

**California Department of Food and Agriculture**  
**2019 Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**December 28, 2018**

1. Are operations that were awarded previous AMMP funding eligible to apply for 2019 AMMP funds?  
No, operations awarded previous AMMP funding are not eligible for 2019 AMMP funding, unless new application represents a new site. Awards are limited to one per dairy or livestock operation site.
2. What is the definition of a dairy operation for purposes of AMMP?  
The applicant must be either a dairy or livestock operator. For the purposes of this program a dairy operation is defined as an entity that operates a dairy herd, which produces milk or cream commercially, and whose bulk milk or bulk cream is received or handled by any distributor, manufacturer, or any nonprofit cooperative association of dairy producers. A livestock operation is defined as an entity raising farm animals such as cattle, poultry, goats, sheep, swine and horses.
3. Can a dairy operation submit more than one application?  
Yes, dairy operations may submit more than one application; however, each application must represent a unique project site.
4. Is the maximum grant award \$750,000 per dairy operation or per application?  
The maximum grant award is \$750,000 per application. An applicant may submit multiple grant applications; however, each grant application must represent an individual project at a unique project site (i.e., dairy or livestock operation).
5. Can an organization apply on behalf of the dairy operation?  
Yes, organizations may submit an application on behalf of the dairy operation. However, the application must include the dairy operation's legal business name and tax identification number. If awarded, the grant agreement will be between California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the dairy operation.
6. What types of organizations are eligible to submit an application on behalf of an agricultural operation?  
There are no prohibitions against the types of organizations that may submit the proposal on behalf of the applicant organization. Keep in mind that only dairy operations are eligible to be the applicant organization. The dairy operation listed in the application is the entity to which CDFA will extend a Grant Agreement if the project is selected for an award.
7. What is the maximum grant duration for any proposed project?  
The maximum grant duration is two (2) years. Projects can have a duration of less than two years, but grant funds cannot exceed this timeframe. Grant funded activities cannot be conducted before October 1, 2019 or after September 30, 2021.
8. When the dairy operation is leasing land, does the land owner need to apply on behalf of the agriculture operation?  
No, the dairy operation can submit an application. It is the responsibility of the dairy operation to comply with the terms of their lease agreement. CDFA encourages all applicants to notify the land owner of the proposed project and secure their consent to implement the project. If awarded, CDFA will enter into a grant agreement with the dairy operation.

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9. Is there a minimum threshold for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions?  
No, there is not a minimum threshold for GHG emissions reductions as long as GHG reductions can be quantified using the California Air Resource Board (CARB) quantification methodology. Refer to page 9 of the Request for Grant Applications for detailed information regarding the CARB quantification methodology.
10. Where can applicants that were unable to attend the workshops or webinar find the materials from these presentations?  
Materials from the 2019 AMMP workshops will be available on the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) AMMP website at [www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammp/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammp/).
11. Is CDFA able to provide inexperienced applicants with technical assistance on how to prepare and submit an application?  
To maintain the integrity of a competitive process, CDFA is required to provide the same level of assistance to all applicants. Unfortunately, it is not feasible for CDFA to provide one-on-one technical assistance to all prospective applicants. However, all prospective applicants are encouraged to attend one of our workshops and webinars to learn more about applying to the Program. In addition, CDFA strongly encourages prospective applications to seek technical assistance from the list of providers posted on [CDFA's AMMP website](#).
12. Where can applicants find information regarding the 2018 AMMP Technical Assistance Workshops?  
A list of all Technical Assistance Providers is available at [\(AMMP website\)](#). All Technical Assistance Providers are available to provide one-on-one assistance to applicants. In addition, some Providers may conduct workshops. CDFA will update the list of workshops periodically (if any). Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the [\(AMMP webpage\)](#) frequently for updated information.
13. Can AMMP funds be used at sites with proposed or existing anaerobic digesters funded by CDFA?  
Operations that have already installed, or plan to install an anaerobic digester system funded by CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) or operations that previously received AMMP funding. Projects with existing non-DDRDP CDFA funded digesters can apply for funding to reduce methane emissions from manure not being treated in the digester system.
14. Can more than one of the manure management practices (a) – (i) be used in conjunction with solid separation and can these practices be off farm?  
Yes. Applicants should identify how most of separated manure volatile solids will be managed as the primary practice. The AMMP Benefits Calculator Tool allows separated solids to be apportioned between up to two different practices. If the applicant utilizes more than two, the primary and secondary practices should be identified in the Tool. Separated solids may be treated/stored off farm, but the applicants should note that transportation related GHG emissions are included in the project boundary, so they should estimate and report annual fuel use required for transporting the separated solids offsite.
15. Can solid separation and conversion from flush to scrape be selected as stand-alone practices?  
No. Methane Conversion Factors (MCF's) are only available for practices which describe how the manure is handled rather than just the technologies of solid separation or scraping.

