Blue Diamond Growers Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) Grant

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The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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Overview

In 2022, Blue Diamond Growers was awarded a five-year grant from the USDA for $45 million. This voluntary program allows member-Growers (referred to as "Growers" in this document) of Blue Diamond Growers ("Blue Diamond") to **receive an incentive payment and (for specific, appropriate practices) no-cost plants or seeds** when implementing one or more of the available practices.

The purpose of this document is to provide information to interested or participating Blue Diamond members on the procedures and structure of this program. The manual describes the requirements for general participation, practice specific requirements, rules, and additional information for this program.

As Blue Diamond continues to improve the structure of the Advancing Markets for Producers ("AMP") Grant, Blue Diamond, in its sole discretion, may modify the rules and regulations from time to time.

General Responsibilities

Blue Diamond
Blue Diamond will be responsible for the management of the grant award, application process, review of grower applicants, grower agreements, payments, enforcing program requirements, and USDA terms and conditions for this grant award. Blue Diamond will also pursue and aim to develop sales and marketing initiatives to support a market-based premium to its Growers implementing specific farming practices.

Award Recipients/Growers
Grower recipients are responsible for practice implementation as outlined in their signed Subrecipient Agreement. They must follow the terms of the subrecipient agreement, and these rules and regulations for implementing practices as stated, while investing reasonable management in the long-term success of the practices. Growers are also responsible for providing all necessary information to Blue Diamond around practice location, extent (acreage) of practice, success, and proof of implementation materials as requested. Refer to the practice specific sections in this manual for the expectations of each practice. Participating Growers shall provide timely feedback, communication, and delivery of program materials and information to Blue Diamond within 14 days of when they are requested.

Project *Apis m*.
Project Apis m. ("PAm") will be responsible for providing seed material and giving agronomic advice for cover crops and conservation cover (also referred to as "bee pasture"). PAm will be responsible for assisting Growers after the Grower executes a Subrecipient Agreement with Blue Diamond. PAm will work with Growers to develop a planting plan, coordinate delivery and/or pickup of seed, and ensure all necessary information and guidance has been provided to allow for successful implementation of practices.

Pollinator Partnership
Pollinator Partnership ("P2") will be responsible for the planting materials and agronomic advice for hedgerows. P2 will be responsible for assisting Growers before and/or after the Grower executes a

Subrecipient Agreement with Blue Diamond. P2 will work with Growers to develop a planting plan, coordinate delivery and/or pickup of plants, ensure all necessary information, and guidance has been provided to allow for successful implementation of practices.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements are updated annually. Growers shall apply annually to participate in the grant. Growers can, and are encouraged to, apply every year for each practice, where appropriate.

Growers shall comply with the following requirements to be eligible to participate in the Advancing Markets for Producers Grant:

- Practice must be implemented on an orchard with an active Blue Diamond Crop Agency Agreement ("CAA") (also called a Blue Diamond Contract).
- BDG membership must be maintained at all times during the term of the Agreement.
- Grower must participate in Blue Diamond's Orchard Stewardship Incentive Program ("OSIP") at Double Diamond or above for the most recent crop year.
- Grower must establish farm records with the Farm Service Agency, including having farm, tract, and field numbers in place, must provide FSA maps of all fields enrolled, and provide a subsidiary print which certifies all fields enrolled are highly erodible land conservation ("HEL") and wetland conservation ("WC") compliant.
- Grower must certify it is not a foreign person or entity.
- Grower must comply with CPA-52 completion requirements and receive an approved CPA-52 back from USDA NRCS.
- Grower shall execute a Subrecipient Agreement once they have applied and been approved by NRCS to participate in an AMP practice.
- Grower shall provide proof of implementation of the AMP practice(s) when requested, including supporting documentation.
- Grower must provide Blue Diamond a first right of refusal to any claims or credits of environmental benefits (offsets or other) accrued from practices implemented through this program.

The requirements listed here are non-exhaustive. Requirements are fully set forth in the Subrecipient Agreement along with additional terms and conditions.

