Anaerobic Digester Webinars: Finance & Technology
March 14, 2012

A collaboration of Farm Foundation, NFP, USDA Rural Development, USDA Office of Energy Policy & New Uses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, and the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative of the University of Wisconsin

Webinars will originate from the Pyle Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison. There are no fees to participate.

Webinar I: Financing an Anaerobic Digestion System
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Presenters include dairy farmers with experience using such systems in their operations, as well as commercial and private lenders with experience in financing digester operations. Topics to be addressed include private funding, government/private partnership funding options, cost of construction, revenue generation streams, avoided environmental costs, tax incentives and cost of operation, including increase management/labor costs.

8:30 a.m.: Introduction
Jerry Bingold, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy

8:40 a.m.: Farmers and Lenders Discuss Financing Structures
Panel:
John Vrieze, Baldwin Dairy, Wisconsin
Karl Crave, Crave Brothers Dairy, Wisconsin
Kevin Maas, Farm Power Northwest, Washington State
Bob Joblin, AgPower Group, New Mexico
Bill Jorgenson, AGreen Energy, Massachusetts
Guy Roberts, Avatar, Vermont
Questions and discussion

10:00 a.m.: Financing and Maintaining Community Anaerobic Digester Systems
Panel:
Kevin Connors, Dane County, Wisconsin
Monte Lamer, Clear Horizons
Anand Gangadharan, Novi Energy
Questions and discussion

10:45 a.m.: Lenders’ Experiences/Expectations
Greg Steele, Agstar Financial Services, Baldwin, Wis.
Jon Best, CAT Financial Services
Questions and discussion

11:15 a.m.: USDA Funding Programs
Todd Campbell, USDA Rural Development

11:30 a.m.: Adjourn.
Webinar 2: Technical Aspects of Anaerobic Digestion Systems
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The opening presentation will provide an overview of three AD technologies—psychrophilic, mesophilic, thermophilic, psychrophilic—and three digester designs—covered lagoon, plugflow and mixed digesters. Farmer/operators will discuss their operational and management experiences for the respective technology options, including how they selected an AD system for their operation.

1:30 p.m.: Introduction
Christopher Voell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency AgStar Program

1:40 p.m.: Overview of AD Technologies
Norma McDonald, Organic Waste Systems

2:10 p.m.: Experience with AD Systems
Psychrophilic, covered lagoon: Mark Moser, RCM International
Mesophilic, plug flow: John Pagel, Pagel’s Ponderosa Farm, and Guy Roberts, Avatar
Questions & discussion, including Kevin Maas of Farm Power and Melissa VanOrnum of DVO Inc.

2:50 p.m.: Mesophilic, completely mixed: Gary Boyke, Vir-Clar Farms and Mark Jacobs, Green Valley Dairy
Questions & discussion, including Bill Jorgenson, AGreen Energy

3:30 p.m.: Thermophilic, mixed: Lee Jensen, Five Star Dairy
Dry fermentation: To be announced
Food processing waste: Joe Kramer, Energy Center of Wisconsin
Questions & discussion, including Norma McDonald of Organic Waste Systems, and Caroline Chapell, BIOFERM

4:10 p.m.: Wrap-up

4:30 p.m.: Adjourn

Webinar Planning Committee
Todd Campbell, USDA Rural Development
Jeanette Waters, USDA Rural Development
Harry Baumes, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses
James Duffield, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses
Christopher Voell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jerry Bingold, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
Gary Radloff, Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative, University of Wisconsin
James Fischer, Farm Foundation, NFP
Sheldon Jones, Farm Foundation, NFP
Mary Thompson, Farm Foundation, NFP