

# Manure Methane Emission Reductions

California Dairy & Livestock  
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Workshop

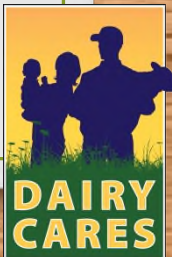
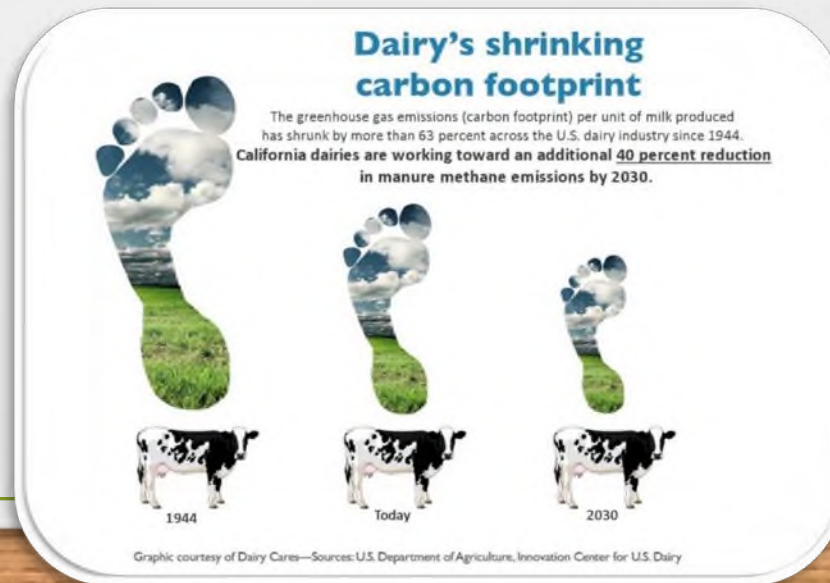
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WESTERN UNITED DAIRYMEN

Presented by  
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Dairy Sector Experience & Perspective

# Partnership

- ❑ Achieving state's ambitious 40 percent manure methane reduction target will take concerted effort and partnership between industry, state and stakeholders.
  - ✓ The importance of this effort to identify barriers to reduction efforts and address implementation issues is critical



# Approach

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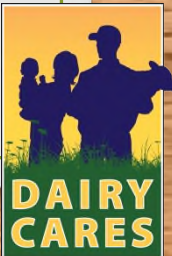
- ❑ Senate Bill 1383 is based on a voluntary and incentive based approach to achieving reductions
  - ✓ Critical given high leakage potential of industry
  - ✓ Zero ability to pass on costs
  - ✓ Key is developing projects that provide a return on investment
- ❑ More than 50 dairies closed in California last year
  - ✓ Nearly 600 lost in the last decade



# Dairy diversity

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- ❑ Approximately 1,400 family-owned and operated dairies in California. These dairy operators vary greatly in size, manure handling practices and location
  - ✓ What works for dairies on the North Coast may be different from what works for dairies in the Central Valley
- ❑ No silver bullet to reducing emissions due to diversity of dairy operations. As a result, dairy operations will need a suite of solutions
- ❑ CDFA's and ARB's analysis have both shown that we can't get there with just digesters and certainly can't get there by converting all dairies to pasture



# Identify alternatives

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- ❑ Efforts to identify alternative manure management practices that reduce methane emissions are critical
  - ✓ Solids separation and conversion to dry manure handling are two promising alternatives
  - ✓ Additional research to better understand emissions and opportunities to control them will be critical



# Investment

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- ❑ Ongoing incentives and investment will be key
  - ✓ Development of protocols for GHG credit development will also prove helpful
- ❑ CDFA has estimated \$100 million per year will be needed



# Role of digesters

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- ❑ While not the only solution, digesters will prove critical to achieving large scale reductions sought by state
  - ✓ Digesters not only have the potential to reduce GHG and methane, they can also create valuable, flexible and dispatchable renewable energy



# Dairy Manure Digester Development in California

1. ABEC-Bidart-Old River
2. ABEC-Bidart-Stockdale
3. Blakes Landing Farms/Straus Family Creamery
4. Castelanelli Brothers Dairy
5. Cottonwood Dairy/Joseph Gallo Farms
6. Denier Dairy
7. Fiscalini Farms
8. Giacomini Dairy
9. Hilarides Dairy
10. New Hope Dairy
11. Open Sky Ranch
12. Pacific Rim Dairy
13. Pixley Biogas
14. Van Steyn Dairy
15. Van Warmerdam Dairy
16. Verwey Dairy– Hanford  
*Under Construction*
17. Verwey Dairy– Madera
18. GJ TeVelde Ranch
19. Carlos Echeverria & Sons Dairy
20. Lakeview Dairy
21. West Star Dairy





