

Dairy Farm Grant 2019 – FAQs on the application process

Making an application

1. Who is eligible to apply for the Dairy Farm Grant?

Any Irish dairy farmer currently supplying any of the major co-operatives. You must have a supplier number; be currently engaged in milk production; be tax compliant; and be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine as a herd owner or herd keeper.

2. How do I apply?

- **Download** the required form and guidance from SEAI's website <https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/dairy-farm-grant/>
- **Contact** your local Teagasc Advisor or Farm Advisor who can assist with information and completing the application documentation
- **Submit** your completed application and supporting documentation to SMEgrants@seai.ie

3. How do I get help with the application form?

- Read the [Dairy Farm Grant Application Guide](#)
- Contact your local [Teagasc Advisor](#) or Farm Advisor, or
- Call SEAI on 01 8082100, or
- Email Business@seai.ie

4. When does the grant close to applications?

12 noon, Friday 29th March 2019.

5. Where do I send the application?

Email your application and supporting documents to SMEgrants@seai.ie.

6. Can I make an application by post?

No, application forms and supporting documents should be sent in via email. The application form should be completed and sent as an Excel file. If you have any difficulties, please contact 01 808-2100 and we will assist you.

7. What photographs do I need to provide with my application?

When you apply you need to provide photographs of your existing equipment that you are planning on replacing. This is to demonstrate that the grant is for a replacement/retrofit. The photographs must be in focus, taken at a wide angle to show the whole unit, and the equipment must be in situ and functioning. If you are planning on installing the new equipment in a different location then you must provide photographs of the new location too.

A full list of the requirements for the photographs can be found in section 6.1 of the [Dairy Farm Application Guide](#).

Technologies

8. What technologies are supported by the grant?

The grant supports the installation of variable speed drive (VSD) vacuum and milk pumps. You may install the following measures:

- Complete replacement vacuum pump (must include VSD, motor, pump, controls and inverter);
- Retrofit of existing vacuum pump with VSD;

- Retrofit of existing milk pump with VSD (**must** include VSD, and if required **may** include pump, motor and controls)

9. What are the benefits of getting a variable speed drive pump?

Cost savings on electricity for the milk parlour, quieter equipment, less maintenance required, and it's cleaner (no oil).

Costs and payback

10. What is the maximum amount of grant I can get for measures?

For eligible measures you can receive 40% of the eligible cost, up to the amounts listed on <https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/dairy-farm-grant/>

11. What is the payback for the technologies?

Indicative payback periods (in years) are given in table 2 below. Please note that payback figures will vary from site to site and according to the utilisation rate of the milking parlour.

Number of milking units	10	16	24	30
VSD vacuum pump (single phase)	13	6	3	N/A
VSD vacuum pump (three phase)	N/A	4	3	4
VSD milk pump	5	4	4	3

Table 1: Payback (in years) for the different technologies eligible under the current scheme across 4 different sized milking machines.

12. Are installation costs covered by the grant?

Yes. The maximum grant amounts are given on <https://www.seai.ie/grants/business-grants/dairy-farm-grant/>

If your total costs are less than these threshold amounts then 40% of the installation costs may be included in your grant offer. This will be calculated for you by SEAI.

13. Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes. If, for example, you have two vacuum pumps and you wish to replace both then you may receive a grant for each – just mark it on your application form.

14. I am building a new milk parlour; can I avail of the grant for the fit out?

No, the grant is only for the replacement or retrofit of existing technology.

15. I already have a variable speed drive pump – can I use the grant to contribute to the cost?

No, grants are only offered for measures that have not been purchased; you cannot retroactively claim for costs you incurred prior to receiving a Letter of Offer.

Installing the measures

16. When can I start the work?

Work can only commence after the Letter of Offer (LOO) has been issued by SEAI. Having your quotes in hand in advance of LOO being issued will speed up the installation process and hence the issuance of payments by SEAI.

17. How long do I have to complete the works?

Works must be completed, and all paperwork submitted, by the 28th June 2019.

VAT

18. I don't have a VAT number; can I claim VAT as an eligible cost?

Yes: if you don't have a VAT number, you can include the VAT as an eligible cost. If VAT is being claimed as part of the grant it must be supported by a letter from the Revenue Commissioners stating that the applicant is not registered for VAT.