



THREEMILE CANYON FARMS, LLC

April 28, 2015

Manure digesters have become a proven part of the business model for developing the type of environmentally smart dairy operations Oregon wants – in turn, the health and growth of dairies can become an increasingly important component of economic development strategies in rural Oregon communities for the foreseeable future. Here are just some of the benefits from the extension of a predictable, BTC program for manure digesters, as incorporated in HB 2449A.

ENERGY BENEFITS

- 38,000-40,000 cows
- Collective energy impact is \$50 million invested in 10 MW of renewable capacity
- Enough to power 6700-7000 homes/year
- Reliable source of renewable energy; avoids cost of purchasing energy from electrical grid

GREENHOUSE GAS BENEFITS

- Reduction of 152,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent (4-5 metric tons x 38,000 cows)
- Similar to removing 38,000 cars from Oregon roads

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Current BTC credit provides \$110/cow
- Innovation Dairy Center finds digester provides \$715 net benefit/cow (electrical energy plus carbon credits plus productive use of nutrients as soil bedding and organic nutrients)...THEREFORE CREATING 7:1 return on investment
- Steady jobs for direct workers and indirect jobs
- Thousands of dollars invested in rural energy infrastructure
- Creation of a profitable organic food industry (Threemile Canyon Farms is up to 9,000 organic acres, branded products and new organic processing plant)

ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

- Improved air quality and odor reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved plant uptake of nutrients and reduced runoff
- Reduction of pathogens and bacteria load in crop soils
- Reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers