

Meet An Anaerobic Digester Operator

REINFORD FARMS, INC.
Mifflintown, Pennsylvania

Let's Meet...

Steve Reinford, Owner & Brett Reinford, Manager

Anaerobic Digester Type: Complete Mix

Operating Since: February 2008



Why did you build a digester?

We have manure from 630 dairy cows. We are a no-till farm and needed to reduce odors when we apply manure. It was not until after we installed the digester that we realized the other benefits, including revenue from selling back electricity, tipping fees and money savings from capturing the waste heat for on-farm use.

Is the digester meeting your needs?

Absolutely! The digester was seamlessly incorporated into our farm and is extremely important to the future profitability of our business.

What outputs do you use from the system?

We use the waste heat to dry our corn, heat our house and shop, and heat all of the farm's hot water. We also pasteurize the calf milk with it.

Additionally, the digestate is separated and we use the solids for bedding. The digester kills many pathogens in the solids, making it safer to use.

Do you have any advice for others considering a digester?

- Do your research. We started research in late 2006, and toured several digester projects to better understand their design, operation, and use.
- Have someone willing to put in the time to make digester ownership successful. It took approximately 20 months from initial research to steady operation of our digester.
- Be prepared for challenges working with your utility—both understanding these requirements and the potentially high costs.
- Be prepared to fund a utility feasibility study, which can run from \$10,000 – \$12,000.



*"If you can manage a farm,
you can manage a digester!"*

