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— WITH GARY TRUITT —

Dairy's Carbon Footprint Study Released

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The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy has released a landmark carbon footprint study of the U.S. fluid milk sector. Commissioned by the University of Arkansas' Applied Sustainability Center, this first of its kind study, together with data from additional studies, indicates that total U.S. dairy greenhouse gas emissions are approximately 2 percent of total U.S. emissions. The study will provide a scientific basis to identify research needs and enable the industry to identify and measure management practices and technologies that are most effective in increasing productivity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The study considered a life cycle assessment that measured the greenhouse gas emissions created from the production of milk -- from when crops are grown to feed cows all the way to the disposal of the milk carton by the consumer. One of its key findings is that the increased adoption of best management practices along the entire fluid milk supply chain can increase profitability while improving environmental sustainability.