



coles

Dairy Farmers

Sustainability Accelerator Fund

Applications are now open and close Friday 6 September 2024

About the Fund

The *Sustainability Accelerator Fund (the Fund)* has been designed to support farmer-lead sustainability change across the Coles dairy farmer group. This is the second year that Coles have offered this Fund to dairy farmers directly supplying milk to Coles. Funding is available across four different levels (as per Table 1). Farmers who received either \$25,000 or \$50,000 in FY24 can only apply for either \$15,000 or \$7,500 in FY25. Farmers who received either \$15,000 or \$7,500 in FY 24 are welcome to apply for all four funding levels.

The Fund has an allocation of \$1.5 million available for FY25.

Farmers are encouraged to utilise the Fund to invest in on farm projects and are required to meet at least one of the sustainability criteria, which aligns to the [Global Dairy Sustainability Framework](#). The Fund is available for FY24 and FY25 and farmers can apply each year for funding.

There will only be one round this year and farmers should nominate a project at all levels they are eligible for.

Funding Access

The funding levels available are outlined below with a current Milk Purchase Agreement with Coles (MPA) that signed a multi-year MPA in FY24.

Table 1. Funding levels each year and availability depending on the MPA term.

Fund Level	Amount	Number tranches available	MPA Term	
			1 year (FY25)	2 years (FY25 & FY26)
1*	\$50,000	5	Not available	✓
2*	\$25,000	15	Not available	✓
3	\$12,500	45	✓	✓
4	\$7,500	Remaining farms that didn't receive a level 1-2 allocation	✓	✓

*Levels 1 and 2 are not available to farmers who received these funding amounts in FY24.

Key dates

Activity	Timeframe
1. Applications open for the Sustainability Accelerator Fund	12 August 2024
2. Applications Close	Friday 6 September 2024
3. Assessment of applications	September 2024
4. Announcement of Funding allocations	October 2024
5. Payment of Funding	October 2024

Key Contacts

Milk Department:

Felicity Koch – felicity.koch@milkdepartment.com.au or 0416 240 570

Luke Johnson – luke.johnson@milkdepartment.com.au or 0459 551 653

Simone Ross – simone.ross@milkdepartment.com.au or 0417 506 084

Terms and Conditions

1. Criteria

To be eligible for the **Sustainability Accelerator Fund**, projects must meet one or more of the Dairy Sustainable Framework (DSF) pillars. The DSF is focused on key sustainability criteria, identified as relevant to the dairy sector globally. Please see them outlined below:

Green House Gas Emissions, Soil Nutrients, Soil Quality & Retention, Water Management & Quality, Biodiversity, Working Conditions, Animal Care & Welfare, Waste and Milk Safety & Quality.

They can also be viewed online here: [Criteria - Dairy Sustainability Framework](#)

Farmers are required to demonstrate in their application how their project would meet the criteria. A team member from Milk Department can assist with this if need be.

Applications which do not satisfy the criteria are unable to be accepted by Coles and farmers will receive notification accordingly.

2. Eligibility

The **Sustainability Accelerator Fund** is only open to Coles Dairy Farmers that have a current Milk Purchase Agreement. The funds must be spent on the same farm contracted to supply milk to Coles as detailed in the application.

Farmers may be required to provide a quote, plan, photos or video on request to substantiate their application before funding is allocated.

Applications are only open to new projects that have not yet started, or the project is a new addition to work that has already been completed. Funds won't be distributed to projects that have already commenced.

3. Funding levels

Funding Levels 1 and 2 – if previously awarded to a farm in FY24, are ineligible to apply the following years for funding levels 1 and 2, however can still apply annually for levels 3 and 4.

4. Proof of purchase and progress

Farmers are required to acquit the funds allocated within 12 months of the funds being paid.

Farmers may apply for an extension to the fund acquittal periods if extenuating circumstances apply. For example: supply chain delays, weather.

If a farmer fails to acquit the funds as agreed to, access to future funds may be denied and/or Coles reserves the right to take action to seek repayment of the monies.

Farmers are required to provide receipts/invoices as evidence of the expenditure to Milk Department on request.

5. Publicity

Recipients may be asked to provide photos and information for case studies to promote the Sustainability Accelerator Fund. Applicants who receive \$50,000 funding may be required to participate in media publicity.

6. Determination of funding rounds

Coles reserves the right to change the opening period and offer additional funding rounds and amounts.

7. End of project follow up

Recipients may be required to provide a short status report on the project they have received funds for and are required to complete a survey to provide feedback on how the fund has helped improve sustainability on your farm.

8. Application Process

Applications are now open and close on Friday 6 September 2024

Application Form - Applications are only accepted by completing the annual Sustainability Accelerator Fund Application Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B3CTPDB>

Farmers are encouraged to submit applications for multiple funding levels but only one project will be successful per Milk Purchase Agreement.

Please consider the funding levels and several projects that may suit the various funding levels. We recommend you apply for more than one funding level via the form in the case you are unsuccessful for your preferred funding level.

9. Funding allocation

Funding will be awarded where an application satisfactorily meets the fund criteria as determined by Coles. If a fund level has more applications than the number of grants available, Coles will determine the successful applicants.

All projects will be considered equally. There is no disadvantage for submitting multiple projects for multiple funding levels.

Each level of funding will be considered separately to other levels.

10. Fund payments

Farmers will be advised in writing of a successful application and funds will be directly paid to your nominated bank account within 60 days from notification.