Program Workflow

Cover Crops, Conservation Cover, Hedgerows, Whole Orchard Recycling Workflow, Mating Disruption, Compost Application, and Gypsum Application

The general steps a Grower/applicant will follow to participate in the program are as follows:

1. Grower gathers relevant documents from their local USDA FSA office.
2. Grower submits an application to Blue Diamond.
3. Blue Diamond reviews application and reaches out for additional information if needed.

   a. For Hedgerows, Pollinator Partnership will reach out to discuss further questions to determine eligibility.
4. Blue Diamond uploads a CPA-52 on behalf of the Growers to USDA NRCS for approval for the required practices.
   a. A CPA-52 is NOT required for Mating Disruption (skip to step 7 following BDG approval)
5. USDA NRCS determines eligibility of CPA-52 and returns it to Blue Diamond
   a. If CPA-52 is approved, Grower receives and signs a Subrecipient Agreement for the required AMP Grant practice.
      - Cover crops, conservation cover and hedgerow approved applicants will begin working with technical providers to develop a plan, obtain seed/plant material and receive guidance.
      - Whole orchard recycling, mating disruption, compost and gypsum approved applicants shall begin implementation.
   b. If a CPA-52 is denied, Grower will receive notice from Blue Diamond.
6. Grower implements practice.
7. Blue Diamond will require a Confirmation of Implementation.
8. Grower submits proof of implementation, if requested by Blue Diamond.
9. Grower is provided with an implementation incentive. Incentives are more fully described within their specific Subrecipient Agreement. The incentive will not be paid unless the Grower has complied with the required process, an approved CPA-52, a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement, all documents and direction issued by Blue Diamond, the USDA Terms and Conditions, and all program rules, including this Rules and Regulations Manual.

Application Submission

Growers interested in participating in the AMP Grant program are required to submit an online application at the following link on the Blue Diamond Growers AMP Grant webpage (https://www.bluediamond.com/growers/grower-resources/advancing-markets-for-producers-grant/).

Paper submissions will not be accepted. If you are unable to submit this form online, please reach out to your Blue Diamond Regional Manager or contact Jasdeep Bains (jbains@bdgrowers.com).

Review of Applications

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Growers should expect to be notified of next steps within two (2) to three (3) weeks of application submission, but delays may occur. If accepted, Blue Diamond will work with Growers to collect additional information as needed including, but not limited to, further details on proposed practice locations and extent, confirmation of eligibility requirements, other information required for compliance, and any other details to ensure successful practice implementation. Blue Diamond will complete a CPA-52 on behalf of Growers for the required practices and will submit to the USDA NRCS for review. USDA NRCS will determine eligibility and notify Blue Diamond. If CPA-52 is approved, Grower will receive a Subrecipient Agreement for review and signature.

Acreage Review

Growers will be allocated acreage on a first-come, first-served basis. Acreage is allocated by contract number, not by orchard or subcontract number. Practices implemented prior to execution of a Subrecipient Agreement are not eligible for implementation incentives. Additionally, hedgerow and conservation cover are perennial practices, but incentives will not be paid out in subsequent years for ongoing management costs. There is no incentive payment available for ongoing management costs incurred in subsequent years for perennial practices (hedgerows and conservation cover) or whole orchard recycling.

Practice Implementation

Growers shall work with project partners to receive seed and plant materials to implement cover crops, conservation cover, and hedgerows. Cover crops and conservation cover materials and technical assistance will be provided by Project Apis m. Hedgerow materials and technical assistance will be provided by Pollinator Partnership.

Practice Specifications and Incentives

Growers are encouraged to apply for this program yearly. Implementation incentives for each practice are paid out only for implementation. A Grower must provide proof of implementation for each practice (see proof of implementation section). If a Grower fails to follow the program rules or approved sequencing of implementation, they may be disqualified from the AMP grant program, will not be eligible to receive any incentive payment, and will not be able to recoup their costs from Blue Diamond or the USDA.

The Blue Diamond Growers AMP Grant program is modeling its practices after predetermined and defined NRCS conservation practices. Growers shall follow the respective NRCS CPS for each practice, which are as follows:

- Cover Crops – NRCS CPS 340
- Conservation Cover – NRCS CPS 327
- Hedgerow Planting – NRCS CPS 422
- Whole Orchard Recycling – NRCS CPS 808
- Mating Disruption – NRCS CPS 595
- Compost Application – NRCS CPS 336
- Gypsum Application – NRCS CPS 333

Growers participating in the AMP Grant program assume all risk arising out of or relating to the NRCS CPS and waive any and all claims against Blue Diamond that may arise for the Grower following an NRCS CPS while implementing program practices.

