

2023 Dairy Plus Program Questions and Answers (Q&A)

August 3, 2023

1. Is it possible to start working on a proposed system with activities/costs not included in the project budget? If so, are there any limitations in these pre-project activities? Are there specific activities (still necessary for the implementation of the project but not included in the budget worksheet) that are not allowed? For example, can they include construction, supplies, equipment, labor?

Applicants can begin pre-development activities such as those that may increase project readiness (examples – submitting permit applications, obtaining design or engineering documents). If occurring prior to or at time of application, those items would generally not be included in the proposal's Budget Worksheet. CDFA cannot reimburse costs incurred outside of a grant agreement term (for example, prior to application submission or during application review). Currently, there is no guidance on what types of pre-project activities that are allowed. If pre-project/pre-development activities include major components of manure management being captured by the Benefits Calculator Tool but are occurring prior to the project term, there may be question on whether those GHG reductions can be accounted for or accepted in a proposal.

For programs that require matching funds, it is strongly recommended to wait until the project term so that they can be counted towards the matching requirement.

2. A producer has a current AMMP project that is likely to be done later this year (i.e., 2023) – would their operation be eligible to receive Dairy Plus Program funding if the AMMP project is complete before the Dairy Plus Program funding decisions are made?

No, a previous AMMP recipient would need to have their AMMP project for a particular operation completed and closed at the time of application for additional funding through Dairy Plus Program.

3. Will the score of an AMMP project include the benefits resulting from the Dairy Plus Program component? If AMMP and Dairy Plus Program projects are scored separately, would a low AMMP score for what will be only a part of the improvements planned for a dairy impact the opportunity to access the Dairy Plus Program funding?

For those applying for both a new 2023 AMMP project and 2023 Dairy Plus Program funding, the AMMP portion of the application will be scored separately from the Dairy Plus Program portion, which aligns with the application guidance to keep the components and practices for each application as distinct as possible. As the AMMP portion of a comprehensive proposal will be ranked amongst other AMMP only projects (which helps ensure AMMP only applicants are not disadvantaged either), this is not anticipated to have a large impact on access to Dairy Plus Program funding.

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4. If a dairy applies for AMMP and Dairy Plus Program, but does not get awarded the AMMP grant, will they lose the whole project including the Dairy Plus Program opportunity?

Yes, at this time, if the new AMMP or DDRDP proposal does not rank high enough to be awarded, consequentially the Dairy Plus Program portion would also not be awarded. Dairy Plus Program funding is linked to and leverages AMMP or DDRDP funds, and the project should be in addition to and building on the AMMP or DDRDP component.

5. Does a dairy's financial strength significantly affect whether or not they are selected for the AMMP / Dairy Plus Program grants? In other words, are dairies with negative amounts on their tax returns less likely to be awarded for the AMMP & Dairy Plus Program grants?

Financial review to assess an operation's financial soundness and likely ability to fund upfront costs while waiting for reimbursement, as well as sustain the project through and beyond the grant term, occurs for the AMMP or DDRDP portions of a proposal – this makes up 5 points within the Budget and Financials section. Operations can also choose to submit more than tax returns to provide a fuller picture. Please note, project partners must not have filed for bankruptcy in the past five years.