarded: \$11,040,000.00

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/dbi>.

NOTE: The project descriptions below were provided by the grant recipients.

California

Recipient: California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno, CA

District: CA – 020

Project Type: Continuing Initiative

Award Amount: \$690,000.00

Website: <https://www.dairypcc.net/>

Dairy Business Innovation Initiative – Pacific Coast Coalition Phase V

The Pacific Coast Coalition - Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (PCC-DBII) Phase V will amplify and extend dairy business subawards, technical assistance, and coalition building initiated in prior Phases I-IV to stimulate regional innovation in California, Oregon, and Washington. Priorities include developing higher-value uses for milk, diversifying markets and income, realizing increased returns, and providing workforce training. Following established models of investing in human and targeted equipment capacity, the PCC-DBII furthers its capabilities in organizing and providing technical assistance as well as investing in the professional development pipeline of future dairy science employees/leaders through partnerships/collaboration with Cal Poly SLO, Oregon State University, Washington State University, Chapman University, California Dairy Innovation Center, and the Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council.

Tennessee

Recipient: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

District: TN – 002

Project Type: Continuing Initiative

Award Amount: \$3,450,000.00

Website: <https://cpa.tennessee.edu/>

Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative - Phase 7

The Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) will continue to provide support to the dairy industry across 12 Southeast states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). They have created a support network across 1) understanding value-added dairy opportunities (animal husbandry and farm sustainability), 2) dairy finances and decision-support tools, 3) food safety and product innovation projects, 4) marketing and training tools, and 5) leadership and workforce development. With the reduced funding available, the SDBII will prioritize awards to dairy businesses and administrative support necessary to facilitate those awards. Outcomes will include:

- Scholarships for leadership and training opportunities for dairy businesses.
- Competitive Subaward Programs for Southeast Dairy Businesses.
 - Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant
 - Precision Technology and Management Grant
 - Dairy Business Planning Grant
 - Specialty Processing Equipment Grant
 - Dairy Industry Impact Grant
- Creating Extension fact sheets, publications, decision tools, and video resources.

Vermont

Recipient: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Montpelier, VT

District: VT – At-large

Project Type: Continuing Initiative

Award Amount: \$3,450,000.00

Website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic>

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is committed to continued forward-thinking support for the region's dairy sector. As of August 2024, the NE-DBIC has awarded 333 projects with a total of \$31 million in funds, supporting an array of farm, processor, research, and technical assistance projects for the benefit of the northeast region. The additional funds in this round will expand the NE-DBIC's ability to provide grant funds primarily to farmers and processors for innovation and modernization projects. These grants have consistently demonstrated that targeted investments in project priorities that improve efficiencies, decrease energy use, and enhance sector resilience have immediate and long-term positive impacts for individual businesses and the entire supply chain.

Wisconsin

Recipient: The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Madison, WI

District: WI-002

Project Type: Continuing Initiative

Award Amount: \$3,450,000.00

Website: <https://www.cdr.wisc.edu/dbia>

Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBIA) - 2024

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), established in 2019, is a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA). Together with regional collaborators across eleven states (WI, MN, IA, SD, IL, MI, IN, KS, NE, MO & OH), the DBIA provides access to expertise, resources and insights to support dairy business innovation. This proposal will continue our current grant and technical assistance programs, supporting our region's dairy farmers, processors and farmsteads. The programs help building resiliency into dairy businesses as they get started, expand and/or transition into value-added products or new markets, including a focus on export markets.

DBIA's reimbursable Grant program assists in adding value to dairy through a focus on marketing, product development and plant operations. DBIA runs two grant programs annually and the funding provided with this award will enable dairy farmers and processors to leverage their finances as they start and/or complete their innovative projects. The DBIA Technical assistance program will continue to concentrate on providing access to quality dairy expertise to processors in the region, primarily via our mentorship program. Currently five experienced dairy professionals assist grant awardees with technical and operational expertise that is essential to the execution of their projects and growth of their businesses. The program also provides access and support in the new licensed CDR facilities where we can translate product concepts into commercial products.