

Greener Pastures

Technology and modern agricultural practices enable dairy farmers to be good stewards of the environment while building successful businesses. For example, farms like Worth-the-Wait in Pennsylvania use cover crops to reduce erosion and establish a quality filtration system. And for dairy farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed — an ecosystem that is home to 18 million people and fed by 150 major rivers and streams and 100,000 tributaries — protecting local waterways is critical.



Cover crops, like those shown here, are widely used by dairy farmers.

Visit americandairy.com/sustainability/dairy-and-the-environment/ to learn how dairy farmers are working to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed and support local ecosystems. As you read each article and page linked there, think about the complex economic and environmental considerations that impact each decision. You can also watch interviews at [youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQvbnhTt22BRnK7C6AvSkcGr6xNkBxDRO](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQvbnhTt22BRnK7C6AvSkcGr6xNkBxDRO).



Chris and Laura Landis of Worth-the-Wait Farm in Stevens, Pa.

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 digester		
Manure storage		
Recycled materials for barn stall bedding		
Reuse of water two to three times for farm operations		
Woodchip bioreactor		
Precision feeding		



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