

Greener Pastures



The Reinford Family, Reinford Farms, Mifflintown, Pa.

Technology and modern agricultural practices enable dairy farmers to be good stewards of the environment while building successful businesses. For example, farms like Reinford Farms in Pennsylvania use anaerobic digesters to convert methane, a greenhouse gas released from cow manure, into a source of electricity. And for dairy farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed — an ecosystem that is home to 18 million people and fed by seven large rivers and 100,000 tributaries — protecting local waterways is critical.



Methane digester

Read the article at americandairy.com/dairy-farms/dairy-and-the-environment and review the Chesapeake Bay watershed map to learn more about efforts to reduce runoff and erosion. As you follow the links on the page to watch the videos and learn more about manure separation, water management, forest buffers, etc., think about the many people involved in the dairy industry and the complex economic and environmental considerations of each decision.

Use this chart to list how each agricultural practice or technology benefits the local ecosystem and/or community, and the farm itself. One has been provided as an example.

| Technology/ System | Benefits to Ecosystem and Community | Benefits to Farm |
|---|---|--|
| Riparian (or forest) buffers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filters pollutants from storm runoff, leading to cleaner groundwater and streams • Increases wildlife habitats • Healthier drinking water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less work/money spent on soil maintenance • Removes less productive, highly erodible cropland from use, allowing farmers to focus resources on more productive cropland |
| Cover crops and no-till fields | | |
| Recycled manure and methane digesters | | |
| Covered manure storage | | |
| Recycled materials for barn stall bedding | | |
| Reuse of water two to three times for farm operations | | |
| Woodchip bioreactor | | |
| Precision feeding | | |



Local milk is available 365 days a year.



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