

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/>

BRINDEIRO & DANBOM DAIRY FARM

Turlock, Stanislaus County
Award Amount: \$565,470



“Getting the AMMP award sped up our plans to modernize our manure management system by about 10 years. Dairy farmers in the San Joaquin Valley are chomping at the bit to get more tools that improve their environmental sustainability.”

- Paul Danbom

Paul Danbom is a fifth-generation farmer near Turlock where he has a 900-dairy and grows hay, cattle feed and almonds. His AMMP grant covered most of the cost of the new manure management system. Manure flushed from nearby barns is pumped to an aeration tank that keeps the solids in suspension and oxygenates the liquids to minimize methane production. The liquid manure is then pumped to a mechanical solid separator mounted two series above the concrete pad where a roller presses the material, sending the liquid to irrigate their fields while the solids drop into a pile below to be moved into windrows for composting. He incorporates almond pruning into the piles as additional organic matter. The compost gets applied to their almond orchards, displacing nitrogen fertilizer applications, saving money, and creating habitat for beneficial insects to help combat mites.

Paul sees the importance of the program for keeping methane out of the atmosphere and nitrates out of the groundwater by decreasing chemical fertilizer use, and thinks it also helps keep small family farmers in business and supporting the local economy.

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.

