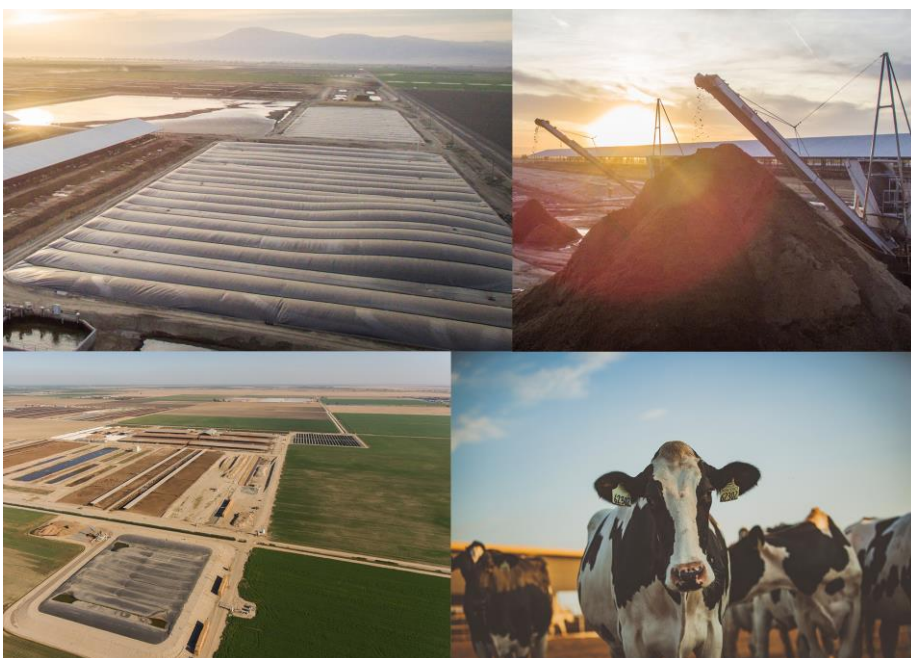


Dairy Cares Newsletter, September 2019

CA dairy farms reach major milestone in climate goal

Methane reduction efforts are on track to make positive impacts on climate and more

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reported this month that California’s dairy farms will soon be more than halfway to achieving the state’s world-leading target for reducing methane. [The update](#) was part of CDFA’s announcement that an additional \$102 million has been awarded this year to support the implementation of dairy methane reduction projects. Ninety-three new projects were funded, including 43 methane digesters that capture methane and 50 alternative manure management projects. There are currently more than 229 dairy methane reduction projects in operation or under development on California dairy farms.



Through the implementation of these projects, CDFA estimates 2.2 million metric tons of greenhouse gases will be reduced each year. That’s approximately 25 percent of the 2013 California inventory for dairy and livestock manure methane emissions. The state’s target is a 40 percent reduction below 2013 levels by 2030. In total, the state has now invested \$260 million in dairy methane reduction projects. California’s dairy farm families and other investors have matched that with more than \$360 million in private funding.

Through implementation of digesters and other technologies, California dairy farms are more than halfway to their world-leading methane reduction goal.

“It’s important to recognize the strong partnerships we as farmers have with our state agencies,” said Dairy Cares’ chairman, Charles “Chuck” Ahlem. “Through this collaboration, we are leading the world in sustainable dairy farm practices. By aggressively reducing methane and continuing to do more using less water, fossil fuel and energy, we will continue to meet challenges and ensure the availability of sustainable and highly nutritious dairy products that consumers love.”

"I am excited to receive a digester grant," said Gerben Leyendekker, a Tulare County dairy farmer. "It is great to see digesters being built in California! My family is excited to help keep our valley air clean by creating transportation fuel from our dairy."

The biogas from Leyendekker’s digester will be piped to a centralized biogas upgrading facility that will collect biogas from 11 neighboring dairies to create carbon-negative, renewable natural gas (RNG). The clean-burning

renewable fuel will be used in heavy-duty trucks, replacing diesel and significantly reducing emissions of NOx—a smog-forming gas.

“Dairy biogas-to-transportation-fuel projects that replace diesel trucks have the potential to significantly reduce transportation emissions in the San Joaquin Valley and other regions of the state,” said Samir Sheikh, Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Dairy Cares estimates that digester projects currently under development will soon enable the annual production of enough clean-burning renewable fuel to reduce NOx emissions by more than 1,110 tons each year. This estimate will grow significantly as additional projects are built. As a result, California’s dairy farms will not only reduce methane emissions, but will contribute greatly to the state’s clean air goals.

