

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/>

LEONARDI DAIRY

Ferndale, Humboldt County
Award Amount: \$159,267



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Dennis Leonardi and his wife Kathleen manage their 350-head 600-acre organic dairy near Ferndale, a third-generation farm business that dates back 100 years.

The Leonardis have a long track record of looking for ways their operation can have a positive environmental impact, their recent AMMP grant being the latest example. They currently collect liquid manure in lagoons and spread it on fields. The grant makes it affordable for them to install efficient state-of-the-art equipment to screen out manure solids. The liquid will still be used to irrigate and fertilize pastures but because it will contain fewer solids, it will be easier and quicker to manage and ultimately more efficient.

The grant also pays for a windrow turner to produce compost that they will spread on their pastures as soil amendment. These upgrades significantly reduce the greenhouse gases produced on the farm and is a win for the soil, the air, the climate and the Leonardi Dairy's sustainability.

“Things improve and change when folks on the ground act locally. Getting the AMMP grant is an example of a public/private partnership that supports us in making a difference.”

-Dennis Leonardi

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.

