

Send completed application **by November 1, 2024**, to Center for Dairy Excellence \* Attn: Melissa Anderson \*  
 1140 Mountain View Road \* Shermans Dale, PA 17090 \* Phone: 717-788-0296 \* Email: [manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org) \*  
 or apply online at [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org)

This program would be funded by the PA Department of Agriculture's, PA Ag Innovation Fund, **only** if the Center is awarded funds.  
 Farm operations that have 35 or more lactating cows or 70 or more lactating goats are eligible to apply.

**Dairy Innovation Grant:** Funds that may be awarded to the Center for Dairy Excellence through the Pennsylvania Ag Innovation Fund would allow the Center to provide up to \$25,000 in matching funds to up to 20 farms to fund projects **completed within two years after January 1, 2025**, to improve production, efficiency, and data analysis related technologies. Projects could involve improvements in technology within the milk parlor, feeding system, activity monitoring, ventilation, and cow cooling equipment. **Grant funding will be a 50 percent match, up to a maximum limit matching level of \$25,000.**

**Disclaimer:** Applications are being accepted now to be included with our proposal to the Pennsylvania Ag Innovation Fund. However, even if the farm is selected to be submitted with our application, any funds awarded will be dependent upon the Center for Dairy Excellence's application being awarded funding from the Ag Innovation Fund. **If the Center's application is not successful, the funding will not be available to fund Dairy Innovation Grants.**

**There is a short window to apply. Application period runs: October 14 — November 1, 2024** This is a competitive grant. The Center will select up to 20 farm projects to submit with its application in November. Farms will be notified on whether the Center was awarded the funds in January 2025 when PA Department of Ag announces the PA Ag Innovation Fund recipients. If awarded the funds, farms would have up to two years to purchase the technology and implement it into their operation. All funding would be awarded on a reimbursable basis once technology is implemented. **A letter of support must accompany your application.** (Template provided)

Producer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Milk market or cooperative \_\_\_\_\_

Total mature cows/goats lactating & dry \_\_\_\_\_ No. heifers 12mths or older \_\_\_\_\_ No. of heifers under 12mths \_\_\_\_\_

Total pounds of milk shipped prior year \_\_\_\_\_, Butterfat % \_\_\_\_\_, Protein % \_\_\_\_\_  
 Operational information (check all that apply): Tie stall \_\_\_\_\_ Parlor \_\_\_\_\_ Robotics \_\_\_\_\_ Organic \_\_\_\_\_ Grazing \_\_\_\_\_  
(See December's settlement check, received mid-January.)

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

**Answer the following:**

Our farm has a current Manure Management Plan or Nutrient Management Plan. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm has a current Conservation Plan or Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm is compliant with National FARM Program or similar program. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm has a Risk Management Plan or uses risk management tools to protect profit margins. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm has a Biosecurity Plan. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm has a formal management or advisory team. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**In exchange for the allocation of funding and support, farms accepted as a Dairy Innovation Grant team will be expected to do the following:**

- Provide invoices /expenses to the Center for reimbursement.
- Submit invoices for allocated funds to the Center by January 2027.
- Provide a **W9** to the Center to receive reimbursement for expenses. Any funding received through this grant will be considered taxable income by the IRS.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Complete the Questions Below:**

List two consultants/advisors with phone# and email address that work with the farm (Nutritionist, Accountant, Veterinarian)

Consultant/Advisor Name	Organization	Phone#	Email Address	Type of Consultant

1. What is your project? (Describe in detail, please note projects must be initiated after January 1, 2025, to be eligible.)

2. How would this project improve efficiency and productivity on your farm?

3. How does this project fit into your 2—5 year goals for your farm?

5. Please include a description of technology improvements you plan to install as part of this project and an estimated cost for each technology below. In the third column, please indicate whether you received a cost estimate directly from the supplier or researched cost estimates through other sources (catalog, websites, etc.)

Description of Technology Improvement	Estimated Cost of Improvement (Provide Per Unit, No Units if Applicable)	Source of Cost Estimate

6. Include a letter of support with your application. (See template attached to application.)