



# CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - July 2023

## First Round of Dairy PLUS Program Funds Have Been Released!

Applications are due August 28th.

By: Denise Mullinax, Executive Director, California Dairy Research Foundation; Assistant Director, CDQAP

The much anticipated first round of Dairy PLUS Program funding was released by CDFA on June 28, 2023 Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2023.

The funds are the first of their kind to be offered to California dairy producers. They pair federal dollars secured by the California Dairy Research Foundation and the CDFA-UC-CA dairy industry team from USDA's Climate Smart Commodities Program with CDFA AMMP and DDRDP dollars to incentivize adoption of advanced climate-smart manure management practices. Advanced manure management practices address both methane emissions and nutrient surplus.

All California dairy producers are eligible to apply for Dairy Plus+ Program dollars, including producers that have previously received DDRDP or AMMP funds in the past.

The Dairy PLUS Program will make approximately \$75 million available in USDA Climate Smart Commodities funding plus additional funds from CDFA. Funds for individual projects have been designed to incentivize innovative and forward-thinking projects and are substantial. Funding scenarios are available in the CDFA solicitation on the Dairy Plus Program Website.

2023 Eligible practices include:

- Vermifiltration
- Weeping walls (with 2 cells or more)
- Advanced solids separation with flocculation and/or bead filters
- Subsurface drip irrigation/fertigation (plus one of the practices above)
- Aerated composting (plus one of the practices above)

CDRF and CDFA have been hosting informational workshops. Workshops cover eligible practices, how to apply and application sections, scoring criteria, and the benefits calculator tool.

CDRF Workshop:	Thursday July 13	10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
CDFA Workshops:	Tuesday, July 11	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
	Thursday July 20	10:00 AM -12:30 PM

Register for the meetings directly on CDFA and CDRF websites. Recordings will be available after the webinar.

Additional application tools and additional resources are available on the [CDFA](#), [CDRF](#), and [CDQAP](#) websites. Questions can also be directed to Denise Mullinax, California Dairy Research Foundation, at [mullinax@cdrf.org](mailto:mullinax@cdrf.org) or (209)585-6744.

## Composting Research Begins This Year

CDFA funds CDRF research to pave the way for emergency carcass composting.

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and Director, CDQAP

Every producer who has experienced a rendering service disruption has shared the same frustration.



When the number of deadstock needing disposal exceeds the state's rendering capacity, a complex and prolonged regulatory process is set in motion. Each county must individually declare an emergency and develop a plan designating where excess carcasses must go.

Landfills are typically restricted in both the type and tonnage of mortalities they can accept. Almost no landfills accept carcasses from outside their own counties. When landfill disposal is available, producers are responsible for both contracting a certified [dead hauler](#) and paying for tipping and biohazard fees.

California is the only state in the U.S. with specific regulations banning the composting of mammalian tissue. California Department of Food

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## Heat Advisory

Excessive heat this weekend could [break records](#) across California. Highs could potentially reach up to 110 – 115 degrees in the valley. For more information on how to protect livestock and employees from this heat event, see last year's

[CDQAP Dairy Heat Advisory](#).



### Composting Research Begins This Year *continued*

and Agriculture ([CDFA](#)) however, recognizes that disease outbreaks, natural disasters and rendering facility breakdowns require [additional disposal options](#).

CDFA has been working closely with its sister agencies to [remove regulatory hurdles](#) to composting during emergencies. Perhaps the biggest obstacle to emergency carcass composting remains regulatory concerns for air and water quality. To address these concerns CDFA this month awarded a \$897,500 grant to the California Dairy Research Foundation ([CDRF](#)) to examine environmental impacts of mortality composting.

Dairy cow carcass composting piles will be constructed over a variety of soil types in a variety of geographic regions including Tulare, Merced and Humboldt counties. Data collected will include:

- Temperature, moisture and salinity transmitted real-time from sensors buried in the piles.
- Nutritional content of piles containing feedstock and carcasses and piles containing feedstock alone.
- Microbial pathogen reduction during the lifespan of the compost pile.
- Infiltration of both nutrients and heavy metals into unlaying soil.
- Air emissions including CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, ammonia and a spectrum of VOCs.

CDRF is creating a research team and will subcontract work to both public and private organizations. CDQAP will provide overall management of the project. This most recent grant is only part of the CDFA research and [training](#) portfolio, as the department works to resolve mortality management issues. To learn more about this project contact Dr. Michael Payne at [mpayne@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mpayne@ucdavis.edu).

