

SARE Final Report

1. **Project Title:** Educational Plan for Alternative Manure Management System

Grant Number: FNE05-563

Farm Name: North Williston Cattle Company
347 Fay Lane
Williston, VT 05495

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2. **Goals:** The goal of this project is to create and implement an outreach program to inform farmers and the public about research that is being conducted at North Williston Cattle Company to strip the nutrients from manure.
3. **Farm Profile:** This is a 300 cow dairy farm located at two sites which are six miles apart in Chittenden County, Vermont. One 450 acre farm, in the Village of Essex Junction, has been in the Whitcomb family for 140 years. We grow crops and raise heifers on this farm. The other site spans the Winooski River at North Williston and has 244 acres in Williston, Essex and Jericho. The North Williston farm is where we milk our cows and it is the site of the manure research project.
4. **Participants:** Glenn Rogers was the advisor for this educational project. Onan and Lorenzo Whitcomb have participated in panel discussions and led tours. Mary Whitcomb made the arrangements for the tours. Polly McEwing prepared materials for use during tours.
5. **Project Activities:** A poster was made to show the equipment used to strip the nutrients from manure. A brochure was designed to illustrate the process used.

Onan spoke at an alternative energy conference in Randolph, VT in the spring of 2005. Onan also spoke at a "Dairy Profit Seminar" at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls, NY in August of 2006. The topic was "Its Not Easy Being Green".

Lorenzo participated in a panel on "Solutions in Nutrient Management" at a conference on Agriculture & The Environment that was presented by the Vermont Environmental Consortium held in South Burlington, VT in December of 2005.

There were over 30 tours conducted for several hundred people from all over this country and Quebec.

6. **Results:** We have had unexpected results because the original equipment was not adequate to do the job expected of it. BioProcess, the Rhode Island company which was doing the research, has discontinued this project. They tried various equipment to separate the manure, including some that was custom build for this project. However, they were unable to make the experiment work.
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. **Report Summary:** The Alternative Manure Management Research Project was designed to strip the nitrogen and phosphorus from manure, and also allow for the production of energy from manure, and create a liquid discharge that meets 'clean water' requirements. The SARE grant provided support to the farm to conduct educational programs for farmers and the general public about this project. The experiment had a very high profile at its beginning, with many farmers and natural resource professionals eager to know how it might work. Unfortunately the experiment did not have a successful outcome.

This SARE Grant was very beneficial to this farm. It allowed us to prepare for the visitors who came to see the project for three years and to allow Onan and Lorenzo to be available to speak at farmer meetings.

Reported by Polly W. McEwing on December 16, 2008