

# OUTSTANDING DAIRY FARM SUSTAINABILITY

## Bateman's Mosida Farms

Elberta, Utah



### Details drive sustainability for local dairy farm family

With a history of dairy farming in Utah that spans 150 years, the Bateman family has grown their farm to be the largest dairy in the state, with 7,000 milking cows. Along with their father, four Bateman brothers currently own, operate and manage Bateman's Mosida Farms. The brothers follow one of their father's most important lessons.

"We cannot stand idle. If we do, the industry will pass us by, and we'll be out of business," Lance Bateman said. This philosophy of continuous improvement has led the family toward updates that contribute to the operation's sustainability.

For example, the Batemans recently built a state-of-the-art, enclosed and temperature-controlled maternity barn that has improved the health of calves and mothers, reducing calf mortality to just half of the national average.

In addition, a dual manure management and sand reclamation system allows the dairy to reclaim beneficial nutrients for fertilizer, conserve water and reuse sand. Purchasing less sand means fewer trucks and reduced diesel use.

It doesn't stop there. Preparations for the future have begun as nine of the children in the next generation are considering the dairy farm lifestyle. A solar energy project is underway, more than half of their cropland is double-cropped, and they apply the latest research and technology to cow nutrition.

The Batemans feel that giving Utahns an inside look at what dairy farming entails is just as important as their improved facility and practices. The Batemans use farm tours to show that even at the biggest dairy in the state, focusing on details makes sustainable differences for the animals, their product and the environment.

"We take pride in this. It's our passion, our way of life, and we want our dairy to be the best that it can be," Brad Bateman said.

### Utah's largest dairy employs several sustainable practices to get the most from its resources:

- Water on the dairy is used at least three times before going to the farm for irrigation.
- Work with Rocky Mountain Power has led to energy-efficient lighting and a solar panel project.
- A sand sidewalk and sand reuse has reduced the sand the farm has needed to buy, in turn reducing truck costs, fuel usage and environmental impact.