

A collage of dairy products including a wedge of cheddar, a bowl of shredded cheese, a pitcher of milk, a wedge of Swiss cheese, and a wedge of blue cheese on a wooden cutting board.

DAIRY PROCESSOR GRANT

FY 2014–2023 IMPACT REPORT



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
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For more information about this program, please visit:
[Dairy Processor Grants](#) or datcp.wisconsin.gov.

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Dairy Processor Grant Program Overview

The Dairy Processor Grant (DPG) fosters innovation, improves profitability, and sustain the long-term viability of Wisconsin's dairy processing facilities. Since the program started in 2014, the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has received 267 DPG proposals requesting more than \$11.4 million and has funded 135 of those proposals totaling \$3.2 million. Eligible applicants must operate a licensed dairy processing plant in Wisconsin that is engaged in pasteurizing, processing, or manufacturing milk or dairy products. Grant funding can be used to address a wide range of dairy business needs such as food safety, staff training, plant expansion or modernization, and professional consulting services.

This impact report provides an overview of the interest in the program since its inception in 2014, as well as the measured impacts reported during the years since its creation. As reporting metrics changed over the years, this report reflects the impact data that was prioritized for each iteration of the grant program.

Historical Grant Notes

While the State of Wisconsin has continually operated the DPG since fiscal year (FY) 2014, additional DATCP Division of Agricultural Development (DAD) Grant programs predated the advent of the DPG as it is currently named and operated. During these prior iterations, DAD grants supported dairy processing operation projects, as well as produce operations, meat production, and other food processing projects. Before the 2014 inception of the DPG, forerunner grant programs were offered in 2008 and 2009.



Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection building in Madison, Wisconsin.

Grant Impacts

2014

- When first introduced in FY2014, 22 DPG proposals were received requesting \$754,732 in funds. The \$200,00.00 in grant funds were distributed to eight awardees.
- A total of \$141,025 in matched contributions were reported.

2016

- In the summer and autumn of 2016, 80 grant applications were received for the DPG, requesting a total of \$395,398.21. The \$200,00.00 in grant funds were distributed to six grantees.
- In the first-round of 2016 grants, \$28,761 in match contributions were reported.

2017

- Fourteen grant applications were received in FY2017, requesting a total of \$678,304. The \$200,00.00 in grant funds were distributed to eight grantees.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. Match contributions totaled \$26,579. In this grant year, a number of grants were never active and therefore did not contribute matching funds.

2018

- Fourteen grant applications were received in FY2018, requesting a total of \$611,908. The \$200,00.00 in grant funds were distributed to nine grantees with 89% of the grant funds being utilized by the recipients.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. This minimum match was exceeded with processor investment totaling \$112,766.

2019

- Fourteen grant applications were received in FY2019, requesting a total of \$512,238. The \$200,00.00 in grant funds were distributed to 10 grantees with 98% of the grant funds being utilized by the recipients.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. This minimum match was exceeded with total processor investment totaling \$147,990.

Grant Impacts cont.

2020

- Twenty-six grant applications were received in FY2020, requesting a total of \$992,523 dollars. Through the projects awarded, \$200,000 in grant funds were distributed to 11 grantees with 100% of the grant funds being utilized by recipients.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. Matching contributions far exceeded those required, totaling \$1.125 million in other investments.
- Combined, the businesses reported an expected \$800,000 in projected increased sales or production within two years of the project.
- For those grantees reporting data on an efficiency increase, on average projects resulted in a 16.25% increase in efficiency.
- Grant recipients reported that a total of 8 new jobs were created from the program with 47 jobs retained.

2021

- Eighteen grant applications were received in FY2021, requesting a total of \$627,334. Through the projects awarded, \$200,000 in grant funds were distributed to 15 grantees with 83% of the grant funds being utilized by the recipients.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. Matching contributions far exceeded those required totaling \$1.974 million in other investments.
- Combined, the businesses reported an expected \$2.995 million in projected increased sales or production within two years of the project.
- Grant recipients reported that a total of eight new jobs were created from the program with 87 retained.