# Environmental co-benefits

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- ❑ Digester projects can also provide valuable environmental co-benefits
  - ✓ Modest benefits to water quality
  - ✓ Potential to reduce air contaminants
  - ✓ And even significantly reduce NO<sub>x</sub> and PM 2.5 (diesel particulate) in some applications
- ❑ A digester making RNG transportation fuel on 5,000 cow dairy can reduce NO<sub>x</sub> by as much as 16 tons per year



# Current Best Options for Capture

- ❑ Multiple uses for captured biogas:
  - ✓ Generate electricity
  - ✓ Pipeline injection
  - ✓ Transportation fuel

## Electricity



## Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)



## Vehicle Fuel (RCNG)



CNG Fuel Station



# Integration of incentives

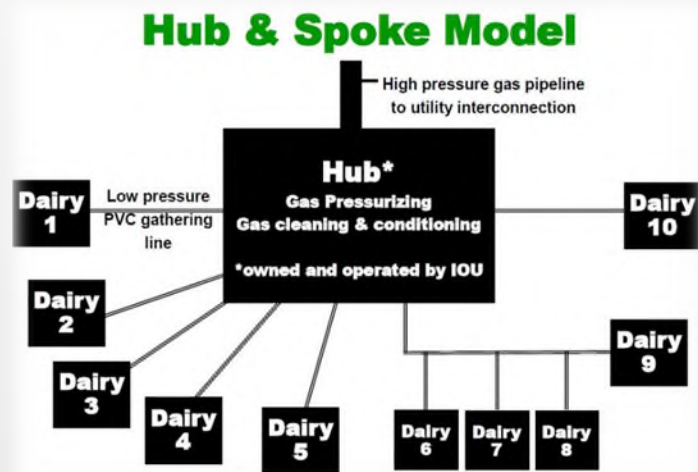
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- ❑ Numerous programs designed to incentivize dairy methane reductions generally and digesters specifically
  - ✓ One goal of this effort should be to provide better coordination and integration



# Cluster opportunities

- Tremendous opportunity with dairy cluster projects to demonstrate how we move from concept to pipeline injection and carbon negative transportation fuel
- CPUC development of 5 dairy biomethane projects critical



# Project Financing 101

- ❑ 3 primary sources of revenue
  - ✓ Grants
  - ✓ Energy sales
  - ✓ Credit sales
- ❑ Typical electricity project is
  - ✓ 75-80% energy sales
  - ✓ 20-25% credit sales
- ❑ Typical transportation fuel project is
  - ✓ 20% fuel sales
  - ✓ 80% credit sales



*\* Establishing a mechanism to provide long-term certainty for credits is key to fuel projects*

# Worthwhile investment

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- ❑ Digester investment is among the most cost effective GHG reduction programs funded by state
  - ✓ SLCPs are estimated to be responsible for 40% of current climate forcing
  - ✓ SLCPs only slated to receive \$95 million for all programs - \$50 million for dairy manure management – **less than 3% of total funds**
  - ✓ Fastest return on investment
    - Short-lived benefits realized faster/provide immediate benefits



# Contributing to current success

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- ❑ “Failure” criticism is misplaced
  - ✓ Small number of early pilot projects are not currently operational
  - ✓ Mostly economic reasons and changing air quality regulations
  - ✓ Several under consideration for re-operation
  - ✓ Great deal has changed as we learned from these projects
  - ✓ Rather than being criticized for failure they should be recognized for contributing to current success



# Pasturing has limitations

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- ❑ Dairies can't pasture their way to dairy methane reductions. As stated earlier, pasture based dairies are great and they provide an important industry niche, particularly for organic milk production
  - ✓ Higher enteric emission
  - ✓ More cows to achieve same level of production
  - ✓ More land due to lower stocking rates and more cows
  - ✓ More water due to need to irrigate pasture in valley



# Conclusion

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- ❑ Achieving state's ambitious 40 percent manure methane reduction target will take concerted effort and partnership between industry, state and stakeholders.
  - ✓ We have a lot to do so let's get started