Fiscal Year 2025 Description of Funded Projects

Number of Grants Awarded: 4
Amount of Funds Awarded: $11,040,000.00

For more information, please visit: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/dbi.
NOTE: The project descriptions below were provided by the grant recipients.

California

Recipient: California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno, CA
District: CA – 020
Project Type: Continuing Initiative
Award Amount: $690,000.00
Website: https://www.dairypcc.net/

Dairy Business Innovation Initiative – Pacific Coast Coalition Phase VI

The Pacific Coast Coalition - Dairy Business Innovation Initiative Phase VI builds upon the foundational efforts established in prior Phases I-V in providing dairy business subawards, technical assistance, and coalition building. With this round of funding, emphasis will be placed on stimulating regional solutions in California, Oregon, and Washington (COW) through the creation/production of dairy products that add substantial economic value, diversify markets/income, realize increased returns, and provide workforce training. Pacific Coast Coalition collaborators include host institution California State University, Fresno (Fresno State); California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO); Oregon State University; Washington State University' Chapman University; California Dairy Innovation Center; and the Oregon Dairy Council with Cal Poly SLO taking the lead in orchestrating one conference and one short course open to both industry and academia as well as offering two student internships.

Tennessee

Recipient: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
District: TN – 002
Project Type: Continuing Initiative
Award Amount: $3,450,000.00
Website: https://cpa.tennessee.edu/

Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative - Phase 8

The Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) provides continued support to the dairy industry across 12 Southeastern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). They have created a support network across 1) understanding value-added dairy opportunities (animal husbandry and farm sustainability), 2) dairy finance and decision-support tools, 3) food safety and product innovation projects, 4) marketing and training tools, and 5) leadership and workforce development. With this round of funding, the SDBII will prioritize awards to dairy businesses and administrative support necessary to facilitate those awards with this round of funding. Planned activities and outcomes will include:

- Scholarships for leadership and training opportunities for dairy businesses.
- Internships for undergraduate students interested in the dairy industry.
- Dairy Gauge benchmarks for dairy businesses.
- In-depth business reviews for dairy businesses.
- Development of an STP Toolkit for value-added dairy businesses.
- Competitive subaward programs for Southeast dairy businesses through Farm Infrastructure Improvement, Precision Technology and Management, Dairy Business Planning, Specialty Processing Equipment, and Dairy Industry Impact grants.
- Creating Extension fact sheets, publications, decision tools, and video resources.

Vermont

Recipient: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Montpelier, VT
District: VT – At-large
Project Type: Continuing Initiative
Award Amount: $3,450,000.00
Website: https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) continues its commitment to support the region's dairy economy through targeted investments in farms, processors, and workforce development projects across 11 states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maryland) to support sector development through grants, technical assistance, and research projects. This round of funding will support additional subawards focused on supporting modernization through the adoption of new technologies, system improvements, and streamlining supply chain operations. Additionally, workforce will remain a priority to support businesses being able to find and retain adequate staffing. Three grant opportunities will be offered for competitive applications ensuring high-quality, shovel-ready projects continue to advance DBI program goals.

Wisconsin

Recipient: The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Madison, WI
District: WI-002
Project Type: Continuing Initiative
Award Amount: $3,450,000.00
Website: https://www.cdr.wisc.edu/dbia

Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBIA) – 2025

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA) is a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) and works with regional collaborators across eleven states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Ohio). DBIA provides expertise, resources and insights to support dairy business innovation and will continue the efforts of the previous programs to maintain a sustainable, reproducible model that promotes business innovation within the dairy industry.

The 2025 initiative emphasizes outreach and continues to build upon the previous grant infrastructures and successful technical assistance programs enabling dairy farmers/processors to get their ideas off the ground, into the market, and grow their businesses. Goals include: 1) Provide grant assistance to dairy processors in their efforts to add value to their milk and 2) Maintain the technical support for our DBIA region, focusing on dairy entities in the development and growth of their business efforts by providing technical and business assistance across a variety of functions including product and process development marketing, business practices and financial planning. DBIA will continue to work with regional and national collaborators as it develops its programs with the potential for scalable application across the country.