

Agriculture Update

USA

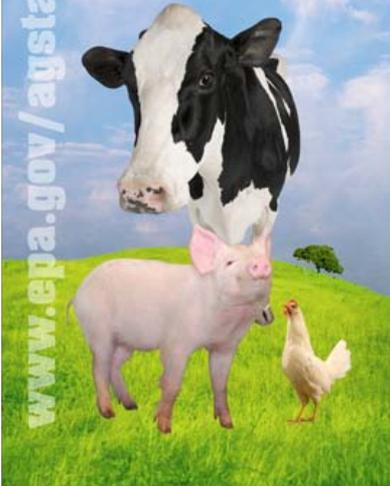
Allison Costa
GMI Agriculture Subcommittee Meeting
Vancouver, Canada, 13 March 2013



Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use Initiatives



**Got manure?
Want energy?
We can help!**



www.epa.gov/agstar

Digester Benefits

- Baseload renewable energy
- Odor reduction
- Manure fiber supply
- High quality fertilizer
- Carbon credits
- Enhanced public image
- Rural job growth
- Additional farm revenue
- Flexible nutrient management



www.epa.gov/agstar

AgSTAR Program



- Founded in 1993 as voluntary EPA program, jointly sponsored by USDA
- ***Goal: Encourage the use of methane recovery technologies at animal feeding operations***
- These systems reduce methane and fossil fuel emissions, generate energy, and yield other environmental benefits
- Works with livestock producers, project developers, industry, policy makers, federal agencies, NGOs, utilities.



What AgSTAR Does:

- Provides data on digester system performance
- Develops and provides credible information and tools
- Maintains national anaerobic digester database
- Works with private sector partners and federal/state agencies to develop:
 - Targeted state programs and initiatives
 - National technical standards and specifications
 - Protocol for evaluating system performance
- Delivers know how and tools at local level
 - Extension events, workshops, training, and conferences

AgSTAR Website

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What's New

Events

September 28, 2010 - Stop by AgSTAR's booth at the World Dairy Expo [more »](#)

October 13, 2010 - AgSTAR Speaking at Biogas USA [more »](#)

October 15, 2010 - Register for AgSTAR's CA Dairy Digester Workshop [more »](#)

October 18, 2010 - AgSTAR in Plenary Session at Biocycle [more »](#)

Frequent Questions

USDA provides a number of resources related to anaerobic digesters on US farms. Learn more about [Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service resources](#).

USDA NRCS

Interested in finding out if your operation is a good candidate for a biogas recovery system? [Use the screening form](#) or [download FarmWare](#) to see.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's AgSTAR Program is a voluntary outreach and educational program that promotes the recovery and use of methane from animal manure.

[More About US »](#)

EPA and USDA Team Up

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, US EPA, and Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA, announced a new interagency agreement promoting renewable energy generation and slashing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock operations.

Involvement of Industry Groups

- Innovation Center for US Dairy – Dairy Power Initiative
 - Research & outreach
- American Biogas Council
 - Lobbying & outreach



Promoting the Advancement of
Anaerobic Digestion Technology



Potential

- Livestock manure biogas projects:
approximately 200 operating
 - 8,000+ candidates



Photo courtesy of quasar energy group

Barriers to Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use

- Decreasing financial incentives
 - Fewer grants available
- Lack of renewable energy targets for utilities
- Permitting issues for facilities that co-digest other organic wastes

Drivers for Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use

- **Water quality concerns**
 - Nutrient credits
- **Organics diversion**
- **State by state approaches**
 - Utility programs
 - NGO assistance
 - Carbon markets
- **Industry actions**
- **Cross-sector working group**

GMI Activities

- U.S. Country Action Plan
- Updated U.S. Agriculture Sector Action Plan

Upcoming Activities

AgSTAR National Conference

June 10-12

Indianapolis, IN

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