

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
2017 Alternative Manure Management Program
Frequently Asked Questions
August 21, 2017**

General Questions

1. What is the funding source for the 2017 Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and how much money is available?
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) received funding from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). CDFA has \$9-16 million for Alternative Manure Management Practices (AMMP).
2. What is the maximum grant award that will be funded under AMMP?
The maximum grant award CDFA will fund is \$750,000 per project.
3. When are AMMP grant applications due?
2017 AMMP grant applications must be submitted through the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) [Financial Application Assistance Submittal Tool \(FAAST\)](#) by 5 pm. PST on October 2, 2017.
4. Who is eligible to apply?
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. Developers and contractors may assist in the submittal of the application and undertake a Project Manager role.
5. In order for AMMP grant applications to be considered complete, what forms and attachments are required?
Grant applications must include all the required attachments and answers to all FAAST application questions.
6. Will CDFA provide answers to specific questions, or assist applicants with their grant applications?
To maintain the integrity of the competitive grant process, CDFA is unable to advise and/or provide applicants with feedback on specific grant applications.
7. How can I get more information regarding the SWRCB's FAAST system?
Applicants seeking additional information should visit the [SWRCB FAAST FAQ](#).
8. If work by a contractor/consultant is performed outside the AMMP project term, can those expenses be submitted to CDFA for reimbursement?

CDFA can only reimburse for expenses that occur during the AMMP project term (i.e., February 1, 2018 – January 31, 2020).

9. When are grant recipients required to submit the annual five year greenhouse gas emissions report to CDFA?
At the end of the project term and/or the alternative management practice becomes operational, CDFA will require grant recipients to begin submitting the annual five year greenhouse gas emissions report.
10. Can AMMP funds be used at sites with proposed or existing anaerobic digesters?
Operations that have already installed, or plan to install an anaerobic digester system funded by CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (AMMP) are not eligible for funding through AMMP. Projects with existing non-AMMP CDFA funded digesters can apply for funding to reduce methane emissions from manure not being treated in the digester system.
11. How will CDFA determine the reasonableness of job creation claims?
CDFA will rely on the expertise of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to evaluate applicant claims relative to the overall project plan.

Technical Questions

12. Can more than one of the manure management practices (a) – (h) be used in conjunction with solid separation and can these practices be off farm?
Yes. Applicants should identify how the majority of separated manure volatile solids will be managed as the primary practice. The AMMP GHG Calculator Tool allows separated solids to be apportioned between up to two different practices. If the applicant utilizes more than two, the two primary 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.
13. 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.
14. Are there other eligible practices available for AMMP funding?
No, not at this time. The only practices eligible are those for which a quantification methodology is available. CDFA and ARB will consider adding additional practices in the future as more data from numerous research efforts becomes available.
15. What is the distinction between pre-commercial and commercial technologies?
Please see Appendix D of the Request for Grant Applications ([RGA](#)) for specific definition of commercially-available technologies. To be eligible for AMMP funds, technology

components employed in proposed projects must be commercially available.

16. Will the 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.

17. 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 (ECM)?
- CDFA encourages applicants to use dairy-specific data for the percent of milk fat, protein, and lactose to eliminate feed-efficiency differences between different cow breeds.

18. How are the following GHG emission reduction metrics scored: (1) total project emission reductions over 5 years; (2) GHG reduction per unit of energy-corrected milk (ECM) produced by the dairy operation over 5 years; (3) GHG reduction per dollar 2017 AMMP grant money requested over 5 years; and (4) GHG reduction per dollar total GGRF grant money requested over 5 years.

Applications will be competitively ranked on their total scores and not individual values of scoring criteria, such as estimated GHG emission reductions.

19. The ARB GHG Reduction Calculator 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 ARB Compliance Offset Protocol - Livestock Projects. Project baseline GHG emissions and estimated GHG reductions are determined based on current herd size. Since a future expansion would result in increased baseline emissions, additional GHG emissions reduction benefits will not be considered.

20. Does the ARB GHG Reduction Calculator account for differences in cow housing, since this impacts quantity of manure collected and stored?

Input fields in ARB GHG Emission Reduction Calculator have been modified to account for differences in cows housed in freestall or open lot corrals.

21. Does the ARB GHG Reduction Calculator account for cow breeds, since they can have varying methane emissions?

CDFA encourages applicants to use dairy-specific data for the percent of milk fat, protein, and lactose to eliminate feed-efficiency differences between different cow breeds.

22. How would CDFA determine that a proposed technology is well-suited to a project?

CDFA will rely on the expertise of the TAC 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.

Budget Questions

23. If an applicant has **secured** a grant from another State or Federal program, are those separate grant funds considered “matching funds” for the proposed AMMP project?
Yes, grant funds received from another State or Federal program are considered matching funds. Applicants must identify the project costs that will be covered by other State or Federal grant funds in the Budget Worksheet under the “State/Federal Funds” column. Also, applicants must include additional information regarding the other State or Federal funding sources, including the program name, in the “Description” column.
24. The Matching Funds section in the RGA states, “Activities funded under the AMMP cannot duplicate tasks of the project work funded by another Federal or State program.” What does CDFA mean by “duplicate tasks”?
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.
25. Can unallowable costs for the AMMP be considered as matching funds to the proposed project?
Yes, unallowable costs for the AMMP can be considered as matching funds to the proposed project.
26. How often will grant recipients receive reimbursement for project expenditures?
Grant recipients must submit quarterly invoices for reimbursement for project expenditures.
27. What is the difference between matching funds and in-kind contributions?
Matching funds refers to a dollar amount committed to a project from a source other than the AMMP. An in-kind contribution is the estimated dollar value of any time, property, or supplies donated to a project.
28. Can an awardee accept an award amount less than that originally proposed in the application?
Yes. CDFA may offer an award different than the amount originally requested.