



**2019
Alternative Manure
Management Program**



2019 Alternative Manure Management Program Grant Assistance
&
2019 Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) Demonstration Project
Educational Materials

AGED 539 Graduate Internship in Agricultural Education

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Note: The entire project report is not uploaded due to confidentiality reasons.

Included is the overview of the project and supporting materials.

Project Introduction:

This project and its components have been completed while working as a Technical Services Field Representative for a voluntary California Dairy Trade Association that represents over 60% of the milk supply in California. The organization works to help CDFA obtain successful grant applications for the CDFA Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) which serves to lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG Emissions) as directed by Budget Act of 2017, Item 8570-101-3228. CDFA received \$99 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in 2018 and plans to allocate between \$19-\$33 million for AMMP in 2019, dependent on the Governor's final budget revise. The ability to assist dairy farmers in submitting successful and complete applications that receive funding continues to show the relevancy and effectiveness of the funds granted to the program.

The completed project includes submitted Alternate Manure Management Program applications, supporting materials, educational materials, and records of Farmer-to Farmer outreach including meetings conducted before applications and after funded projects are built and completed.

The following report includes information regarding my role in completing project applications and providing technical assistance to producers, supplemental grant information, once of five of my completed grant applications, and materials for the farmer-to-farmer outreach AMMP grant.

The Applicant:

The project application site must be located on a commercial California dairy or livestock operation. A *dairy operation* is defined as an entity that operates a dairy herd, which produces milk or cream commercially, and whose bulk milk or bulk cream is received or handled by any distributor, manufacturer, or any nonprofit cooperative association of dairy producers. (CDFA 2019 Request for Grant Applications: See Supporting Documentation)

When working with producers to determine if they are a suitable applicant factors including their operation longevity, previously awarded CDFA funding, operation needs, and pre-existing facilities. While helping farmers determine if they are eligible to begin a project application, conducting on farm meetings with producers allows them to discuss their ideas and share their facilities and requirements. Throughout the course of this grant cycle, the trade association assisted with the application of twenty-five total submitted applications, five of which I was solely responsible for completing and submitting. According to CDFA, CDFA received 91 applications for 2019 AMMP requesting \$54,581,626 in total.

Alternative Manure Management Program Explanation:

“CDFA Eligibility and Application Process

AMMP provides financial assistance for the implementation of non-digester manure management practices in California to reduce GHG emissions. CDFA funds up to 100 percent of the total project cost with a maximum grant award up to \$750,000 per project. The awarded projects must be completed within two years of the execution of the grant agreement and the project site must be located on a commercial California dairy or livestock operation. Projects

that propose to switch existing management practices on the dairy operation to those that increase baseline GHG emissions are not eligible for AMMP funding. Additionally, projects that have received DDRDP funding are not eligible for AMMP.

A quantification methodology for estimating GHG emissions reductions from AMMP projects was developed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Applicants are required to use the quantification methodology and its associated calculator tool to calculate estimated GHG emissions reductions achievable from a project.

Any project benefits provided to disadvantaged and/or low-income communities are determined using the methodology developed by the CARB as provided in the Funding Guidelines for Administering Agencies.

Recipients are expected to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and all applicable permitting within six months of the execution of the grant agreement. CEQA and permit compliance requirements vary depending on project type and location.

CDFA utilizes the State Water Resources Control Board's electronic application system, the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) for the AMMP application process.

Review Process

CDFA conducts three levels of review during the grant submission and review process. The first is an administrative review to determine if all grant application requirements are met. The second is a comprehensive financial review to evaluate the fiscal merits of the grant applications based on the scoring criteria. The third is a technical review by subject matter experts and TAC."

(CDFA Alternative Manure Management Program Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee)

Types of Projects:

The types of projects that are supported by the Alternative manure management practice grant application all must involve handling manure in ways that do not involve using an anaerobic digester (a separate process with a different CDFA funded grant application). Currently the eligible practices for funding through AMMP include: pasture-based based management, solid separation, and conversion from flush to scrape which is used in conjunction with some form of drying or composting of collected manure. All of these processes are designed to decrease greenhouse (GHG) gas emissions and are selected based on the needs of the operation. The projects and applications that I have completed have applied for conversion from flush to scrape and the installation of manure separators.

The program not only funds the equipment necessary for the project, but also funds within reason associated costs that coincide with the effective completion. This can include items such as concrete, labor, electrical work, and non-multiple use equipment.

Project Application Timeline & Process:

When determining if a project application is going to be completed, an on-farm meeting with the dairy operator must occur. These meetings were scheduled around two-three months before the application deadline, after the 2019 cycle for applications was released. The application was released December of 2019. During the on-farm meeting, I discussed the

purpose of the grant, the possibilities of the grant, and the process for applying with the producer. This often includes educating the producer on the history of the grant as well as CDFA's purpose behind the funding of the grant. Producers often ask questions regarding the requirements of the grant if funded as well as the technologies that can be funded.

After this meeting takes place and the producer and I decide that the project should move forward to the application process, I assist the producer in connecting with companies for the necessary bids. This often includes electrical, equipment dealers, concrete, and labor. The bids include the necessary site plans which are included in the final application. I also collect data from the producer regarding the operation and project. This is baseline information that will be used to determine the impact of Greenhouse Gas reduction by the completed project and is influential in the scoring process of the project. This includes cow numbers, lagoon size and depth, current management practices, equipment use, fuel use, water use, and information regarding current permitting of the operation. The producer is also responsible for supplying financial information.

This information is then processed and checked for accuracy, and then I entered it into the application as well as created spreadsheets that calculate budget and greenhouse gas reductions.

The final submission deadline for the applications falls three months after the release of the call for grant applications. Throughout the process of completing the application there is an open line of communication between the producer and myself in order to quire any additional necessary information as well as inform the producer on the progress of the application.

Projects Statistics:

(Producer Meeting Records/Hours/Descriptions)

2019 AMMP Application Cycle:

12 On-farm Producer Visits Located In:

- Tulare
- Merced
- Visalia
- Oakdale
- Denair

2 CDFA Meetings Attended: Stanislaus & Tulare

1 “Kitchen Table” Producer Meeting

- Tipton, CA
- 5 Producers in Attendance

5 Completed Applications

- Manure Separator: Merced, CA
- Manure Separator: Tulare, CA
- Manure Separator: Tulare, CA
- Conversion from flush to scrape: Tulare, CA
- Manure Separator: Denair, CA

Hours dedicated to AMMP Education, Meetings, & Applications: 95 Hours