



# PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FORM

## Dairy Improvement Fund



The Dairy Improvement Fund (DIF) provides eligible borrowers direct loans at a 1% fixed interest rate to finance capital improvements.

An eligible borrower must:

- be a dairy enterprise, dairy, dairy farm, or business making milk products;
- be located in the State of Maine and currently producing milk or milk products that are sold commercially; and
- propose a project that is an eligible use of the fund.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Primary Contact Name				
Phone Number		Email		
Farm/Enterprise Name		Year Farm/Enterprise Established		
Business Mailing Address				
Physical Address of Farm/Enterprise				
Business Type	<input type="radio"/> Proprietorship	<input type="radio"/> Partnership	<input type="radio"/> S-Corp	<input type="radio"/> C-Corp
	<input type="radio"/> LLC	<input type="radio"/> LLP	<input type="radio"/> Other (describe)	
Owner Name(s)	% Owned		# Years Farming	

### INTERVIEW AND SITE VISIT

The Maine Department Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) will review this form and may contact you for additional information or at its discretion may schedule a site visit to gain an understanding about the project scope and timeline.

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Please describe your dairy enterprise, dairy, dairy farm, or business making milk products.



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### ELIGIBLE USES OF THE FUND

The fund may be used to design, construct, or improve: milking parlors, dairy barns and structures, and dairy feed storage structures; or to purchase, construct, or renovate buildings, land and equipment to maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of an established dairy enterprise, dairy, dairy farm, or business making milk products, located in the State of Maine.

New construction projects are eligible for take-out financing only, therefore the borrower must work with a construction lender that will inspect the completed project and coordinate with the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to complete the take-out.

The fund may not be used for working capital.

The fund will not refinance projects commenced, costs incurred, or expenses paid prior to loan application. However, the borrower may submit a written request for a waiver. Such waiver must be approved in writing by the DACF Commissioner

### PROPOSED PROJECT

Please describe the project you seek to finance and explain how this project will maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of your dairy enterprise, dairy farm, or business making milk products.

### OTHER INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Attach copies of any applicable certifications (Organic, etc.) or licenses (Commercial Kitchen, Mobile Vendor, etc.), licensure requirements, or any specific credentials required to operate the farm business. If dairy animals are kept please include a copy of your most recent dairy inspection report.

### SIGNATURE

By signing below, I acknowledge and understand that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will review this form and may contact me to an interview. DACF may also conduct a site visit and share all gathered information with FAME. I understand that upon receiving a copy of DACF eligibility letter I will have ninety (90) days to submit a completed loan application to FAME. I understand that in the alternative, if I receive a letter denying eligibility, I may revise and resubmit a new project eligibility form to DACF.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL/EMAIL COMPLETED DIF PROJECT APPLICATION TO:**

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**  
Agricultural Resource Development Division  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Attn: Yvette.Meunier@Maine.gov