

2024 Alternative Manure Management Program Questions and Answers (Q&A)

October 3, 2024

1. A facility has an existing separator system installed about 15 years ago to handle a certain number of animals. The number of animals on the facility has since significantly increased and a new separator is needed. Can the operation apply to the grant or is that considered repairing defunct or non-functioning equipment?

An eligible solid separation project proposal may either be the installation of a new solid separation system at a dairy or livestock operation that does not currently employ solid separation, or the installation of a new solid separation system with significantly higher separation efficiency than the existing solid separation technology may be eligible (Request for Grant Applications, page 9).

2. A facility currently flushes manure into an existing non-CDFA funded digester. Can this facility apply to the AMMP to do a flush to scrape conversion, but continue to send the manure liquids, after separation, into the digester?

An operation with an existing non-CDFA funded digester may apply for AMMP funds to reduce methane emissions from manure not being treated in the digester system (RGA, page 7). In this scenario, the manure that would be affected by the AMMP proposal is already entering a digester system and the methane from its anaerobic decomposition is being captured. Implementing an AMMP practice for the manure stream entering a digester, while it may improve efficiency of manure handling and water use, would not result in avoided methane emissions under the program's current quantification methodology.

3. A facility has a digester that was installed with CDFA DDRDP funding and has been and in production for 3-5 years. Can the facility apply to AMMP to install a compost bedded pack barn? Does the age of the digester or time after DDRDP funding affect anything?

AMMP and DDRDP grant funding is based on a unique dairy (or livestock for AMMP) operation/facility. AMMP grant funds cannot be used to fund projects on operations that have already installed an anaerobic digester system funded by CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) (RGA, page 10). Past AMMP/DDRDP project location is checked during administrative review, and an application would be disqualified if it AMMP funds were being requested for the same site as a past completed or in progress AMMP or DDRDP project.

At this time and as current program guidelines are written, the age of the digester or length of time that has passed after its installation or grant funding award does not impact this eligibility language.

2024 Alternative Manure Management Program Questions and Answers (Q&A)

October 3, 2024

4. How would one represent energy use associated with manure management activities in the Benefits Calculator Tool if the dairy has solar? If meters used for manure management are connected to the solar panels, the energy number is a negative number.

The electricity consumption field in the Benefits Calculator Tool assumes grid consumption, and impacts GHG and criteria air pollutant emissions calculations. It is recommended to use this field to estimate only the grid consumption associated with manure management. While it would cause the energy usage co-benefits to be low, it would make the GHG reduction and criteria air pollutant emissions more accurate. If hypothetically the solar covered all of the manure management energy use, numbers entered should be at lowest 0 (not negative). If grid usage can't be parsed out, the recommendation is to enter all energy usage to be conservative.

In either case, the presence of solar and the numbers selected for use in the Benefits Calculator Tool electricity consumption field should be described so it is clear – Attachment 5.1 (Explanation of Assumptions for GHG Calculations) and/or the Description of Stationary and Mobile Sources associated with Manure Management Activities included in GHG Emission Calculations table at the bottom of the Project Data Inputs tab could be used.