Cover Crops

Cover Cropping (also referred to as *Annual Cover Crops*) is a practice of planting a temporary crop, typically flowering and/or nitrogen-fixing species, after harvest with termination in late winter/early spring. Growers are required to comply with the USDA NRCS Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standard 340 for all planning, planting, and management of the practice.

Unless explicitly stated, any reference to acreage totals for cover crops refers to the orchard acreage totals among, which cover crops are planted. It does not refer to the area of planted cover crops (which will always be less than the orchard acreage).

To further clarify, orchard and planted cover crop acreage can be defined as:

- *Orchard Acreage* – The total area of the orchard in which cover crops are planted. Acreage is bounded by the first and last cover crop rows and the beginning and end of the respective cover crop row strips.
- *Planted Cover Crop Acreage ("Planted Acreage")* – The total area of cover crops planted in an orchard, calculated by the sum of each strip area (*width* x *length*).

Seed Costs and Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering no-cost seed (provided through Project *Apis m*.) and incentive payments up to $40/orchard acre for cover crops planted in at least every other row and are at minimum 6 ft. width throughout the entirety of the strip. Eligible cost- sharing activities include land preparation, irrigation, management, and monitoring.

We encourage Growers to plant on every other row to maintain orchard access for completing winter sanitation and maintenance activities.

The details of how the incentive payment is determined and the amounts that are expected to be paid are as follows:

Cover Crop Strip Frequency	Row Width	Implementation Incentive*	Cost of Seed
Every 1-2 rows	Must be a minimum of 6 feet wide	Up to $40/orchard acre	No-cost seeds provided by Project *Apis m*.

Figure 1. Cover Crop Incentive Payment Planting Requirements

Further Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- Growers are expected to plant cover crop seeds as soon as reasonably possible after harvest, prior to November 15th. Further guidance will be provided by Project *Apis m*. Only cover crops planted in orchards with a Blue Diamond Crop Agency Agreement are eligible for participation

in AMP Grant.

- Growers must utilize Project *Apis m*. and its seed mixes for this program. Incentives or are not available for seed purchased by Growers from other outside services providers.
- Growers must plant cover crops at least every other row in orchards subject to a BDG CAA.
- Growers shall plant at the seeding rate set by the Project *Apis m.*
- AMP Grant practice implementation is limited to the boundaries of the Growers orchards subject to a BDG CAA. For lands beyond this, Blue Diamond will review on a case-by-case basis.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Conservation Cover ("Bee Pasture")

Conservation Cover (also referred to as *Bee Pasture, Perennial Conservation Cover*, or *Conservation Plantings*) is a practice of utilizing perennial, vegetative plants on idle, fallow, or marginal land. Growers are required to comply with the USDA NRCS Conservation Cover Conservation Practice Standard 327 for all planning, planting, and management of the practice.

Unless explicitly stated, any reference to acreage totals for conservation cover refers to the planted acreage of this practice, not adjacent orchard acreage totals.

Seed costs and Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering no cost seed (provided by Project Apis m.) and an implementation incentive of up to $50/acre to implement conservation cover. Eligible cost-sharing activities include land preparation, irrigation, management, and monitoring.

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- Growers are expected to plant conservation cover seed as soon as reasonably possible after harvest prior to November 15. Guidance will be provided by Project Apis m.
- Growers shall plant at the seeding rate set by Project *Apis m.*
- AMP Grant practice implementation is limited to the boundaries of the Grower orchards subject to a BDG CAA For lands beyond this, Blue Diamond will review on a case-by-case basis.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Hedgerows

Hedgerow planting (referred to simply as *hedgerows)* is a practice of utilizing native perennial, vegetative, and woody plants on border, idle, fallow, or marginal lands, adjacent to orchards, in a linear fashion to achieve a conservation purpose. Growers are required to comply with the USDA NRCS

Hedgerow Planting Conservation Practice Standard 422 for all planning, planting, and management of the practice.

In these Rules and Regulations, any reference to acreage or linear feet totals of hedgerow planting is referring to the planted acreage of this practice.

Plant costs and Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering no-cost plant material (provided by Pollinator Partnership) and an implementation incentive payment of up to $8/linear foot to implement hedgerows. Eligible cost-share activities include land preparation, irrigation, management, and monitoring.

