



The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board’s Viability Program has two types of grant funding available for Vermont farmers: Dairy Improvement Grants and Water Quality Grants. Both grant programs allow Vermont farmers to apply for \$5,000 to \$40,000. Both also require a minimum 1:1 match on the part of the grantee. To apply for a Dairy Improvement Grant requires an up-to-date business plan. Financial statements are required for both grant programs.

	Dairy Improvement Grants	Water Quality Grants
<i>Description</i>	Grants to help dairy farmers make improvements to farm infrastructure that result in increased farm viability and/or milk production and quality.	Grants to help farmers make water quality-related capital improvements in on-farm infrastructure.
<i>Funding Source</i>	Ehrmann Commonwealth Dairy, LLC	State of Vermont
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Vermont dairy farm members of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), or • St. Albans Cooperative 	Any Vermont farm with a gross farm income of \$15,000 or more that is required to comply with VT Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)
<i>Eligible Projects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, renovation, or upgrades to farm infrastructure • Equipment that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Will be used frequently o Is essential to the business o Cannot be rented o Leads to innovative farm practices 	Capital expenditures similar to those eligible for a Dairy Improvement Grant with the added requirement that the project must have a direct, positive impact on water quality.
<i>Application Deadlines</i>	Round 1: Wed., November 15, 2017 Round 2: Wed., February 21, 2018	Round 1: Fri., October 13, 2017 Round 2: Wed., November 15, 2017 Round 3: Wed., February 21, 2018
	http://www.vhcb.org/Farm-Forest-Viability/dairy-improvement-grants/	http://www.vhcb.org/Farm-Forest-Viability/water-quality-grants/

Applications for both grant opportunities will be available on our website by September 1, 2017. Visit this page (<http://www.vhcb.org/Farm-Forest-Viability/dig-awards/>) to see what farmers have done with past grants. Please contact Katie Michels at Katie@vhcb.org or 802-828-5587 with questions.

Public Information Sessions regarding both grant opportunities:

- September 20, 2017. 10a-12p, St. Albans: St. Albans Free Library, 11 Maiden Lane.
- September 21, 2017. 10a-12p, Rutland: Neighborworks of Western Vermont, 110 Marble St.
- September 22, 2017. 10a-12p, Hartland: Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5.

WWW.VHCB.ORG/VIABILITY