

Instructions for Assisting Non-Internet Clientele with SDBII Grants Process:

All of the information and documentation for the Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (SDBII) Grants opportunities are available online at the main UT Value Added Dairy page. If you have dairy farm clientele that do not use the Internet, then this guide will help you provide them with the information that they need to apply for the grants.

From <https://valueaddeddairy.tennessee.edu/#>, click on the arrow beside “SDBII Business Grants” in the top bar menu, and the dropdown box will open with all the grant options. The current (on-farm) grant opportunities that are open through June 2, 2023, are the first two, “Farm Infrastructure Improvement” and “Precision Technology & Management.” Dairy farms may apply for one, but not both types of grants in this cycle. There is also a “SDBII Grant FAQ” document available on that dropdown box that applies to all types of grants.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the UT Institute of Agriculture website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://valueaddeddairy.tennessee.edu/#>. The website's navigation bar includes a "MENU" icon, the text "UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE", and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the "SDBII Business Grants" menu is open, showing a list of options: "Farm Infrastructure Improvement", "Precision Technology and Management", "Specialty Equipment Processing", "Beginning Processor", and "SDBII Grant FAQ". A red arrow points to the "SDBII Business Grants" menu item. The background of the website features a photograph of cheese on a wooden surface with a "Ky Blek" label. Below the photograph, the text "VALUE-ADDED DAIRY" is displayed. At the bottom of the page, a paragraph begins: "The Southeast Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (SDBII) program is based at The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Animal Science Department. Key program collaborators such as the Center for Profitable Agriculture (CPA), NC State".

You may want to download and print all the materials for both types of on-farm grants for your non-Internet audience to review. You can download and print all 5 documents linked to each grant (see next page for screenshot.) However, remind them that they may apply for one, but not both in a single cycle. (They will need to decide whether they want to apply for infrastructure or technology, in other words during this spring 2023 cycle.)

The screenshot shows the website for the UT Institute of Agriculture, specifically the SDBII Business Grants page. The page includes a navigation menu with options like 'Home', 'Our Team', 'SDBII Business Grants', 'SDBII Results and Outcomes', 'Resources', 'Other Opportunities', 'Contact Us', and 'Blog'. The main content area features a list of documents for download, including 'Request for Proposal Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant', 'Farm Infrastructure Improvement Grant Application', 'Farm Infrastructure Budget Form', 'Grant Application Review Rubric', and 'USDA AMS Allowable Unallowable Costs'. A red arrow points to the 'Download' button for the 'Farm Infrastructure Budget Form'. Below the list, there is a section titled 'SDBII Dairy Farm Grant Information Session' with a video player thumbnail.

Once the applicant decides which grant the farm will apply for, then they should complete the grant application and budget form for the grant they want to pursue. If they need to mail their completed applications, the address is on the last page of the application document. Please remind applicants to either type or hand-write legibly so that their application can be read and reviewed easily!

Another item to note is that in order to receive an SDBII (or any other USDA-funded) grant, applicants must secure a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through SAM.GOV. If they don't use the Internet, this may be something you have to assist them with, but note that some unique and sensitive business information will be needed to complete the process (EIN or SSN, origination date for business, etc.) This process is free, but processing times are long so this should be started sooner than later. NC State Dairy Extension has posted a helpful guide for the UEI process on its Value-Added Resources Page: <https://dairy.ces.ncsu.edu/value-added-dairy-resources/>.

Completed SDBII Applications must be received by 5pm on Friday, June 2, 2023. Electronic submissions must be received by that time, so mailed application must be received by that time as well in order to be eligible. If you have additional questions, please see below:

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