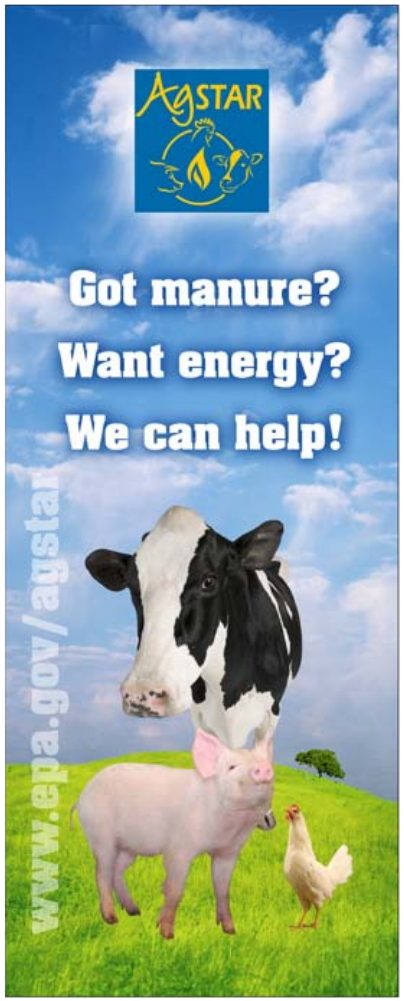
Agriculture Update

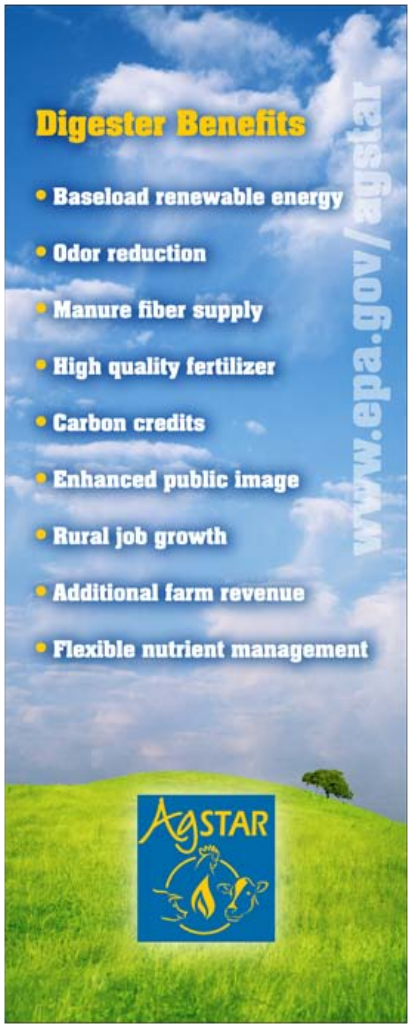
USA

Allison Costa
GMI Agriculture Subcommittee Meeting
Vancouver, Canada, 13 March 2013

Global Methane Initiative

Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use Initiatives





Global Methane Initiative

AgSTAR Program

- Founded in 1993 as voluntary EPA program, jointly sponsored by USDA
- ***Goal: Encourage the use of methane recovery technologies at animal feeding operations***
- These systems reduce methane and fossil fuel emissions, generate energy, and yield other environmental benefits
- Works with livestock producers, project developers, industry, policy makers, federal agencies, NGOs, utilities.

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What AgSTAR Does:

- Provides data on digester system performance
- Develops and provides credible information and tools
- Maintains national anaerobic digester database
- Works with private sector partners and federal/state agencies to develop:
  - Targeted state programs and initiatives
  - National technical standards and specifications
  - Protocol for evaluating system performance
- Delivers know how and tools at local level
  - Extension events, workshops, training, and conferences

