

California Bioenergy Advances Four Dairy Digester Clusters

Winning CDFA Grant Awards with Its Dairy Partners

CalBio dairy partners secure \$22 million of \$35 million in digester grants

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Wednesday, October 25, the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Dairy Digester Research and Development Program, (“CDFA DDRDP 2017 Grant Program”) announced that California Bioenergy was awarded ten grants for a total of \$22 million to install dairy digester renewable fuel technology. The CDFA DDRDP announcement is available at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ddrdp/>.

Manure storage on dairy farms results in the release of methane—a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than CO₂—into the atmosphere. These CDFA grants are providing incentives to early adopters to capture this methane and convert it to beneficial use as renewable compressed natural gas (R-CNG) for vehicles. These funds will help accelerate the development of a dairy digester industry that will by 2030 significantly mitigate California’s dairy methane emissions and help make California dairies among the most sustainable in the world, environmentally and economically.

“We are honored to be such an important recipient of CDFA dairy digester grant awards this year. We appreciate CDFA’s vote of confidence in our team” said N. Ross Buckenham, CalBio’s CEO. He added *“CalBio digesters are proven in California and generate a significant new revenue stream for the dairy. They also substantially reduce methane emissions helping the state achieve its ambitious climate policy goals.”*

CalBio’s four geographically separate dairy clusters, each anchored by family-owned dairy farms, were awarded funding to build projects that will capture their manure biogas, gather it to a few central locations where it will be upgraded to bio-methane and injected into utility pipelines for sale as a renewable transportation fuel. The clusters are near Visalia, Tulare, Hanford and Bakersfield.

CalBio’s Kern County dairy cluster, a California Sustainable Freight Action Plan Pilot Project, will feed biogas captured from three new dairy digester projects that were awarded these CDFA 2017 Grants. The cluster will also gather a portion of the biogas diverted from three existing CalBio dairy projects.

Similarly, the company’s three other clusters: Hanford, West Visalia, and East Tulare will gather biogas captured from seven additional dairy digester projects that were also awarded CDFA 2017 Grants.

All four dairy biogas clusters will each install significant infrastructure capable of accepting future dairy digester projects.



"In partnership with California's leading dairy engineering firm, 4 Creeks, we design dairy-specific digesters to augment waste handling operations, save costs, and assist in the nutrient management process" said Neil Black, CalBio's President. "CalBio offers turnkey operations for all its projects, enabling the dairy to remain focused on its business. We partner with the farmer and invest in designs and equipment for the long run."

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About California Bioenergy

CalBio is the leading developer of dairy digesters generating renewable electricity and vehicle fuel in California. Founded in 2006, CalBio has worked closely with the dairy industry and state agencies to develop programs to help the state achieve its methane reduction goals while delivering a new revenue source to California dairies.

CalBio designs, develops, operates and finances digester projects specifically for California dairies. CalBio's eleven years of experience provides deep knowledge in the design, engineering, technology, permitting, and ongoing operations management.

CalBio is also the expert in leveraging programs to sell the electricity, vehicle fuel and the related credits as well as in securing state and federal grant programs to make a dairy digester project an economic success. CalBio has won numerous grants from the California Energy Commission, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and has utilized California tax programs, U.S. Treasury tax programs and USDA farm incentives. These important programs help defray the project costs and provide the long-term economic sustainability.

Founded with a dairy farmer, and working in partnership with 4Creeks, CalBio focuses on enhancing dairy operations – based on the dairy's specific needs, to save time, generate a new revenue stream, and set the dairy on a strong course for the future.

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