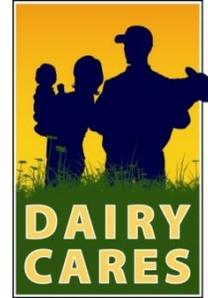


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Dairy Cares Newsletter

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Recent U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report highlights impressive advancements by dairy community

Regular readers of this column already know about the many efforts of California dairy families to protect and preserve water resources, enhance air quality and develop renewable energy. In fact, these are just a few of the efforts being pursued to ensure ever-more-sustainable dairies across the Golden State.

But what people in California may not realize is how our efforts fit into the larger picture of increasingly sustainable dairy farming across the U.S., and the well-documented progress of dairy farms and processors' longstanding efforts. A [new report](#) from the [Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy](#) outlines some of the remarkable advancements of the industry, including:

Producing more with less. From 1944 to 2007, milk yield increased fourfold utilizing 90 percent less cropland, 76 percent less manure, 65 percent less water and 63 percent less carbon.

Expanded use of "cow power." There are now 197 operating dairy biogas digesters across the U.S., with California home to about 10 percent of the nation's digesters. Since 2011, U.S. dairy digesters have generated more than 7.6 million British thermal units of renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This reduction is equivalent to removing 999,096 cars from the road for a year.

Responsible animal care. More than 70 percent of the U.S. milk supply is from participants in the National Dairy FARM Program, a comprehensive animal well-being educational and third-party verification program. Since enrollment opened in the program in September 2010, 9,179 on-farm evaluations have been conducted. Read more about California's participation in the National Dairy FARM Program [here](#).

While California dairy families are proud to be among the most innovative and progressive in the world when it comes to sustainability, we are also proud to be a part of a larger effort by American dairy farmers and processors to ensure that consumers can continue to enjoy nutritious, safe and affordable dairy products.