

Farm History and Executive Summary

Cliff and Andrea Sensenig, Lancaster County, installed an anaerobic digester for cross-species livestock that includes manure waste from the families' 150 dairy cows and 3,000 finisher hogs and 30,000 laying hens from neighboring farms. This digester was the first in the country to incorporate manure from three species, presenting unique challenges and opportunities for the Sensenig family.

A feasibility study that explored cash flow and availability of grants was instrumental in determining if the project could move forward. When the study illustrated that the digester was financially viable for this small dairy farm, the family aggressively sought grants, with the help of their Transformation Team.

Grants funded approximately 75% of the digester costs, as detailed in this case study. The Sensenigs attribute their grant success to experienced professionals with the digester's manufacturer, RCM, and their Transformation Team.

After securing funding, this project required 21 different approvals and permits from 12 different agencies and organizations, navigated through by their Transformation Team leader. Through planning, funding, permitting, building and installing, it took three years for Cliff and Andrea to see their transformative business idea become a reality, with an operating digester.

Today, the digester is exceeding projected expectations, generating more revenue in electricity sales and food waste tipping fees for the business, while supporting renewable energy in their community.



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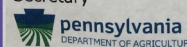
Sensenig Dairy

Seeing an opportunity to ensure a viable farm for the next generation, Cliff and Andrea Sensenig envisioned a methane digester that would meet the needs of their farm and neighboring operations. Three years later, the fruits of that planning resulted in a digester processing local food waste and manure from 200 head of dairy cattle, 2,000 hogs and 30,000 chickens.

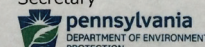
More than a way for the dairy to generate electricity and revenue, it improves nutrient management, strengthens community bonds and reduces greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 206 cars each year. The digester's success shows that methane digesters can be practical additions to small farms and benefit the communities they serve.

For their pioneering vision realized to benefit this and future generations, we thank the Sensenig family for their work in keeping Pennsylvania growing.

George D. Greig
George D. Greig
Secretary



E. Christopher Abruzzo
E. Christopher Abruzzo
Secretary



John Frey
John Frey
Executive Director



May 20, 2014