2022

- Forty-three grant applications were received in FY2022, requesting a total of \$1,738,753. Through the projects awarded, \$400,000 in grant funds were distributed to 19 grantees with 92% of the grant funds being utilized by recipients.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. Matching contributions totaled \$135,992.
- Combined, the businesses reported an expected \$10.8 million in projected increased sales or production within two years of the project.
- For those grantees reporting data on an efficiency increase, on average projects resulted in a 17% increase in efficiency.
- Grant recipients reported that a total of 39 new jobs were created and 138 jobs were retained due to the program.

2023

- Thirty-eight grant applications were received in FY2023, requesting more than \$1.55 million in grant funds. The \$399,925.00 in grant funds awarded were distributed to 21 grantees with 87% of the grant funds being utilized by the recipients. \$400,000 was made available for grant funding in FY2023.
- The DPG required recipients to match 20% of the funds requested for grant projects. All projects exceeded the requirement with \$189,656 in matching funds and a total outside investment of \$1.48 million. Combined, the businesses estimated an expected \$13.7 million in projected increased sales or production within two years of the project.
- For those grantees reporting data on an efficiency increase, projects resulted in a 22.5% increase in efficiency on average.
- Grant recipients reported that a total of 50 new jobs were created from the program with 161 jobs retained.

Select Success Stories

Decatur Dairy

Location: Brodhead

Grant Year: 2021

Project: Purchase of engineering involved in building a warehouse to store product.

Learn more about this project on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/hbt3A9wm7CY?si=l4HGDJc-NoJUg3On>



Decatur Dairy located in Brodhead, Wisconsin.

Highfield Farm Creamery

Location: Walworth

Grant Year: 2021

Project: Placement of PVC curtain strips, purchasing cheese molds, and installation of ceiling insulation above three ageing rooms, a used COP tank, and a small brine tank.

Learn more about this project on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/lv4rySeqjJg?si=p710Q45TiL9NxctF>



Highfield Farm Creamery located in Walworth, Wisconsin.

Uplands Cheese

Location: Dodgeville

Grant Year: 2021

Project: Purchase of multi-functional block molds and engineering a refurbished elevated vat.

Learn more about this project on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/w4Vf4P8pzdE?si=gV1IEZNxbSwgpQ-D>



Pleasant Ridge Reserve, made by Uplands Cheese, is the most-awarded cheese in American history.

Moundview Dairy

Location: Platteville

Grant Year: 2020

Project: Install a bioremediation "live machine" system, which uses natural microbes and hydroponic plants to cleanse and purify "wash-water" from cleaning milk trucks, tanks, and cheese making equipment.

Learn more about this project on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/brxl04J3hQ8?si=lbly-l-E8t7oeYPa>

Specialty Cheese Company

Location: Reeseville

Grant Year: 2014, 2018, 2019

Project:

- 2014 - Automation of paneer and ground cheese production.
- 2018 - Increase efficiency and capacity of making shelf-stable baked cheese products.
- 2019 - Facility modernization project enabling automated production of paneer cheese.

Learn more about this project on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/FGrMErMx8iQ?si=LqCn62JmbKVbX6XI>

2023 Grant Recipients

Company	City	Award	Project
Cedar Grove Cheese	Plain	\$30,000	To develop and deploy a system that tracks the activities of the tankers that serve Cedar Grove Cheese factory. The system fills a hole in dairy food safety, assures integrity of product claims and facilitates information flows.
Chalet Cheese Cooperative	Monroe	\$17,500	The development of a marketing plan to communicate effectively with potential cheese buyers and working with a marketing team to lay the groundwork for getting our product out to the market.
Eau Galle Cheese Factory	Durand	\$25,000	To engineer a wastewater treatment plant that will allow the capture of renewable gas from the waste solids to fuel boilers, netting savings in natural gas consumption, and to clean up wastewater so that the water would be suitable for discharge to a nearby river and that a small amount of valuable solids, separated for use as fertilizer by local farmers. In addition, using the clean water generated by the system of local farm fields, a change that would reduce the volume of water farmers may need to pump out of the ground.
Harmony Cheese, LLC	Edgar	\$17,500	Replacing two cheese vats to double production capacity as well as improving the quality and potential food safety impacts of the equipment. Additionally, a new milk tank was to be installed externally at the plant.
Klondike Cheese Co	Monroe	\$10,000	To install and test network configuration hardware and deploy redundancy in fire wall protection. Reduce risk of lost production from system locking down and potential risk of supply chain interruption to the food supply.
Landmark Creamery LLC	Belleville	\$20,000	To expand cheese caves to increase cheese production and utilize improved technology to decrease moisture loss during aging, improving yield and profitability.
Marieke House of Gouda	Eau Claire	\$30,000	To launch a new retail store concept separate from the farmstead cheese retail location, to move more cheese directly to consumers without the expense of brokers and distributors to other retailers and to have an attractive store with Euro/Dutch design/signage along with well trained staff in cheese mongering and food safety in order to provide the wow customer service expected in a well-run artisan cheese shop.
Nasonville Dairy, Inc.	Marshfield	\$15,000	To hire consultants for compliance with Global Food Safety Initiative and to expand intake facilities.
Roelli Cheese Co. Inc.	Shullsburg	\$14,790	To train a new Cheese Maker for licensing, as well as to consult on future expansion plans for growth within our present structure and upgrade some cheese hoops for different cheese making and to upgrade the hot water system for washing curds.
Rosewood Dairy	Algoma	\$25,000	To erect a 1.5-million-gallon wastewater tank, which replaced our 18,000-gallon tank increasing production by more than 2 million pounds per year, save thousands of dollars on hauling costs, reduce chances for wastewater runoff, and job creation.