In addition to digesters, California family dairy farms are implementing projects that prevent the production of methane from manure management. These projects include dry-scrape systems, manure separators and compost pack barns, which all reduce methane production on farms. Like digesters, these projects can provide additional environmental benefits.

“Every dairy farmer cares about the environment, but these improvements can be very expensive,” said Richard Wagner, a recent grant recipient from San Joaquin County. “We are contributing a significant portion of the total project costs, but without incentive funding from the state, we wouldn’t be able to move forward. We are glad to be a part of this effort.”

As the state’s dairy farmers shrink their methane emissions to unprecedented levels, they are also working to improve water conservation and protection, improve air quality, and advance soil health. These and other sustainability efforts will be highlighted at the [California Dairy Sustainability Summit](#), to take place March 25-26, 2020 in Sacramento.

California dairy farmers are leading the way, protecting our climate and natural resources.

Learn more: Download the maps, and read CDFA’s press release at [DairyCares.com/dairy-digesters](#) and [Dairycares.com/alternative-manure-management](#).

California Dairy Digester Development

Stanislaus County (3), Merced County (17), Madera County (3), & Fresno County (5)

Operating - 30
In Development - 50
2019 Grant Recipient - 43

Kings County (14) & Tulare County (55)

Kern County (19)

Alternative Manure Management in California

151 California dairy farms have been awarded grants to reduce methane through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). Dairies across the state continually work to improve manure management using a variety of technologies and strategies.

2017 Grant Recipient
2018 Grant Recipient
2019 Grant Recipient

Del Norte County, 1
Humboldt County, 6
Sonoma County, 6
Marin County, 2

San Joaquin County, 17
Stanislaus County, 18
Merced County, 20
Madera County, 4
Tulare County, 11
Fresno County, 2
Kings County, 4

News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AWARDS NEARLY \$102 MILLION FOR DAIRY METHANE REDUCTION PROJECTS

Sacramento, September 18, 2019 – The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has awarded nearly \$102 million in grant funding to dairy methane reduction projects across the state. These projects, part of the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) and the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from manure on California dairy farms.

More specifically, 48 DDRDP projects, totaling \$87.4 million, 20 AMMP projects, totaling \$14.8 million, and three demonstration projects, totaling \$1.9 million, have been funded. The projects will collectively reduce an estimated 78,258 metric tons of greenhouse gases (MTCO₂e) per year.

“The awards allow our dairy families to produce clean renewable energy,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “These efforts promote energy resilience, economic vitality, and an important contribution to local rural communities and our planet’s well-being.”

Dairy manure produces methane when it decomposes. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas (GHG) that traps heat in the atmosphere 28 times more than carbon dioxide. Dairy digesters help capture methane emissions and use them to produce electricity or renewable gas.

Changing manure management practices so that manure is handled in a dry form (AMMP) also helps significantly reduce methane emissions.

Since 2012, 222 dairy farmers in California have participated and contributed to methane reduction efforts through the DDRDP and AMMP programs. Together, all DDRDP and AMMP projects reduce an estimated 2.2 million metric tons of greenhouse gases (2.2 MTCO₂e) per year, which is equivalent to removing more than 462,000 cars from the road. This is approximately 23 percent of the 2012 California inventory for dairy and livestock manure methane emissions.

These GHG reduction approaches collectively contribute to the state’s Short-Term Climate Action Strategy under Senate Bill 1370, which aims to reduce California’s methane emissions from the dairy and livestock sector to 40 percent below 2012 levels by 2030.

Funding assistance for the installation of dairy digesters and non-digester projects comes from California Climate Investments, a state-wide initiative that uses Cap-and-Trade program funds to support the state’s climate goals. CDFA and other state agencies are investing these proceeds in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide additional benefits to California communities, such as job creation.

Information about the 2019 DDRDP projects is available at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/food/foodprod/>. For AMMP projects, visit <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/food/foodprod/>.

Dairy Cares is a statewide coalition supporting economic and environmental sustainability and responsible animal care. Our members include Bar 20 Dairy Farms, California Cattlemen’s Association, California Dairies Inc., California Dairy Campaign, California Dairy Research Foundation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of America-Western Area, Dairy Institute of California, F & R Ag Services, GHD, Inc., Hilmar Cheese Co., Joseph Gallo Farms, Land O’Lakes, Merck Animal Health, Milk Producers Council, Ruan Transport Corp., Yosemite Farm Credit, Zenith Insurance Company, and others. For information, visit [DairyCares.com](#) or call 916-441-3318. To subscribe to the e-newsletter, contact news@dairycares.com.