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16. Are there other eligible practices available for AMMP funding?  
The only practices eligible now are those for which a quantification methodology is available. If an applicant proposed to showcase a new technology or practice, they may be eligible to apply to [AMMP Demonstration Projects – New Technologies and Practices](#).
17. Will Air Districts and/or the Regional Water Boards expedite the permitting process for these projects?  
CDFA is unable to provide commitment for permitting processes implemented by the Air Districts or Regional Water Boards. Applicants should direct questions regarding permitting processes to their respective Air District or Regional Water Board. For a list of permitting agencies relevant to a location (city or county), visit [CalGold](#), a useful online resource provided by the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development.
18. Should an applicant use industry standard defaults or operation-specific values for the percent of milk fat, protein, and lactose when calculating energy-corrected milk?  
Applicants are encouraged to use dairy-specific data for the percent of milk fat, protein, and lactose to eliminate feed-efficiency differences between different cow breeds.
19. The CARB Benefits Calculator Tool considers the number of cows based on averages from the prior 12 months. Since a dairy may expand its herd, can an applicant provide maximum permitted herd size level instead?  
Herd size calculated as average from the prior 12 months is consistent with the CARB Compliance Offset Protocol - Livestock Projects. Project baseline GHG emissions and estimated GHG reductions are determined based on current herd size. Once a project is awarded, the project may not change or alter the proposed manure management practice to be implemented or change herd size beyond the dairy’s existing permits.
20. How does CDFA determine that a proposed technology is well-suited to a project?  
CDFA relies on the expertise of the technical reviewers and the AMMP Technical Advisory Committee to evaluate effectiveness of proposed technology employed to reduce GHG emissions at a dairy or livestock operation while accounting for current manure management practices employed at the dairy.
21. Under unallowable cost section, what does CDFA mean by “cost covered by another State or Federal grant program”?  
CDFA cannot fund project costs or tasks funded by another Federal or State program. In other words, applicants cannot “double dip” by requesting CDFA to cover project expenses or tasks already funded by another Federal or State program. However, project expenses or tasks not covered by AMMP can be covered by matching funds from other State or Federal grants.
22. Is construction of a roof to cover compost piles so they are prevented from re-wetting in rain, an allowable cost?  
Yes, the cost of constructing a roof specifically related to the implementation of composting practices is an allowable cost.
23. When are grant recipients required to submit the annual five-year post-project report to CDFA?  
At the end of the project term and/or the alternative management practice becomes operational, recipients will be required to submit to CDFA annual five-year post-project report on a CDFA-provided template.

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24. What is the difference between funds requested, local cost match, and total budget?  
Funds requested is the amount of 2018 AMMP funding requested from CDFA and must not exceed \$750,000. Local cost match is the amount of Cost Share (matchings funds and in-kind contributions committed to the project). Total budget is the sum of funds requested and local cost match.
25. What attachments are required to be submitted with the application?  
A list of required attachments is outlined on pages 15-18 of the 2019 AMMP Request for Grant Applications.
26. How do you attach project designs to the application?  
All documents associated with the application should be uploaded to the appropriate section of the application. For more information, please visit the application portal at [https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa\\_ammmp](https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa_ammmp).
27. Can dairy operations request funds for the cost of the project design?  
No, funding can only be requested and utilized for project implementation. The dairy operation is responsible for any costs associated with the project design.
28. Would an applicant attach the printed results from the Benefits Calculator Tool or should the Excel workbook be attached?  
The entire Excel workbook should be attached, along with the Benefits Calculator Tool results.
29. Can bids from companies be attached in lieu of the budget worksheet to support project cost?  
No, the Budget Worksheet is a required attachment. Applicants must download, complete and attach the Budget Worksheet with the application. The budget worksheet can be downloaded from page 16 of the Request for Grant Applications or by accessing CDFA's AMMP website [www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammmp/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammmp/)
30. If a contractor provides an estimate with costs for Supplies and Equipment within Labor, do those costs need to be broken down per item and listed within the appropriate budget categories?  
Yes, only costs for labor should be included within the contractor category of the Budget Worksheet. Cost for items less than \$5,000 per unit should be included under Supplies. Costs for items greater than \$5,000 per unit should be included under Equipment. Costs for taxes on any budget item should be included under the Other category.