

2023 Alternative Manure Management Program Questions and Answers (Q&A)

July 20, 2023

1. In the Project Narrative Microsoft Word template, should we delete or leave the prompt questions?

Either is OK. The instructions and prompts for each Project Narrative section are now located at the end of the template, following a Section Break; they are also available separately, linked on the AMMP webpage. Before attaching the Project Narrative as a Word document in an application, you may either delete the pages with instructions or leave them, if you have any trouble. The instruction pages will not count towards the overall Project Narrative page limit (10 pages).

2. Can a weeping wall be the primary separator required for vermifiltration, or does it require an additional mechanical separator?

As currently written in the RGA under eligible practices, and the way the AMMP Benefits Calculator is set up, a primary mechanical separator is required to be implemented in front of a vermifiltration system. A weeping wall is considered a non-mechanical separator. If a weeping wall is a feasible method of primary separation to remove coarse fibers before the effluent is applied to a vermifilter and there are examples or data to support it, it could be submitted through a New Practices Request for Proposals and may be considered for future updates.

3. Is there a third-party option in the application? Should we designate our third party up front, or just have them handle our application directly?

An organization may submit an application on behalf of a dairy or livestock operation. If awarded, the grant agreement will be between the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the dairy or livestock operation. In the online application, a Submitter can be identified separately from the Applicant.

4. Any insight on Cost Share? In 2022, 95% of the awarded applications had some form of cost share proposed.

For AMMP, cost share (matching funds or in-kind contributions) is encouraged but not required. There are no specific scoring criteria based on the presence or magnitude of matching funds proposed. However, the presence of cost share may serve as evidence to demonstration industry commitment to, or support for, the project.

5. Are Financials (Attachment 4) required to be submitted for previous AMMP recipients who are only applying for the Dairy Plus Program?

No, previous AMMP recipients with a completed and closed out project applying only for the Dairy Plus Program are not required to submit financial documents again.

6. Can a dairy that has not applied to these programs before skip AMMP and apply directly for Dairy Plus, as it has a higher funding cap?

No, at this time the only eligible applicants for the Dairy Plus Program are those applying for a new AMMP or DDRDP project along with Dairy Plus, or past AMMP or DDRDP

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recipients seeking to enhance manure and nutrient management of their past completed and closed out project. We have committed under the USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities grant, where the Dairy Plus Program incentive funds are from, to contribute a certain amount of State (i.e., AMMP or DDRDP funding) and private matching funds towards the Dairy Plus projects. Additionally, the AMMP and DDRDP review processes are robust, which are expected to lend strength to the fundability of projects selected for the Dairy Plus Program award.