



coles

Dairy Farmers

Sustainability Accelerator Fund

Round 1 Opens - 1 July 2023 and closes 31 August 2023.

1 July 2023

About the Fund

The Sustainability Accelerator Fund is designed to support farmer-lead sustainability change across the Coles dairy farmer group. Funding is available across four different levels (as per Table 1) and all farmers are welcome to apply.

The Fund has an allocation of \$3 million in total with \$1.5 million available per financial year for the next 2 years with designated annual application periods.

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. As rounds open, they will be advertised by email.

Funding Access

The funding levels available are outlined below for 1, 2 & 3-year Milk Purchase Agreements (MPA).

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

Fund Level	Amount	Number in level available	MPA Term (years)	
			1 (FY24)	2 & 3 (FY24 & FY 26)
1	\$50,000	5	Not available	✓
2	\$25,000	15	Not available	✓
3 ¹	\$12,500	40	✓	✓
4 ¹	\$7,500	To all farmers and did not receive fund levels 1-3	✓	✓

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. Unsuccessful applicants may be offered the opportunity to resubmit an application in Round 2.

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 started.

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 before end of FY24 and FY25.

5. Publicity

Recipients may be asked to provide photos and information for case studies to promote the Sustainability Accelerator Fund.

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.

Application Process

Round 1 Opens 1 July 2023 and closes 31 August 2023.

Application Form - Applications are only accepted by completing the annual Sustainability Accelerator Fund Application Form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sustainabilityacceleratorFY24>

Farmers can submit an application 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. You'll be able to apply for more than one funding level via the form in the case you are unsuccessful for your preferred funding level.

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.

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.

Key dates

Activity	Timeframe
1. Round 1 applications open for the Accelerator Fund	1 July – 31 August 2023
2. Assessment of applications	September 2023
3. Announcement of successful applicants	October 2023
4. Round 2 applications open for the Accelerator Fund (in the case that not all funds are allocated)	To be confirmed
5. Round 2 applications close	To be confirmed
6. Receipts/invoices as evidence of funds spent submitted to Milk Department	30 June 2024
7. Feedback survey	March 2024

Key Contacts

Milk Department:

Sarah Thompson – sarah.thompson@milkdepartment.com.au or 0418 884 621

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