

## **Research Program to Benefit Dairies of the West**

*Dairy industry working with Idaho energy lab for best management practices.*

*Compiled by staff*

Published: Jun 6, 2011

Representatives of the U.S. dairy industry have agreed to work with a national energy research lab to advance the science and best management practices of renewable energy, environmental stewardship and life cycle analysis of dairy systems and processes.

Western dairies are expected to benefit from the Innovation Center of U.S. Dairy, the Dairy Research Institute, and Idaho's Center for Advanced Energy Studies joint effort to develop a national research program focused on enhancing the economic viability of dairy farms and rural communities.

"The partnership directly aligns with the dairy industry's science-based effort to measure and improve the sustainability of the U.S. dairy industry, across every segment of the supply chain," says Kevin Ponticelli, chair of the Dairy Research Institute and senior executive vice president of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and Dairy Management, Inc., which manages the dairy checkoff on behalf of the nation's farmers.

"The only way that we can accomplish this commitment is by working with and through partners like CAES to leverage the latest data, current and emerging technologies, and innovative thinking and practices."

CAES is a national research partnership representing the U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho National Laboratory and the state of Idaho through its research universities. As part of the research program, CAES and the Innovation Center will bring together the science-based information and funding needed to accelerate the development and the commercialization of innovative technologies for the dairy industry.

"I'm pleased that the Innovation Center and our state resources through the CAES national research partnership are working collaboratively on renewable energy, sustainability and the environment of the national dairy industry," says U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment.

"The combined effort of private industry with state and federal partners is an example of sound use of public and private resources on behalf of Idaho and the rest of the United States."