Company	City	Award	Project
S. Terry Woods, LTD	Walworth	\$7,925	Collecting equipment and training to create a YouTube channel highlighting small cheese making operations. Creating internal software specifically designed and targeted at small cheese makers to allow them to simplify and quantify their operations from a paperwork and tracking standpoint.
Safety Fresh Foods	Plymouth	\$15,000	Reducing waste and growing demand for Wisconsin Dairy products through educating manufacturers on the possible applications to their products and subsequently guiding them through product formulating with a series of trials and helping to market and sell products through a network of existing sales outlets.
Scoops Ice Cream	Chilton	\$10,000	Through expansion and modernization project, adding freezer capacity and acquiring equipment to manufacture ice cream novelty treats to allow us to expand, distribute, and sell the finest quality of organic coffee, premium clean label ice cream, and related products in a wide variety of innovative flavors.
Uplands Cheese	Dodgeville	\$30,000	The development of a building plan for a new cheese facility. In particular, the public-facing, educational component of the new proposed building will enhance education and promotion of Wisconsin cheese to thousands of visitors annually.
V&V Supremo Foods, Inc.	Arena	\$25,000	To offset design costs associated with modernizing the milk receiving area in the current facility, as well as an overall expansion of it. To bring additional capacity to our products to the market to meet demand. To keep the newly acquired facility within regulatory compliance, the milk receiving area needs to be enclosed.
Weber's Farm Store	Marshfield	\$17,500	To develop five new flavored labels. These flavors will be featured as milk of the month, rotating flavors. To expand the pasteurizer by replacing the existing unit with a larger homogenizer and additional holding tube to increase the amount to be pasteurized per hour. The grant helped with the costs of consulting, engineering timing and labor.
Westby Cooperative Creamery	Westby	\$18,000	To redesign packaging, increase sales, and build branding and market.
Widmer's Cheese Cellars, Inc.	Theresa	\$25,000	To modernize the cheese plant by replacing two old vats with two new vats, offering a traditional cheesemaking process while increasing capacity, efficiency, and food safety.
Winona Foods, Inc.	Howard	\$12,500	To create a leak detection system to create 100% reliable inspection of sealed packaged products.
Wisconsin Whey Protein, Inc.	Menom- onie	\$19,210	To improve product quality, reduce off spec material by 50% and increase spray dryer efficiency and production capacity by 10%.

