

Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and USDA Partnership

3 YEARS OF PROGRESS



In 2009, the Innovation Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding as an expression of their joint commitment to improving dairy sustainability. In the first three years of the partnership, thousands of dairy farmers were able to make progress toward their conservation and sustainability goals.

working with NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Under the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, **6,000+** dairy farmers



received a total of **\$287 million** to plan and implement conservation practices that improve the sustainability of their working lands.



NRCS has helped farmers advance their goals and implement environmental improvement projects including:

- 222** air quality projects
- 10,247** barn and manure nutrient management projects
- 13,920** soil quality and fertility projects (grazing, cropland and riparian buffers)

investing in RURAL COMMUNITIES

Under the Rural Energy for America Program, **180** anaerobic digesters were installed with the help of **\$53+ million** in funding

In 2012 alone, **52** anaerobic digesters were funded - that is **1** per week!



focusing on ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The two organizations partnered to develop education efficiency programs and resources. As a result:

354 on-farm and in-plant energy audits were conducted

+
\$637,000 in cost share grants for energy efficiency equipment implementation resulted in

approximately **7,000** metric tons of CO₂e



or **1,500** cars off the road for **1** year

Learn more at USDairy.com/Sustainability

LOOKING AHEAD

These and thousands of other actions being taken every day - no matter how small - add up. It's the power one step can have when multiplied by 50,000 dairy farms or 1,200 processing plants.

In April 2013, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and USDA agreed to continue to work together to enable change, one operation at a time, to help the dairy industry achieve its sustainability goals.



U.S. DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

