



Published On: Tue, Jul 17th, 2012

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Tours a Methane Digester Operation on a Pennsylvania Dairy Farm

By [tntfactory](#) -

BERLIN, Pennsylvania, Jul 17, 2012 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack currently visited a Pennsylvania dairy plantation that is regulating an anaerobic digester to modify fertiliser into electricity and high peculiarity bedding, slicing appetite costs and providing a resting area for some-more delighted cows. The digester, that went on-line a year ago, was saved in partial with a support of USDA Rural Development.

“Using extended fertiliser supervision techniques not usually provides a new source of income for famers, it also improves atmosphere and H₂O peculiarity while providing renewable electricity for hundreds of homes in a community,” pronounced Vilsack. “It’s a win-win-win.”

Pennwood Farms, that is family-owned, uses an anaerobic digester to furnish all of a electricity and sells adequate appetite behind to a internal grid to accommodate a needs of an estimated 600 people. The digester also produces purify bedding as a byproduct, that saves a owners from carrying to buy bedding for a dairy herd. In all, fertiliser from a 570 cow dairy plantation creates about 920,000 kWh of electricity a year.

USDA upheld deployment of a biodigester by providing grants and loans in 2010 totaling over \$528,000 by a Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Last month, Secretary Vilsack announced appropriation underneath REAP for an additional 450 projects nationwide. REAP, certified by a 2008 Farm Bill, offers supports for farmers, ranchers and farming tiny businesses to squeeze and implement renewable appetite systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. These sovereign supports precedence other appropriation sources for businesses.

Anaerobic digesters like a one a Secretary toured currently during Pennwood Farms, are in unison with an agreement with U.S. dairy producers sealed by a Secretary in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009 to accelerate adoption of innovative fertiliser to appetite projects on American dairy farms. The agreement represents a energetic public/private partnership and is another proof of a Obama Administration’s joining to quell a emissions of hothouse gases. Since a MOU was signed, a Obama Administration has supposing 149 digester awards to authorised applicants.

With a Memorandum of Understanding, a Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy – partial of a Dairy Management Inc. – a USDA and U.S. dairy producers are operative together to stretch a 25 percent rebate in hothouse gas emissions by a year 2020. USDA will do so by endeavour investigate initiatives, permitting doing flexibility, and enhancing selling efforts of anaerobic digesters and appetite potency improvements to dairy producers.

As partial of a effort, recently, a Renewable Energy Education Field Day webinar array on Digester Technology and Financing was conducted in partnership with a Farm Foundation, NFP, USDA, US EPA, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and a Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative of a University of Wisconsin. See: <http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/Renewable-Energy-Education-Field-Days-Anaerobic-Digester-Webinars-1752.aspx?z=naa=1752>

Anaerobic digester record is a proven process of converting rubbish products, such as manure, into electricity. The record utilizes generators that are fueled by methane prisoner from a animal manure. Solid byproducts of a complement are dusty and used on a plantation as stock bedding material, and glass byproducts are used as high-quality organic fertiliser in place of chemical fertilizers.

In further to REAP, USDA also offers additional appropriation to assistance farmers implement an anaerobic digester as partial of their fertiliser supervision system. Funding is supposing by a Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Today's revisit is an instance of investments a Obama Administration is creation to assistance emanate jobs and grow a farming economy. President Obama's devise for farming America has brought about ancestral investment and resulted in stronger farming communities. Under a President's leadership, these investments in housing, village facilities, business and infrastructure have empowered farming America to continue heading a approach – strengthening America's economy and strengthening tiny towns and farming communities. USDA's investments in farming communities support a farming approach of life that stands as a fortitude of a American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of existent Federal resources to encourage tolerable mercantile wealth and safeguard a supervision is a clever partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and operative families in farming communities.

USDA, by a Rural Development goal area, has an active portfolio of some-more than \$170 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to urge a mercantile fortitude of farming communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and urge a peculiarity of life in farming America.

Click [here](#) for online version.