Past Grant Recipients

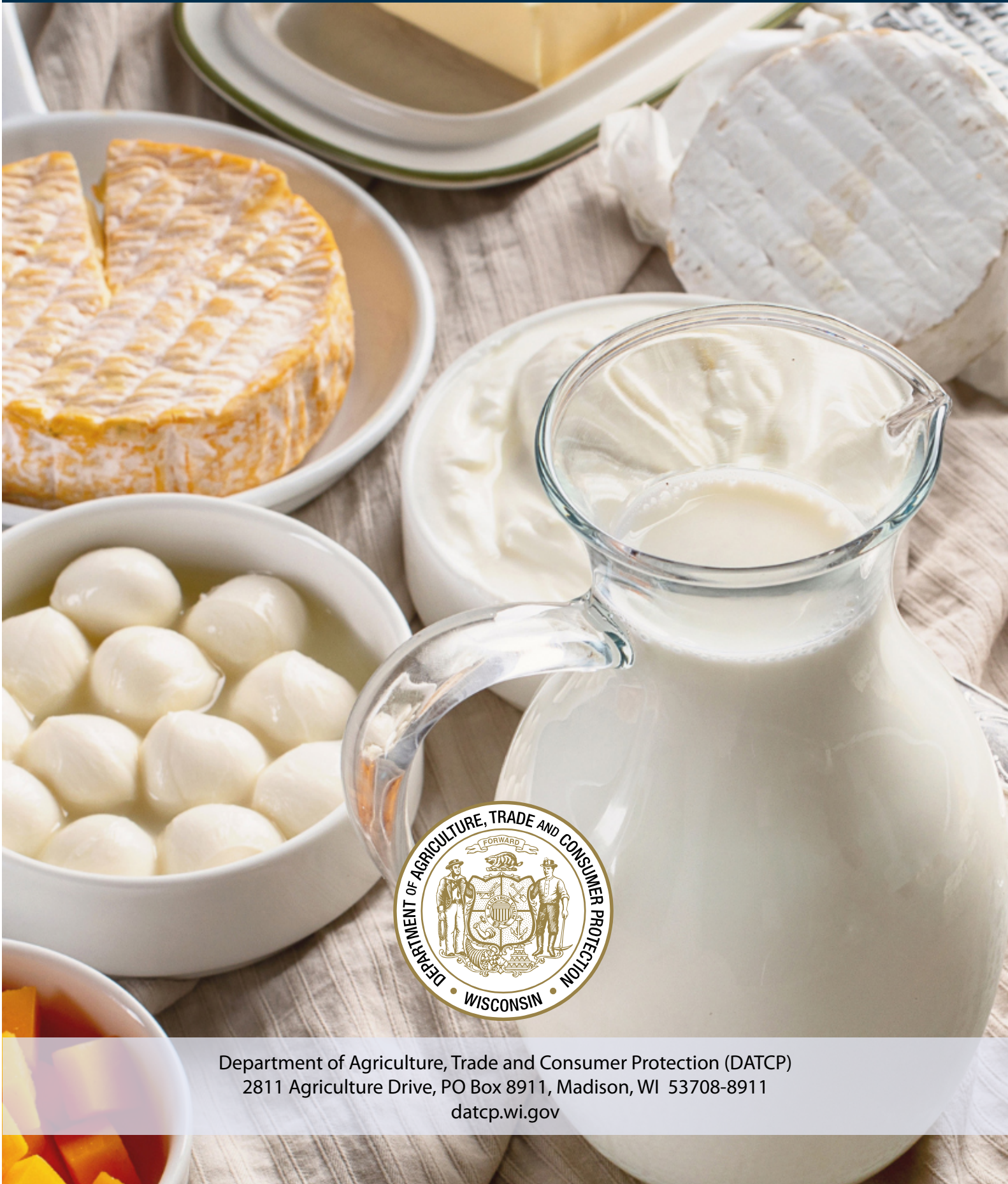
Company	County	Year	Award
Agropour Dairy Cooperative	Kewaunee	2020	\$30,800
Alpine Slicing and Cheese	Green	2022	\$15,000
Arena Cheese	Iowa	2020	\$10,000
Barron County Cheese	Barron	2018	\$33,000
Bifrost Farms Creamery	Dunn	2019	\$5,000
Brunkow Cheese	Lafayette	2022	\$18,500
Burnett Dairy Cooperative	Burnett	2018	\$18,000
Caprine Supreme	Outagamie	2020	\$4,250
Caprine Supreme	Outagamie	2021	\$4,000
Carr Valley Cheese Company	Sauk	2016	\$50,000
Carr Valley Cheese Company	Sauk	2018	\$33,000
Carr Valley Cheese Company	Sauk	2021	\$18,500
Cedar Grove Cheese	Sauk	2020	\$35,000
Cedar Valley Cheese	Ozaukee	2014	\$37,500
Cedar Valley Cheese	Ozaukee	2022	\$25,000
Chalet Cheese	Green	2019	\$20,000
Chalet Cheese	Green	2021	\$5,000
Clock Shadow Creamery	Milwaukee	2021	\$13,680
Cooperative Regions of Organic Producer Pools (CROPP)	Vernon	2019	\$28,569
Dairyvative Technologies	Green Lake	2014	\$50,000
Decatur Dairy	Green	2021	\$14,960
Decatur Dairy	Green	2022	\$24,000

