

## Dairy Program



# Dairy Donation Program

## Overview:

In the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress directed USDA to develop a \$400 million Dairy Donation Program (DDP) to facilitate dairy product donations and reduce food waste.

Under this program, eligible dairy organizations form partnerships with non-profit feeding organizations that distribute food to individuals and families in need. Those partnerships may apply for and receive reimbursements to cover some expenses related to eligible dairy product donations.

## Who Is Eligible?

### Eligible Dairy Organizations (EDO):

Dairy farmers, cooperatives, and processors purchasing fresh milk or bulk dairy products to process into retail-packaged dairy products may qualify for this program. In addition, the dairy farmer, cooperative or processor must file a Receipts and Utilization report with a Federal milk marketing order (FMMO). For those reporting to a local FMMO office as part of normal business operations, the requirement is already met. For those that do not, please contact us at [ddp@usda.gov](mailto:ddp@usda.gov) so that we can help with filing the Receipts and Utilization report.

### Eligible Distributors:

EDOs may form one or more partnerships with nonprofit feeding organizations, called eligible distributors, that distribute food to individuals and families. EDOs can partner with an umbrella organization that includes multiple distribution locations or with an individual (or independent) organization with a single distribution location.

## How to Participate?

1. EDO and Eligible Distributor form partnership;
2. EDO completes and submits Dairy Donation and Distribution Plan Form (Plan) and Eligible Distributor completes and submits Eligible Distributor Certification Form (Certification Form);
3. EDO receives an approval (or disapproval) email from USDA within 15 business days of Plan submission;
4. Once approved, EDO submits Reimbursement Claim Forms (Claim Forms) and supporting documentation to cover donated eligible dairy products;
5. EDOs receive reimbursements via direct deposit.
6. All forms can be found online on the Dairy Donation Program website: [www.ams.usda.gov/ddp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/ddp).

## What Will be Reimbursed?

The DDP reimburses the EDO for:

1. Cost of milk to make the donated product - applicable classified price of the fresh fluid milk (or bulk dairy commodity product milk equivalent) used in the donated dairy product;
2. Manufacturing costs—a standard cost for manufacturing the donated dairy product;
3. Transportation costs—portion of the costs to transport donated product between the plant and distribution location.

## What Products Are Eligible to be Reimbursed?

Eligible dairy organizations must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations related to its performance under this program.

In addition, eligible dairy products must:

1. Be made primarily from cow's (bovine) milk produced in the United States;
2. Be packaged in consumer-sized packaging. Examples of consumer-sized packaging include, but are not limited to, gallons of milk, 1-pound blocks of cheese, single serve containers of yogurt, or 1-pound packages of butter;
3. Meet the applicable provisions for dairy products in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et. seq.), as amended, and the provisions of the Pasteurized Milk ordinance for Grade 'A' dairy products; and
4. Have a sell-by, best-by, or use-by date no sooner than 12 days from delivery to the eligible distributor.

## What About the Milk Donation Reimbursement Program?

If you participated in the Milk Donation Reimbursement Program (MDRP), you do not need to apply for the DDP. Current participants in the MDRP are automatically enrolled in the DDP. EDOs will receive the same reimbursement for cost of milk, manufacturing, and transportation as DDP participants.

## For More Information:

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ams.usda.gov/ddp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/ddp). If you are interested in donating dairy products but need help finding an eligible distributor in your area, or if you are an Eligible Distributor looking to find an EDO partner in your area, please reach out to [ddp@usda.gov](mailto:ddp@usda.gov) for assistance.