



Energy Cluster Co-chairs:

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Dairy Cluster Co-Chairs:

Andy Barta -Rio Creek Feed Mill - agbarta@riocreekfeedmill.com

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Energy – Dairy Cluster Meeting Notes

January 8, 2014- 10:00 AM – Conference Call

Present on Call: Amanda Kleiber, Amber Hewitt, Gail Temme, Matthew Christman, Connie Loden

Goal: review and update of the Manure Management Survey

Key Determinations:

- Clarification of audience & purpose:
 - Determination of local available resources
 - Identification and qualification of operational parameters and techniques
 - Provided data will also provide insight regarding farm operator interest in collaborative digester systems, for those with digesters determine interest in use of biogas as a vehicle fuel
- Need to create a draft e-mail/cover letter which eliminates potential issues/concerns by the target audience
- Survey to be distributed prior to the end of January with results to be returned by mid-February.
- Survey to be given to Amber by 1/17/14 to be proof reviewed by operating digester owners prior to wide scale distribution
- Survey to be distributed to all licensed dairy operations with in the five counties

Question editing:

- Removal of potentially inflammatory questions that could be related to regulatory requirements
- Addition of questions which further detail potential transportation fuel aspect of biogas generation
- Removal of question regarding labor hour requirements

Expanded Notes from Meeting:

Survey - Gail indicated she would not be willing to give this information to anyone – don't think it is other people's business. Labor Costs estimates seems unrealistic.

Important information for the analysis.

Transport costs

Have to buy more NPK – with digester - missing sulfur and some of the nutrients, with digester and using the bedding .

Need to add: How frequently milk trucks come and how far to deliver after collection.

How far do you haul fertilizer – feed – etc.

Add to #10 – solids from digestors.

Add: Do you have any issues with ground water run off due to geological . How many acres do you have that you can't spread on. Decided not to ask this.

Targeted Audience: CAFOS

Distribution: Via Email – Amber could send out email and she would have contact for Kewaunee, Door and Sheboygan. Scott would probably do Manitowoc, and Amanda can do Calumet.

Amber would like to run the survey by the big farms.

Draft cover – email – message

Dairy Cluster – is there any interest and opportunity in a co-op digester.

Target to have out in by the end of the Month and Returned by Feb 15.

Info to Amber by the end of next week.

Amber has sent out invitations. Amber will work with Merlin

Will schedule next meeting