



Texas Association of Dairymen

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TAD APPLAUDS OPENING OF FACILITY TO TURN DAIRY WASTE INTO ENERGY *Huckabay Ridge to help remove manure from Central Texas watershed*

STEPHENVILLE – The Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD) joined Texas elected officials and others in Stephenville on Monday to celebrate the grand opening of Huckabay Ridge, a facility that will take the manure from thousands of Central Texas cows and convert it into energy for consumer use.

The facility, operated by Microgy, a subsidiary of Environmental Power Corp., will be North America's largest renewable natural gas facility. By processing the manure from up to 10,000 cows and blending it with other waste, such as restaurant grease, the facility will generate pipeline-grade methane to be sold and delivered via a natural gas pipeline. The Lower Colorado River Authority already has agreed to buy gas from the facility.

Ten local dairies already are moving their dairy manure to Huckabay Ridge's compost yard for use in the digester.

“The Texas Association of Dairymen strongly supports any technology or process which helps a dairy to utilize the dairy's byproduct in a beneficial way,” said John Cowan, TAD's executive director. “We commend Environmental Power Corp. and other companies that are taking innovative steps to provide new sources of energy in an environmentally sustainable manner.”

The Huckabay Ridge facility project is one of several high-tech facilities planned or underway in Central and West Texas designed to convert manure into energy. For example, a fixed-bed gasifier is planned for a dairy site near Stephenville, and Rep. John Carter included \$1.3 million for the project in the 2008 federal Agriculture Appropriations Bill. And the first phosphorous reduction and methane digester in the country began operating in June 2005 on the farm of a Hamilton County dairy producer.

“Experts predict our state could face an energy shortage in the not-so-distant future,” Cowan said. “At the same time, there are about 335,000 dairy cows in Texas that never stop producing manure along with milk. Dairy producers are always searching for new methods of manure management that do not harm the environment. TAD and its dairy members hope we can work with other companies in the future to turn manure into usable energy.”

The Texas Association of Dairymen (www.milk4texas.org) is a non-profit corporation comprised of dairy cooperatives whose members are individual milk producers in Texas.