

Minnesota Milk Climate-Smart Project: Empowering farmers to continue improving

Minnesota Milk took a significant step toward empowering farmer members to achieve greater environmental sustainability and financial support through the Farmers for Sustainable Food Climate-Smart Program.

Through this partnership, Minnesota Milk opened enrollment in a multi-year sustainability program that provides opportunities and financial incentives. The program uses data to inform decision-making regarding conservation practices and potentially adding value to the food produced on the farm.

The Farmers for Sustainable Food Climate-Smart Program stands out from others in an important way — there’s no requirement for farmers to implement any specific practices. Rather, farmers determine the critical environmental concerns in their area and then, by using technical tools and resources available through the program, they can evaluate the impact their changes are making. Houston Engineering Inc. provides technical data assistance to farmers.

Farmers will receive financial stipends based on their level of participation. Initial funding comes from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities award.

Financial compensation has three tiers:

Contributor: Participants complete a simple greenhouse gas and carbon assessment based on current on-farm practices. No additional requirements.

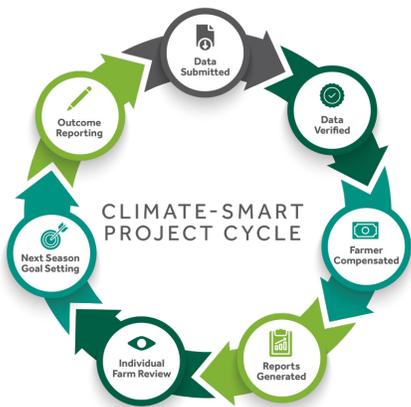
Cultivator: Participants take a deeper dive into their farm data through more in-depth assessments of farming prac-

tices using tools such as COMET-Farm or other approved assessment tools.

Collaborator: Farmers who connect to the supply chain by sharing data with downstream partners, like dairy processors, to help generate added value for commodities.

Farmer data is a confidential advantage as to how they run their businesses. As such, when farmers turn over data we believe they should be compensated, and this opportunity allows them to receive \$1,500, \$4,500 or \$9,000 according to their level of compensation, and also can achieve additional funding depending on their participation level.

This is an exciting step for Minnesota farmers and an encouraging advancement toward creating a value-added product in the supply chain. 🍅



Scan here for more information on Climate-Smart.



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