Company	County	Year	Award
Door Artisan Cheese	Door	2022	\$25,000
Eckerman Sheep Company	Langlade	2019	\$11,931
Edelweiss Creamery LLC	Green	2017	\$37,500
Emmi Roth USA, Inc.	Dane	2017	\$25,000
Foremost Farms	Sauk	2021	\$15,000
Harmony Specialty Dairy Foods	Marathon	2014	\$13,500
Henning Cheese	Manitowoc	2016	\$13,305
Henning Cheese	Manitowoc	2020	\$26,000
Henning Cheese	Manitowoc	2021	\$15,600
Henning Cheese	Manitowoc	2022	\$18,500
Highfield Farm Creamery	Walworth	2021	\$7,324
Hill Valley Dairy	Walworth	2022	\$20,000
Holland's Family Farm (dba Mareike Gouda)	Clark	2018	\$15,000
Holland's Family Farm (dba Mareike Gouda)	Clark	2020	\$12,000
Holland's Family Farm (dba Mareike Gouda)	Clark	2022	\$22,000
K&K Cheese	Monroe	2021	\$20,000
Kemps LLC	Ozaukee	2018	\$19,000
Landmark Creamery	Dane	2018	\$17,000
Landmark Creamery	Dane	2020	\$22,000
Lynn Dairy	Clark	2022	\$25,000
Maple Leaf Cheese	Green	2021	\$15,000
Marron Foods	Pepin	2014	\$20,931

Past Grant Recipients cont.

Company	County	Year	Award
Milk Specialties Global	Fond du lac	2022	\$28,000
Moundview Dairy	Grant	2020	\$30,200
Muscoda Protein Products LLP	Grant	2022	\$28,000
Nasonville Dairy	Wood	2019	\$42,000
Nasonville Dairy	Wood	2020	\$6,150
Nasonville Dairy	Wood	2021	\$19,370
Ponderosa Dairy Products	Kewaunee	2016	\$40,000
Rolling Hills Dairy	Green	2021	\$7,685
Rosewood Dairy / Renard's Cheese	Kewaunee	2019	\$15,000
Rosewood Dairy / Renard's Cheese	Kewaunee	2022	\$24,000
Safety Fresh Foods	Milwaukee	2018	\$25,000
Saputo Cheese USA	Barron	2016	\$40,000
Sassy Cow Creamery	Dodge	2019	\$15,000
Specialty Cheese Company	Dodge	2014	\$26,500
Specialty Cheese Company	Dodge	2018	\$20,000
Specialty Cheese Company	Dodge	2019	\$15,000
Specialty Cheese Company	Dodge	2022	\$20,000
Taylor Cheese Corporation	Waupaca	2014	\$13,500
Two Guernsey Girls Creamery	Outagamie	2022	\$5,000
University of Wisconsin - Platteville	Grant	2022	\$10,000
Uplands Cheese	Iowa	2021	\$15,000
Westby Co-op Creamery	Vernon	2019	\$15,000

Company	County	Year	Award
Westby Co-op Creamery	Vernon	2022	\$25,000
Widmer's Cheese	Dodge	2016	\$50,000
Widmer's Cheese	Dodge	2019	\$27,500
Widmer's Cheese	Dodge	2021	\$20,000
Wisconsin Pride Cheese Cooperative	Juneau	2020	\$25,000
Wisconsin Pride Cheese Cooperative	Juneau	2022	\$25,000
Wiskerchen Cheese	Wood	2022	\$20,000
Yodelay Yogurt	Dane	2017	\$12,500
Yodelay Yogurt	Dane	2018	\$20,000
Yodelay Yogurt	Dane	2020	\$10,600
Zimmerman Cheese	Lafayette	2020	\$10,000
Zimmerman Cheese	Lafayette	2021	\$8,880



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