



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## CAFO Improvement Fund

### Considerations for Project Ranking

This document provides a list of elements the CAFO Improvement Fund Committee considers when reviewing and ranking project applications. The elements below are intended to provide consistency and transparency for use in thoughtful and objective project review, deliberation, and selection. This document will be available for project applicants and others who may be interested priorities as related to funding projects that address CAFO improvements across the state of Idaho.

#### CAFO Improvement Funding Considerations for Project Ranking

- Determine AU's: Acre ratio by dividing the number of total cows by the total number of acres owned and operated for land application of animal byproducts (these acres exclude 3rd party export acres and must be under the control of the applicant applying for program funding).
- What is the depth to ground water?
- Is the planned project within a designated DEQ 2020 nitrate priority area?
- What is the distance to any impacted surface water?
- Is this a shovel ready project with a reasonable implementation schedule?
- How well does the project improve and/or protect air quality (particulate matter, ammonia, and odor)?
- Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the facility?
- How well does the project improve and/or protect soil quality and conditions?
- Does the project reduce water consumption at the production facility?

- Does the proposed project include practices that allow nutrients to be distributed to new land application areas, or transported further from the facility?
- Will the proposed contract include practice(s) that involve storage, handling, treatment and/or application of lagoon water in a manner that will benefit nutrient management?
- In your professional judgement, how well is the project going to improve the environment (or natural resources impacted by the project)?
- Consider the amount of risk to the amount of benefit gained.
- How well has the applicant clearly described the need for the project?
- Is this project prioritized due to new owner/partnership?