



## Dairy industry says 'yes' to sustainability

Angela Bowman, Staff Writer | Updated: May 30, 2012

Two percent.

That's how much of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States are contributed by the nation's dairy industry.

The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy points out this and other facts in a new YouTube video produced to show the strides the nation's dairy industry has made in shrinking their carbon footprint while feeding a growing global population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

According to the video, the dairy industry has reduced their carbon footprint by 63 percent since 1944 and commits to reducing emissions by an additional 25 percent by 2020. That's the equivalent to taking 1.5 million passenger cars off the road each year.

Other information that can be gleaned from the video include:

- defining sustainability and how it relates to dairy farmers;
- manure's role in the nutrient cycle agriculture; and
- energy possibilities provided through anaerobic digesters

[Learn more about the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy here.](#)

**Need more information? [Here is an article](#) from Michigan State University that defined sustainable agriculture at the macro-level. For those looking for a little inspiration, [here are the latest winners](#) of the Center's 2012 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards.**

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