

Anaerobic Digester Workshop
Sunnyside, WA - February 25, 2005

Welcome

Steve George

I'm Steve George of the Washington State Dairy Federation, based out of the Yakima area. I work primarily here in central Washington for the dairy industry on issue management and governmental affairs. I've been working with WSU for almost a year to get this seminar rolling and put together. We're very excited to be able to have the people here with us today to give the presentations on dealing with manure management. We're all aware that this is an issue that is coming into its own now and the technologies are changing almost daily. It's something that is tough to keep up with but hopefully down the road, as we move through processes like this with the experts that we have here today and people like them, we can learn more about this and how we might be able to incorporate these technologies into our operations, both to increase our bottom line and to deal with environmental issues. We've got a pretty exciting full day today. I wanted to welcome you here today and hope that we all come away with some additional knowledge and enthusiasm for these technologies. This will not be the only meeting that we'll have on this. We also have a grant from the USDA to look at a feasibility study on a digester here in the Yakima area. Right now I'll turn it over to Frank Hendrix, Yakima County Extension, to give you some more details.

Frank Hendrix

Thanks, Steve. It's a pleasure to be working with Steve and the dairy industry more and more. I am Frank Hendrix, extension agent in Yakima County in charge of animal sciences, irrigation, irrigated pastures, range. Since we don't have a dairy agent anymore, I get to work with you guys quite a bit. The mission for the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture is to develop and foster agriculture and natural resource management that is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially acceptable. The group tries to form relationships between WSU, producers like yourself, industry, environmental groups, agencies, and all of the citizens of Washington. The Center works to think outside of the box and increase the viability of agriculture. This event is sponsored by the Climate-Friendly Farming project and it's aimed to

help farmers develop and implement agricultural systems and practices such as anaerobic digestion of manure which will help global climate issues and also turn a liability into an asset.

At this point, I'd like to introduce Dave and Chad to start the program today.

David Granatstein

Thank you, Frank. My name is David Granatstein and I'm with Washington State University, the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, based in Wenatchee. The project that has really helped pull this together is the Climate-Friendly Farming project for which I am one of the co-directors. I want to acknowledge at the beginning that our ability to do this type of work is based on a major grant from the Paul Allen Foundation (Paul Allen, one of the co-founders of Microsoft). So a little money from all those computer programs you've been buying is recycling back to help you on some issues here in the Northwest.

We are going to try to tape this meeting to capture the audio, with the goal of then transcribing it and making it available for the future since we've got some of the top people in the country here.

At this point I'm going to turn it over to Chad Kruger. Chad works with me on the Climate-Friendly Farming project. He is the director of outreach for us and he has been one of the main forces organizing this conference. He's going to introduce our speakers. I hope this turns out to be a very valuable day; I know I'm looking forward to it. Thanks.

Chad Kruger

First of all, I just want to thank everyone for coming. It's a great turnout. We're really pleased with that. Our first speaker today is Phil Lusk of Resource Development Associates. He has more than 25 years experience in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Phil, thanks for joining us.