The Dairy Acceleration Program is an initiative under Governor Cuomo’s leadership and in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that enhances the profitability of New York dairy farms while maintaining a commitment to environmentally responsible growth.

Eligible projects assist New York dairy farmers to develop business plans for successful and environmentally responsible growth. Funds are used to engage professionals for the creation of business plans focusing on growth, design of new or remodeled facilities, and/or development of environmental and farmstead plans.

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Dairy Acceleration Program funding covers 80% of a project’s cost. The farm is responsible for 20% of the project cost, including any in excess of established limits. Awarded funds are disbursed to the service provider through Cornell University.

**Payments may include:**
- Up to $5,000 per farm to write a business plan or to develop a combination of a business and facility growth plan.
- Up to $6,000 to develop a new Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for farms under 300 cows.
- Up to $4,500 to update an existing CNMP for farms under 300 cows.
- Up to $5,000 to design a single best management practice (BMP) or up to $10,000 to design a combination of BMP’s, associated with a CNMP.

**On-Farm Use**
- Engage a qualified farm business consultant to develop a business plan analyzing feasibility for growth.
- Engage an AEM Certified Planner to develop a new, or update an existing, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
- Engage an engineer to design eligible best management practices associated with the farm CNMP.
- Engage a professional to design plans for new construction or remodel facilities to support production growth.
- Engage a professional to create a farmstead development plan.

**Eligibility**
- Must be a dairy cattle farm shipping milk.
- Must have complete financial records for business planning.
- Must complete and submit an application.

**Eligible Projects**

**Business Planning**
*(preference for farms under 300 cows)*
- Financial Analysis of Options for Growth
- Farmstead Development Planning
- Facility Planning
- Capital Investment Planning for Increased Milk Per Cow

**Environmental Planning**
*(for farms under 300 cows)*
- Update a CNMP
- Develop a new CNMP

**Design of BMP’s**
*(preference for farms under 300)*
- Design a single best management practice (BMP) or combination of BMPs associated with farm CNMP.