



Dairy Producer GRANT PROGRAM FY 2026 Program Guidelines

The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority's (MASBDA) objective for this program is to provide partial funding in the form of grants to established dairies in the state for facilities, equipment and upgrades directly related to increasing efficiency and grow the dairy industry.

An established dairy in the state is defined as: A business or farm that is involved in raising and milking dairy animals and is grade A permitted by the State Milk Board (SMB).

MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT: \$40,000

MINIMUM CASH MATCH REQUIREMENT: 25%

APPLICATION DEADLINE

To be considered for the FY 2026 grant cycle, MASBDA must receive an electronic or one hard copy application no later than 3:00 p.m. on November 19, 2025.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligible applicants must be an individual(s) at least 18 years of age and a legal Missouri resident. Applicant may also be a group of individuals, cooperative, business or organization related to agriculture whose dairy operation is based in Missouri.
2. Eligibility will not be determined or otherwise affected by any consideration of race, religion, sex, creed, color or residence, other than the individual recipient must be a legal Missouri resident, company, or project based in Missouri.
3. Grant recipients must be able to provide proof of citizenship; identity; residence; and enrollment in E-Verify, the federal work authorization program. Please see www.everify.gov for more information about the program and the enrollment process.
4. Applications will be scored on a competitive basis principally on how they conform to the grant program's intent, objectives and criteria and the proposal's cost effectiveness.
5. The grant recipient will be responsible for any federal or state taxes applicable for funds

received, if awarded, and it is recommended the applicant consult with a tax professional prior to submitting an application and upon potential award.

6. Prior to final grant disbursement, MASBDA will require a final report to confirm that purchases are in accordance with the project's approved work plan.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Applications will be considered to fund up to 75% of eligible project expenses for:

- Expansion of an existing facility
- Construction of a new facility
- Equipment purchases
- Breeding and reproduction technologies
- Herd expansion

Eligible Examples:

- Purchase new feed bunks to upgrade current feeding floor.
- Construction of free stall or loafing barns.
- Purchase or upgrades to milking unit and milk handling equipment.
- Upgrades to manure removal equipment.
- Cost associated with improving herd genetics including; artificial insemination, embryo transfer, estrus synchronization.
- Purchase of replacement heifers or bulls.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The program does not provide funds for the following:

- a. Operational costs such as payroll, supplies, utilities, inventory, insurance, and travel
- b. Paying off existing debt
- c. Research
- d. Salary for owners/current employees
- e. Reimbursement for anything purchased prior to the date of grant award
- f. Substituting existing efforts already underway
- g. Indirect expenses
- h. Buying land
- i. Marketing and advertising
- j. Purchase of UTVs, ATVs, Trucks, Tractors
- k. Payment of fines or penalties, bad debts, and lobbying or entertainment expenses

FUNDING LEVEL AND MATCH

Requests for funds must be justified with respect to the project scope. Applicants must be able to produce bids for equipment/services to verify costs, if requested.

Applicants are required to meet a minimum 25% cash match for a funded project.

Cash Match is defined as cash contributed by the applicant specifically toward the cost of the project in categories funded by the Dairy Producer Grant.

Equipment purchased and paid for after the application period opens but prior to grant award

may qualify as cash match if the application is awarded funding.

Invoices will be paid or reimbursed on the approved MASBDA/applicant(s) match throughout the project, unless otherwise considered and approved by MASBDA staff.

CHANGES

All changes to contracts and/or budgets as presented in the grant application must be approved by MASBDA prior to payment of invoices.

EVALUATION AND FUNDING CRITERIA

Proposals will be selected on a competitive basis. Each proposal will be scored by a team of reviewers and rated within a 100-point framework using the criteria provided below. A project must score at least an average of 60 points to be considered for funding.

Credibility and Merit (40 points possible):

- Do the key personnel have the experience and qualifications to implement the project?
- Proposal may be awarded based on the scorer's individual judgement of a proposal's chance of success.
- Budget:
 - Is the budget financially realistic and reasonable for the project?
 - Are the budget items clearly outlined and justified?

Impact Potential (50 points possible):

- Is the need for the project clearly communicated and convincing?
- Will the project increase efficiency and grow the dairy industry?
- Do the Expected Project Outcomes indicate realistic growth?

Timeliness (10 points possible):

- Are the project's objectives and deliverables obtainable within the stated timeline?
- Do the tasks described within the Plan of Work seem reasonable, well thought-out, feasible and worth the total investment given the timeline and budget?

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND GRANT AWARD PROCESS

No partial or incomplete applications will be considered. All applications will be screened for completeness and eligibility upon receipt by MASBDA staff.

Each application will compete for limited funds. MASBDA reserves the right to decrease the amount of requested funding based on its findings and on its level of available funds. Should the process produce a funding level less than the amount requested in the application, MASBDA staff will confer with the applicant(s) to determine whether the amount recommended would alter the project's feasibility.

Each applicant will be notified of MASBDA's determination. The determination is binding and not subject to review or appeal.

MASBDA reserves the right to audit the applicant's books and records relating to project performance during and up to three years following the project's completion. MASBDA may also recover grant funds not used per the contract or if a misrepresentation should occur.

Grant recipients must enter into a contract with MASBDA. The contract will establish an approved project plan of work, budget, and will list responsibilities of project personnel. MASBDA staff will monitor and evaluate each funded project throughout the project term.

Principals of a project awarded a grant will be responsible for the approved project plan of work, project budget, and responsibilities of project personnel. Principals of an organized business (such as an LLC) awarded a grant will be responsible for the approved project plan of work, project budget, and responsibilities of project personnel.

Grant recipients may be reimbursed for approved expenditures upon receipt of invoice and proof of payment such as a cancelled check and receipt of payment. Grant funds may also be paid directly to a vendor upon receipt of an approved invoice.

The cash match commitment must be documented by proof of payment in each approved budget category as "Contributed Cash Match" before the final grant funds can be disbursed.

Basic project information including the award amount, and a brief project description may be used in media releases upon grant award.

CONDITIONS

MASBDA will not be held liable for any costs incurred by any firm for work performed in the preparation and production of a grant proposal or for any activities performed prior to the date of grant award.

MASBDA reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all applications received prior to scoring.
- Waive or modify minor irregularities in applications received after prior notification and applicant agreement.
- Clarify the scope of this program, within the application requirements and with appropriate notice to all applicants, to better serve the interests of the State of Missouri.
- Amend the program specifications after their release, with appropriate written notice to all potential applicants.
- Approve the submitted budget on a line-by-line basis.
- Request copies of bids.
- Require a good faith effort on the part of the grant recipient to work with MASBDA subsequent to project completion to develop or implement the project results in Missouri.
- Withhold any payments if contract conditions are not met.

All proposals submitted in response to a call for applications will become the property of MASBDA.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Electronic submission or one hard copy of the Application must be received no later than **3 p.m. on November 19, 2025** by:

Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA)

P.O. Box 630 (mailing address)

3600 Country Club Drive, Ste 2004 (shipping and physical address)

Jefferson City, MO 65109

Email: masbda@mda.mo.gov

573-751-2129

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. For additional information or to access the program application, call (573) 751-2129, or visit our website at masbda.com.