

Send completed application to Center for Dairy Excellence • Attn: Melissa Anderson •  
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[www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://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 climate smart solutions are you considering on your farm and why?**

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

**Do you practice any of the following:**

Practice List	Yes	No	Other Information
Feed supplements / feed management			
Lagoon cover & methane flaring			
Composting of bedded-pack manure			
Manure storage & runoff controls			
Precision N management			
Use of a yield monitor			
Enhanced efficiency fertilizers			
Manure analysis			
Manure injection			
Reduced till / strip till / no-till			
Perennial pastures			
Legume interseeding			
Cover crops			
Prescribed grazing			
Riparian buffers			
Tree planting / afforestation			

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.

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

CDE use only: Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ EMC lbs/d \_\_\_\_\_ Grant ID# \_\_\_\_\_