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- Growers are expected to plant hedgerow plants as soon as reasonably possible after harvest prior to November 15 or as instructed by Pollinator Partnership. Guidance will be provided by Pollinator Partnership.
- Hedgerows shall be planted at recommended spacing.
- AMP Grant practice implementation is limited to the boundaries of the Grower orchards subject to a BDG CAA. For lands beyond this, Blue Diamond will review on a case-by-case basis.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Whole Orchard Recycling

Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR) is a practice which involves (1) chipping and (2) reincorporation of the orchard chips into the soil at the end of the orchard's life cycle. Growers are required to comply with the USDA NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 384 and Practice Standard 336 for all planning, planting, and management of the practice.

Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering an implementation incentive payment of up to $1,400/acre to implement WOR. Eligible cost-share activities include, chipping and reincorporation of the chipped mass.

Providers

Unlike the other practices within Blue Diamond's AMP Grant, there is no specified technical provider for WOR. It is the Growers' responsibility to find a provider for this service. WOR research can be found on University of California's Whole Orchard Recycling webpage: https://orchardrecycling.ucdavis.edu/

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Site and Requirements

- Orchards must be ten years of age or older.
- Chipping must be fully reincorporated in the same field it originates (i.e. no chippings shall be removed, nor shall any be burned).
- Chippings must be incorporated evenly across the entire orchard.
- Chippings must be incorporated to a depth of at least 6 inches.
- Screen size used for grinding must be no larger than 6 inches.
- The removal of the orchard for whole orchard recycling must not be for the purpose of preparing the land for commercial or residential use.
- Growers are expected to replant the orchard back into almonds within five years of completing whole orchard recycling.
- Growers are asked to maintain a log of the following: total removed acreage, dates of chipping and incorporation, size of chips, depth, location of incorporation, and details on whether nitrogen was included at time of incorporation.
- AMP Grant practice implementation is limited to the boundaries of the Grower orchards subject to a BDG CAA. For lands beyond this, Blue Diamond will review on a case-by-case basis.

Mating Disruption

A system that combines an integrated pest management (IPM) decision-making process with natural resource conservation to address pest and environmental impacts.

Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering an implementation incentive payment of up to $120/acre to implement mating disruption. Eligible cost-share activities include only the aerosol pheromone puffer device and the labor associated to place the puffer in orchards at the rate of one puffer device per acre.

If there are any questions regarding approved devices for this practice, please contact Jaz Bains (916-834-5651) or jbains@bdgrowers.com.

Providers

Unlike the other practices within Blue Diamond's AMP Grant, there is no specified technical provider for Mating Disruption. It is the Growers' responsibility to find a supplier of aerosol pheromone puffer device for mating disruption and ensure the puffer devices placement in the orchard.

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will review completed applications for approval, a CPA-52 is NOT required for the Mating Disruption practice. Growers can proceed to implementation once a Subrecipient Agreement is fully executed.
- If requested, a receipt will need to be provided to Blue Diamond showing purchase of aerosol pheromone puffer devices as part of the Confirmation of Implementation Measure.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Compost Application

Application of carbon-based amendments derived from plant materials or treated animal byproducts.

Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering an implementation incentive payment of up to $120/acre to implement compost application in orchards. Eligible cost-share activities include the purchase, delivery and application of **up to 2 tons/acre** compost to orchard floors.

Providers

Unlike the other practices within Blue Diamond's AMP Grant, there is no specified technical provider for Compost Application. It is the Growers' responsibility to source quality compost and have it spread on the orchard floor.

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- If requested, a receipt will need to be provided to Blue Diamond showing purchase of quality compost as part of the Confirmation of Implementation Measure.
- Harvest deliveries containing contaminated, unacceptable, or foul-smelling compost may be subject to reject at Blue Diamond's discretion. Please reference the 2026 Crop Delivery Guide (pages 23-25) and the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) at the following website: https://www.bluediamond.com/growers/grower-resources/forms/
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Gypsum Application

The use of gypsum products involves managing the amount, placement, source, and application timing of gypsum to improve soil properties to address soil health, ameliorating aluminum toxicity, and reducing phosphorus runoff.

