



What You Need to Know to Apply for an AMMP Grant

Applications due Oct. 2, 2017 by 5:00pm PDT

The CDFA's new Alternative Manure Management Practices (AMMP) Program will provide up to \$16 million in grants to California dairy or livestock producers for using manure management practices that reduce methane emissions and maximize environmental benefits.

What are the practices that qualify for funding?

Producers must transition from a system that relies solely on a flush system with a manure lagoon to either pasture-based management, solid separation, or a combination of a scrape plus solid separation system. Each project must include at least one of the following components:

1. Pasture-based management including (i) conversion of a non-pasture livestock operation to pasture-based management; (ii) increasing the amount of time livestock spend at pasture at an existing pasture operation; and/or (iii) construction of a compost bedded pack barn.
2. Solid separation of manure solids prior to entry into a lagoon in conjunction with one of the following practices:
 - a) Open or closed solar drying of manure
 - b) Forced evaporation with natural-gas fueled dryers
 - c) Daily spread
 - d) Solid storage in piles or stacks
 - e) Composting in vessel with forced aeration and continuous mixing
 - f) Composting in aerated static pile with forced aeration but no mixing
 - g) Composting in intensive windrows with regular turning for mixing and aeration
 - h) Composting in passive windrows with infrequent turning for mixing and aeration
3. Conversion from a flush to scrape manure collection system in conjunction with one of the practices in (2) above.

Who is eligible? How big are the grants? What are the matching fund requirements?

Eligible projects must be on dairy operations or livestock operations, including cattle, poultry, goats, sheep, swine and horses. An individual applicant can submit more than one application, but each application must represent a unique project site. A group of producers can submit one grant application to develop centralized projects. CDFA will award up to \$750,000 and will pay 100% of the project costs. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged.

What expenses are eligible?

Projects must use commercially available technologies. The following costs are allowable: supplies; equipment; contractor fees for labor to install the project; design and engineering costs incurred during the grant period; costs associated with GHG emissions reductions reporting; other direct costs and expenses not covered in any of the previous categories. The following costs are *not* allowed: pre-development costs (e.g., permits, project designs, environmental review); expenditures for purchasing or leasing land or buildings; purchase of dairy manure (tipping fees) or other feedstocks; costs associated with post-project reporting.

How are grant payments made?

Invoices must be submitted quarterly, including supporting documentation to substantiate expenses. CDFA will withhold 10% from the total grant award until they verify project completion.

What is the timeframe of the projects?

The project duration is two years, starting February 1, 2018 and ending January 31, 2020.

What does the farmer have to do to demonstrate they will reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Applicants must use a greenhouse gas reduction calculator provided by CDFA, available along with a quantification methodology guide at www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification (see the CDFA section).

What permits will be required?

Projects must demonstrate compliance with CEQA and all applicable permitting within six months of the execution of the grant agreement, and should check with local county and city planning commissions for CEQA and conditional use permit requirements. In addition, applicants must submit copies of applicable permits obtained, including but not limited to: Notice of Determination, Conditional Use Permit, Authority to Construct, Waste Discharge Requirements, and Solid Waste Facilities Permit.

What verification and reporting will be required?

Grant recipients will be required to submit annual status reports, and must agree to a critical project review/site visit during the project term to verify their reported project progress. A final report will be required within 30 days of project completion, including an estimate of the annual GHG reductions that will occur each year for five years after project completion, as well as benefits to local communities such as air and water quality improvements and economic and social benefits. Grant recipients may be required to report on the project for up to three years after completion.

How are the projects evaluated?

Projects will be evaluated on total project emission reductions (for 35 points out of 100) but also on GHG reduction per unit of energy-corrected milk produced by the dairy operation and the GHG reduction per grant dollar, so small operations have as good a chance of receiving funding as larger ones. Other factors that will be evaluated include the project plan and long-term viability (25 points); budget and financials demonstrating the operation's financial strength (15 points); additional environmental benefits (10 points); project readiness and permit approval (10 points); benefits to disadvantaged and low-income communities (5 points).

How do farmers apply?

Applicants will use an online tool called the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). FAAST can be accessed at <http://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

Along with the online FAAST application, the following attachments will be required (instructions and templates are provided in the Request for Applications):

1. Project Narrative Template
2. Site plan, project design documents, schematic diagrams
3. Letter of Agreement from landowner (if applicable)
4. Resumes, team commitment letters
5. Work Plan Template
6. Budget Worksheet Template
7. Financials (e.g., P&L, balance sheet, tax returns)
8. Estimated GHG Reduction Calculator
9. Permit Checklist Template
10. Description of environmental benefits
11. Benefits to Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities (if applicable)
12. Agreement to Participate in Methane Manure Management Research

For More Information

See here for more information about the AMMP Program, and for a schedule of Grant Application Workshops: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>