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Nearly \$1M awarded to create 100% grassfed, organic dairy supply chain in Pa.

HARRISBURG, PA — The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Pasa Sustainable Agriculture nearly \$1 million in grant funding to establish in southeastern Pennsylvania the first regenerative organic dairy supply chain in the U.S.

By supporting managed grazing systems and implementing best management practices, the project contributes to broader ongoing efforts to restore and preserve the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The project also responds to increasing demand and lucrative markets for grassfed organic milk, offering a more secure path toward financial viability for dairy farmers who continue to experience an historic market decline.

Pasa will work with project partners Center for Dairy Excellence, Ephrata National Bank, Mad Agriculture, ORIGIN Milk, Rodale Institute, and TeamAg to pioneer a model of 100% grassfed dairy farms that build healthy soils and improve water quality while collectively generating at least \$10 million in milk sales annually.

“The project team will work together with dairy farms transitioning to grass-fed organic milk production to make other updates on their farms that improve water quality, such as planting riparian forested buffers along streams and improving barnyards,” said TeamAg Business Developer John Williamson. The project additionally aims to convert 6,000 acres of cropland to managed grazing systems, and 4,000 acres of cropland to perennial hay.

With these moves toward more sustainable milk production methods, the project team expects to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay by reducing agricultural nitrogen runoff by more than 400,000 pounds per year, reducing phosphorus runoff by more than 9,000 pounds per year, and reducing sediment erosion by more than 23 million pounds per year.

Through farmer-to-farmer education, technical assistance, and business development support, the project team will help dairy farmers transition to or improve grazing practices and develop financially

viable business models.

More than 50 dairies will be able to access production and environmental stewardship planning services through TeamAg, as well as business consulting services through the Center for Dairy Excellence. We anticipate at least 40 eligible dairy farmers participating in the project will be able to secure a five-year contract with Origin Milk Company and a premium price for all-grass, regenerative-organic-certified milk at more than \$40/cwt.

Rodale Institute will provide support for dairy farms to become [Regenerative Organic Certified](#), which is the highest international standard for soil health, animal welfare, and farmworker fairness. Ephrata National Bank can provide financing to help farms transition to grazing. Mad Agriculture, based in Colorado, will provide a third-party assessment of the project.

“We hope this project will not only support healthier soil and cleaner water in the Chesapeake Bay, but also serve as a model for evolving the dairy industry regionally and nationally,” said Pasa Education Director Franklin Egan.

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[Center for Dairy Excellence](#) assists dairy farm families in the decision-making process and serves as a catalyst for collaboration to strengthen the broader industry.

[Ephrata National Bank](#) is an independent community bank that has provided simple and convenient personal and business banking services in Lancaster County and the surrounding areas since 1881.

[Mad Agriculture](#) works with farmers across the Mountain West, Southwest, Great Plains and Midwest to reimagine and restore our relationship with Earth through agriculture.

[ORIGIN Milk](#) is part of a regenerative movement that exists to redeem nutrition by working in covenantal relationships with farmer-physicians to bring superior nutrition to humans and superior sustainability to our planet.

[Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#) cultivates environmentally sound, economically viable, and community-focused farms and food systems.

[Rodale Institute](#) is growing the regenerative organic movement through research, farmer training, and consumer education.

[TeamAg](#) is a team of expert engineers and consultants helping farmers improve environmental and economic performance.