

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

Alternative Manure Management Program Participants

The Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to dairy and other livestock producers to support their transition to manure handling and storage strategies that reduce methane emissions, including less water-intensive strategies and increasing pasture-based dairying. More info is available on CDFA's website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>

MANUEL DASILVA DAIRY

Escalon, San Joaquin County
Award Amount: \$575,000



“When this opportunity came around, I hopped on it. This system will be better for my crops, better for water quality and will make me a better farmer in the long run.”
- Jerry DaSilva

Jerry DaSilva's father bought their dairy more than 40 years ago when he was a toddler. They have grown the business to a total of 2,000 head of cattle and 500 acres of feed production. Jerry planned to upgrade his manure handling system but did not have the financing. Now, with his AMMP grant, he will install “weeping walls” that trap manure solids in the water used to flush his barns behind a wall of slats, which allows relatively clean water

to seep through into storage ponds to be recycled. This will separate up to 85% of the manure solids to be spread on fields as fertilizer after drying on concrete pads. In addition to cutting methane emissions and reducing nitrate leaching into groundwater, there are practical advantages such as requiring less labor and avoiding handling of the sludge in his ponds that is difficult to spread and clogs pipes.

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