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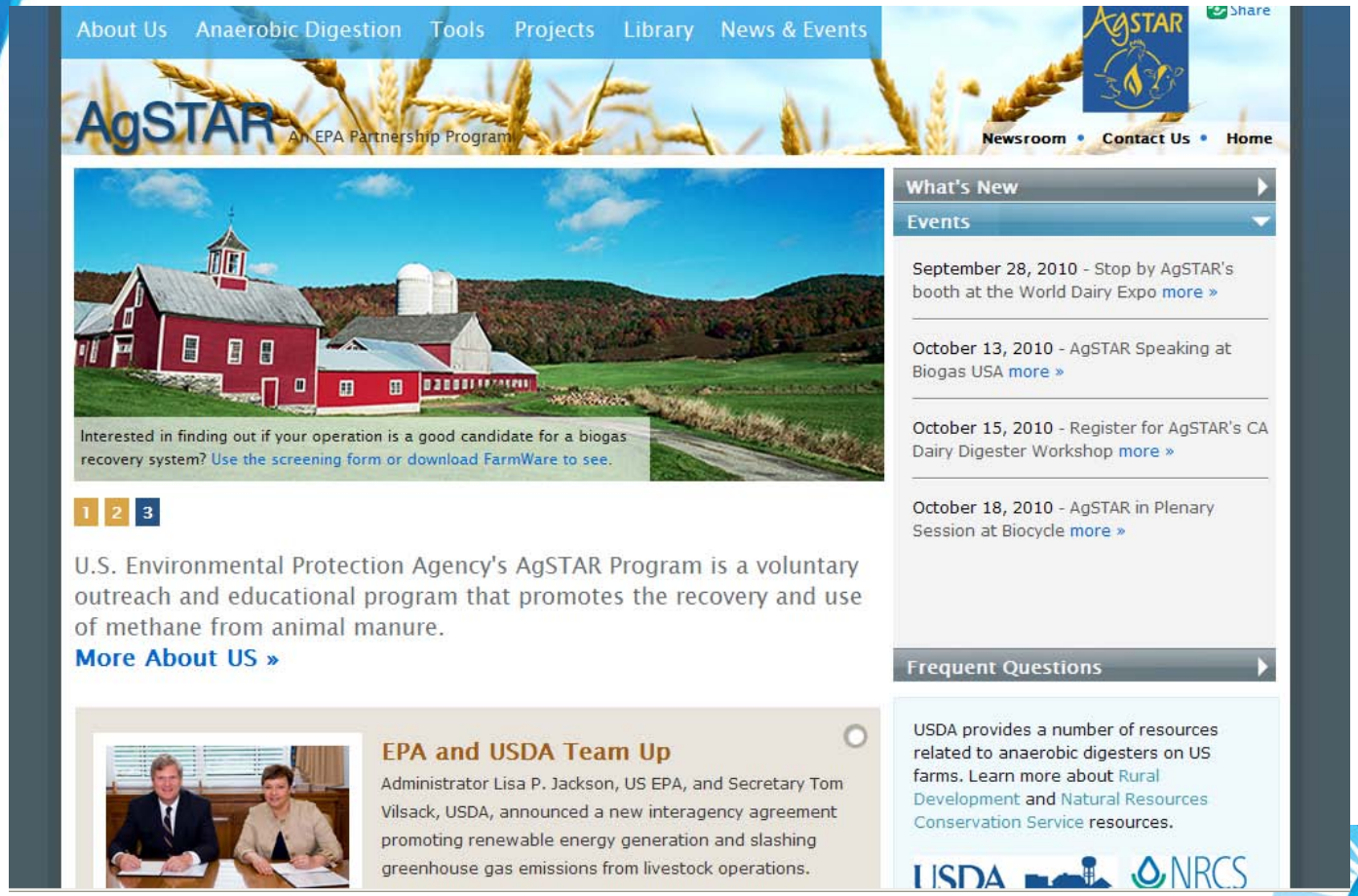
AgSTAR Website



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Involvement of Industry Groups

- Innovation Center for US Dairy – Dairy Power Initiative
  - Research & outreach
- American Biogas Council
  - Lobbying & outreach

INNOVATION CENTER FOR U.S. DAIRY
HEALTHY PEOPLE • HEALTHY PRODUCTS • HEALTHY PLANET

American biogas Council
Promoting the Advancement of Anaerobic Digestion Technology

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Potential

- Livestock manure biogas projects: approximately 200 operating
  - 8,000+ candidates

Photo courtesy of quasar energy group

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Barriers to Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use

- Decreasing financial incentives
  - Fewer grants available
- Lack of renewable energy targets for utilities
- Permitting issues for facilities that co-digest other organic wastes

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Drivers for Methane Reduction, Recovery, and Use

- **Water quality concerns**
  - Nutrient credits
- **Organics diversion**
- **State by state approaches**
  - Utility programs
  - NGO assistance
  - Carbon markets
- **Industry actions**
- **Cross-sector working group**

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GMI Activities

- U.S. Country Action Plan
- Updated U.S. Agriculture Sector Action Plan

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Upcoming Activities

AgSTAR National Conference

June 10-12

Indianapolis, IN

www.epa.gov/agstar

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