

Send completed application to Center for Dairy Excellence • Attn: Melissa Anderson •
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www.centerfordairyexcellence.org

How grant works:

This application is for pre-qualification in the CARAT Project conducted by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and partners with funding from the program Partnerships for Climate Commodities, an initiative of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). CARAT will provide funding to identify and implement climate-smart practices that will benefit your farm operations. The participating farms will be selected through a three-step process: pre-qualification, development of climate-smart plans for all pre-qualified farms, and selection of implementation farms based on submitted Climate Smart Plan (near 70 farms over 5 years). Once your farm goes through the pre-qualification process, a technical service provider will be assigned to help your farm identify climate smart practices and develop an implementation plan fitting to your operation. Your plan will be presented to the CARAT Review Committee to be considered as one of the farms receiving funding toward implementation. Pre-qualification does not guarantee your farm will be approved as one of the final CARAT participants. You will be notified whether you have been accepted in the pre-qualification upon review of your application. Data provided in this form is confidential and will only be shared with authorized personnel within the project.

NOTE: Dairy farms with 35 lactating cows or more or custom dairy heifer facilities with 100 or more dairy heifers that have a 1) Ag E&S or conservation plan and 2) manure management or nutrient management plan in place (two total plans) are eligible to apply.

Producer's Name _____ Farm Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please share how you heard about this grant program: _____

County _____ Email _____ Phone # _____

Milk market or cooperative _____ Do you own or rent the farm: Own _____ Rent _____

Total cows lactating & dry _____ No. heifers 12mths or older _____ No. of heifers under 12mths _____

Check all that apply: *System:* Conventional _____, Organic _____, Grass-Fed _____ *Milking System:* Parlor _____ Robotics _____

Housing: Tie stall _____, Free-Stall _____, Bedded Pack _____

Cropped Acres Owned _____ Cropped Acres Rented _____ Pastured Acres _____

Total pounds of milk shipped prior year _____, Butterfat % _____, Protein % _____ (See December's settlement check, received mid-January.)

Milking / day 3x _____, 2x _____, Robotic (Average x / day) _____ DHIA # _____ RAC # _____ (Right hand corner of DHIA Report)

Do you use TMR? Yes _____ No _____ Do you have a digester? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have manure storage? Yes _____ No _____ Type: _____ Volume or months of storage: _____

Are you working with a nutritionist? Yes _____ No _____ If so, provide Nutritionist Name, Company, Contact Information: _____

Have you worked with a technical services provider or agricultural engineering firm in the past? Yes _____ No _____

If so, please list the name, company & contact information of the engineer or firm you would prefer to work with. _____

Have you ever worked with: The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: Yes _____ No _____ Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Yes _____ No _____

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Yes _____ No _____ County Conservation District: Yes _____ No _____

Must Complete — Select all that apply to your farm by writing Yes / No / I do not know:

- _____ Our farm has a current Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan
- _____ Our farm has a current Conservation Plan or Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- _____ Our farm has a National Historic Registry Plan
- _____ Our farm has a written Business Plan and budget that includes current financial information
- _____ Our farm is compliant with the National Farm Program (FARM) or another welfare program
- _____ Our farm has a comprehensive written biosecurity plan

_____ Our farm is compliant with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation

_____ Our farm has a Risk Management Plan or uses risk management tools to protect profit margins

If yes, please list the tools used: _____

What has your farm done in the past to be an environmental steward and/or conserve nutrients on your farm? (For example: incorporated no-till, added manure storage, planted buffer strip, among others.)

What are the main goals that you are working toward on your dairy operation? List up to 10 in your order of priorities.

What climate smart practices are you most interested in?

Practice List (NRCS Code)	Interested	Already Installed	Other Information
Feed additives that suppress methane emissions. (592)			
Various plant based additives & plant extracts (592)			
Asparagopsis-based products. (592)			
Feeding highly digestible forages or grain. (592)			
Increasing the proportion of lipids in the diet. (592)			
Nitrates (592)			
Cover anaerobic manure storage unit & flare methane.			
Separation of liquid & solids in manure. (632)			
Composting of manure. (313, 317, 367, 561)			
Frequent land application of manure to reduce storage time. (590)			
Generic reduction of nitrogen (N) inputs. (590)			
Reduction of N inputs by using Penn State N recommendation tool or a comparable & verified tool (590)			
Reduction of side-dress N inputs informed by pre-side-			Only for fields with manure history.
Reduction of N inputs by using precision N manage-			
Enhanced Efficiency N Fertilizers (EENF). (590)			
Early (or earlier) spring manure application. (590)			
Optimization of N management through practices not			

The Center would like to share your farm name and contact information as an applicant to the Climate-Smart Team Program to other funding organizations and your cooperative or milk marketer to explore other opportunities for funding your project. Please check this box if you have concerns about us sharing that information.

Once you are pre-approved for a Climate Smart Plan, someone from the center will be reaching out to have you complete a voluntary survey. Since this program is funded through a USDA grant, this survey will help us document demographic and socio-demographic information about participants for purposes of the grant.

- Farms accepted in the program and therefore authorized to receive funding, will work with the CARAT team on the technical and financial execution of the program.
- Provide meeting notes, invoices and related team expenses to the Center for reimbursement.
- **A W9 must be provided to the Center before any expenses will be reimbursed.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Are you completing this application on behalf of farm? _____ If so, provide your name & contact information: _____