



Applications Accepted Through April 14 for Dairy Processor Grants

Release Date: March 24, 2017

**Media Contacts: Rick Hummell, 608-224-5041 richard.hummell@wi.gov
or Bill Cosh, Communications Director, 608-224-5020 William2.Cosh@wi.gov**

MADISON – Wisconsin dairy processors are invited to apply for the Grow Wisconsin Dairy Processor Grants. The grants are intended to foster innovation, improve profitability and sustain the long-term viability of Wisconsin's dairy processing facilities. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting requests for proposals through April 14, 2017.

"The demand for quality Wisconsin dairy products continues to grow around the world," said Dan Smith, division administrator for DATCP's Division of Agricultural Development. "To meet the demand, dairy processors need to be innovative, efficient and adaptable. They need to be able to meet a number of regulatory requirements. These grants are designed to help them do so."

The Grow Wisconsin Dairy Processor Grant is customizable for each processor and can be used to hire consultants to address a wide range of business needs including food safety, staff training or modernization. Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant engaged in pasteurizing, processing or manufacturing milk or dairy products that is, or will be, located in Wisconsin.

The application deadline is April 14. Recipients will be chosen through a competitive selection process.

Find application materials at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/DairyDevelopment.aspx

For more information, contact grants specialist Juli Speck at 608-224-5134 or juli.speck@Wisconsin.gov.

Wisconsin's dairy industry contributes \$88.3 billion annually to the economy. DATCP's Agriculture and Food Center provides services to the dairy industry and others sectors including business planning, financial planning and technical assistance. Learn more at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/FoodAndAgCenterOverview.aspx

XXX