Incentive Payments

Blue Diamond is offering an implementation incentive payment of up to $120/acre to implement gypsum

applications to orchards. Eligible cost-share activities include the purchase, delivery and application of **up to 1 ton/acre gypsum** to orchard floors.

Providers

Unlike the other practices within Blue Diamond's AMP Grant, there is no specified technical provider for Gypsum Application. It is the Growers' responsibility to source quality gypsum.

Specifications and Restrictions

- Blue Diamond will submit a CPA-52 to the USDA NRCS for review; only Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement can proceed to implementation.
- If requested, a receipt will need to be provided to Blue Diamond showing purchase of all quality gypsum as part of the Confirmation of Implementation Measure.
- Harvest deliveries containing contaminated, or unacceptable foreign material, may be subject to reject at Blue Diamond's discretion.
- To determine timeline for implementation, Growers with an approved CPA-52 and a fully executed Subrecipient Agreement should reference Appendix A in their Subrecipient Agreement.

Proof of Implementation and Compliance

Proof of implementation is important for the AMP Grant to allow for adequate measurement, and data Verification. Requirements for proof of implementation may change in subsequent enrollment periods. This is a required step for Growers to receive any funding through this program.

To complete the proof of implementation process, Growers shall complete the following:

1. **Confirmation of Implementation (Self-attestation):** *This is required of all Growers.* Blue Diamond will provide the Grower with a "Confirmation of Implementation" form via Docusign, highlighting your initial commitment. The Grower will need to confirm that the actions have been executed. If there were adjustments, simply note them in this review. This will occur after the planting period.
2. **(*Possible*) Site Visit:** Selected Growers will undergo a second party in-orchard review which involves a Blue Diamond team member(s) (or designated partner) visiting a select number of fields enrolled in AMP Grant to confirm a practice was implemented. For cover crops, conservation cover, and hedgerows, this may occur after your proof of implementation is completed.

- It is recommended Growers keep receipts, photos, and any related materials ready, especially if there are germination issues, early-termination, or other factors influencing the ability to complete a check on-site to ensure you can provide proof that you implemented the practices. For WOR, this may occur at any point throughout the season. A site audit, if selected, can last between 1-2 hours, depending on the number of fields. This will be completed by a BDG or select partner.

Grower Practice Documentation

Growers shall retain their program documents for three (3) years following the receipt of any payments for practice implementation in a given participation year. Records may include:

1. Photos of practice implementation and completion.
2. A history of direct costs incurred for services/goods needed to plan, implement, and manage approved practices under this program.
3. A log of estimated labor hours involved with practice implementation.
4. (If applicable) Receipts for whole-orchard recycling, mating disruption, compost and gypsum services and product procurement.
5. Any specific documentation as noted for each individual practice noted above

Modifications to Subrecipient Agreements

Any modification to a Subrecipient Agreement must be made by an amendment to an agreement that is signed by Blue Diamond and the Grower-recipient, including but not limited to:

- Changes to acreage totals.
- Changes to practice location, extent, or plan FSA Information Changes.
- Change in recipient organization or responsible party (including all adjustments to FSA information and ID numbers).

Please reach out to Jasdeep Bains (jbains@bdgrowers.com) or contact the Blue Diamond team before making changes to any of the above items. Not doing so may result in termination of contracts or repayments of grant funds received.

Delays and Complications

Recipients must notify Blue Diamond in writing of any delays, problems, or complications that may materially affect the project. This includes anything that prevents a Grower from complying with any stated rules and regulations, and/or terms and conditions in the Subrecipient Agreement. This includes but is not limited to the failure to plant during a reasonable timeline or maintain and ensure germination.

Notifications should be sent via e-mail to Jasdeep Bains (jbains@bdgrowers.com) with the subject title “Delay” with your Blue Diamond Contract Number and AMP Grant activity (e.g., “Delay – 123456 – Cover Crops”) and include the details or the delay or complication along with your associated FSA Farm ID number for this project. Notifications must be in writing.
Recipients who fail to follow rules and regulations or requirements set forth in the Subrecipient

Agreements in a timely and reasonable manner are subject to possible termination of their Subrecipient Agreement or may be required to repay any funds provided through the AMP Grant.

Incentives

Implementation Incentives

Growers will be paid any incentive in quarterly cycles following proof of implementation. Processing time varies by when the Grower provides a Confirmation of Implementation or all proof of implementation materials as requested by Blue Diamond. Payments to Growers will be distributed following practice implementation and receipt of funds from the USDA.

