

California Department of Food and Agriculture
2024 Dairy Plus Program
Questions and Answers (Q&A)*
September 13, 2024

1. Do the permits need to be approved before we send in the Dairy Plus Program grant application?

No, for the Dairy Plus Program permits do not need to be approved or be on hand at the time of application. Project readiness is a factor, and permits may take a long time to be obtained prior to the grant application. However, an awardee should be prepared to have all relevant permits in hands before breaking ground and starting an approved Dairy Plus Program (DPP) project.

2. What if our AMMP project was a compost bedded pack barn and we don't have any separators but would like to add a Dairy Plus Program project such as a separator with flocculates. How would that work?

Please refer to DPP Request for Grant Applications (RGA), under Eligibility and Exclusions, it states "previous AMMP recipients (i.e., from 2017 through 2023 AMMP) with a closed-out project or still in progress are eligible to apply for the 2024 Dairy Plus Program. The proposed project must be for an advanced manure management practice addressing both GHG emissions and nitrogen and salt surplus specified in the list above. Any previous AMMP recipient may be eligible to apply regardless of the past practice type implemented, but for certain practices (i.e., compost bedded pack barn, conversion from flush to scrape, pasture-based management), the proposed advanced practice must address the portion of the herd not already covered by the in progress, or previous, AMMP project, as the manure handled by those systems should already be largely removed from a liquid waste stream."

3. Can USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds be used as a Dairy Plus Program match?

Yes, EQIP can be matching funds for the Dairy Plus Program. However, it is not possible for applicants to receive EQIP funds for the same practice and at the same time as the practice funded by the Dairy Plus Program. This is because both programs are funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

4. Where can I find more information about Dairy Plus Program presentations and training resources?

Dairy Plus Program presentations and training resources are available on CDFA's Dairy Plus website (at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/dairyplus/>) and California Dairy Research Foundation (CDRF) website (at <https://cdf.org/climate-smart-commodities-grant-info/>).

* Please be advised that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is not always able to fully assess each case based solely on the information provided in questions received. As a result, the responses contained herein may not be applicable to every case/situation and are subject to change. This document is intended for assistance only and should not be considered a definitive guide or a substitute for the guidance provided in the Request for Grant Applications.

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5. In the 2024 Dairy Plus RGA, CDFA requests a detailed budget, including the matching funds/cost share portion. I intend to provide a lot of detail in the matching funds/cost share portion, but I do not want to overcommit financially in matching funds. In my case (new AMMP with Dairy Plus) matching funds are not required, so how should I approach this part of the application?

While the Dairy Plus Program recommends the applicant provide as much detail as possible in their budget worksheet, including the matching funds/cost share portion, the CDFA understands that matching funds for certain scenarios (e.g., new AMMP Dairy Plus) are not a requirement. In this case, please include a detailed description and an estimated amount in the description column . If there is a concern about financially overcommitting, please enter a value of \$0 (zero) for those items.

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