Incentive payment timing is contingent upon the USDA after funds are requested by Blue Diamond Growers. If the USDA suspends, revokes or cancels the grant program and funds, grant funding and any incentive or reimbursement payments may not be issued by the USDA.

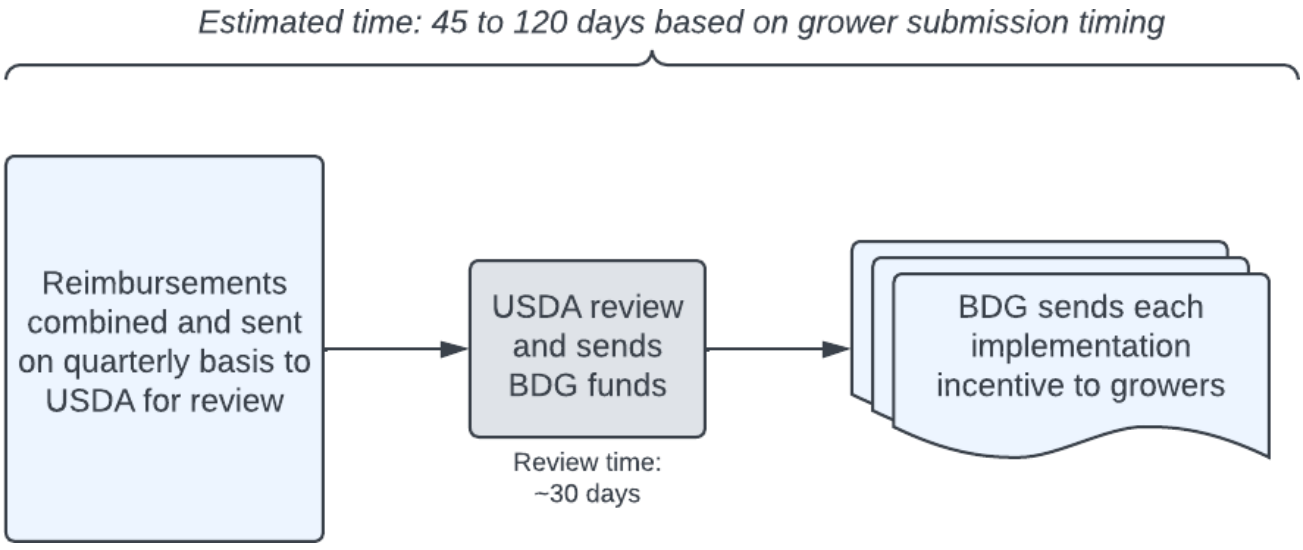


Figure 2. Expected payment process and timeline

Closeout of the Agreement

Blue Diamond will provide Grower participants with a payment letter upon completion of all requirements signifying the closeout of that year's grant participation.

Data Privacy & Sharing

For Growers applying to the Blue Diamond Growers Advancing Markets for Producers Grant, the following data privacy statement is provided to ensure participants have access in writing to how their data will be handled and privacy will be addressed:
We use your information, including the data about your farm and commodities, to evaluate your application for the Blue Diamond Growers Advancing Markets for Producers Grant Program. Failure to provide this information may result in our inability to evaluate your application.

We utilize the information collected above and additional agronomic information, farm location, proof

of implementation, or other protected information, only to the extent needed to administer the award if you are selected as a beneficiary.

We will take measures to restrict access to the information to only those staff that have a demonstrated need to know and perform their duties and subject to confidentiality restrictions. We will only disclose the information to project partners to the extent necessary to support the implementation efforts, or to the USDA as required under the grant Terms and Conditions.

We use commercially reasonable and appropriate administrative, physical, and technical security measures to safeguard your Information. However, no data transmitted over the Internet or stored or maintained by us or our third-party service providers can be 100% secure. Therefore, we do not promise or guarantee, and you should not expect, that your Information will always remain private or secure.

We will retain your Information for as long as needed to provide you Services, and as necessary to comply with our legal obligations, resolve disputes, and enforce our policies.

For more information how Blue Diamond collects and processes information as part of its Services, please see our Privacy Policy (https://www.bluediamond.com/privacy)

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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