

# Anaerobic Digestion

"A local solution to a global problem"

Farm Renewable Environmental Energy Ltd

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#### What is **AD**

#### **Farm With Anaerobic Digestion**



## Anaerobic Digestion a natural fermentation process



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Options:

- Go Organic (Get into a niche market)
- Get Bigger (Borrow more money then run faster to stand still)
- Farm Shop / Box scheme
- Add value on farm (Ice Cream, Cheese, yogurt...)
- Livery
- Caravan Site / Storage
- Golf Course
- Barn Conversions (for sale or holiday let)
- Farm House Bed & Breakfast
- Give up & become a Consultant!

## Diversifying into AD?

- AD does not detract from your core business. It enhances it!
- AD does not require re-skilling.

If you understand cow nutrition you can already feed a digester.

• AD provides an alternative income stream Non food and independent of supermarkets – currently.

AD is **NOT** about getting another job, it's a way of making the job you already do more profitable.

#### How much does AD cost?

#### 250 m3 Digester – 150 Cows – 360t Silage

- De-gritting, gas agitation and foam alleviation.
- 24 kW CHP (Combined Heat & Power)
- Gas Holder.
- Loading system, pump, macerator.
- Approximate Cost erected & commissioned
  Cost £ 207,000
  Revenue (Feed In Tariff) £ 63,000
  Running Costs £ 10,500
  Profit £ 52,500 (25%)

# A farm digester in Bishops Castle that has been running for 20 Years.



#### Digester on an organic dairy farm Welshampton running for 20 Years.



# FRE-Energy – Lodge Farm digester running for 2 Months.



#### **3 Years Ash Bedding**



## FRE-Energy – ADG system

#### Smart award wining patented technology



As dry matter digests inorganic matter sinks to the bottom of the digester gradually filling it up, reducing digester capacity.

- De-gritting removes the limitations on material for digestion.
  i.e. you can still bed on sand or ash.
- You can digest root crops e.g. Potatoes, fodder beat.
- You can digest high grit mucks e.g. Chicken litter.

## **Minimal Parasitic Load**

#### Energy used to run the process, is lost.

- TOTAL parasitic load for an 250m<sup>3</sup> gas agitated digester
  = 0.5 kW approx 2W/m<sup>3</sup> of digester.
- For propeller or jet mixed systems this is generally 15W/m<sup>3</sup>.
- For an 250m<sup>3</sup> digester this is 0.5kW verses 3.75 kW. Amounting to (3.75 x 24 x 365) 28,470 kWh per year.
- At 10 pence / kWh =  $\pounds 2,847$  a year.

## Long Life Insulated Roof

- Biogas is extremely corrosive.
- Heat lost is heat not available for other uses.
- The FRE-Energy fibreglass roof is resistant to corrosion.
- The FRE-Energy roof has insulation at least as good as the tank.
- The FRE-Energy roof has a 20 year guarantee the best you will get on a material roof is 5 years.
- The FRE-Energy roof will not blow away!

#### **Roof in construction**



## Health and Safety

- There is no need to enter the gas space or break the gas seal to maintain any FRE-Energy digester parts.
- Gas pumps are duplicated and external to the digester.
- De-gritting arm is suspended from the digester roof with external bearings.

# All Serviceable Parts are external to the digester

### **Benefits to Farming**

- The nutrients in Digestate are in a far more available form. There is between 20 & 25% better nutrient uptake.
- The AD process kills most weed seeds plus foot & mouth and TB.
- Separated digestate does not taint grass eliminating rejection.
- Digestate from AD with added food waste has far greater fertiliser value than straight slurry.

#### Nitrogen enhancement With AD

	Whole Cow Slurry	Un Separated Digestate	Whole Stored
<b>DM%</b>	7	4	7
Total N – kg/t	5.47	5.15	5.47
Available N – kg/t	3.29	4.12	0.9
% Avail' N	<b>60.1</b> %	80.0%	16.5%
Mineral N : Org' N	1.5	4.0	0.2
Phosphate – kg/t	1.02	1.16	1.02

Improvement in fertiliser value £22.00 per cow Assuming 12 month housing, nitrogen fertiliser £300 / Tonne

#### 150 Cows -> £ 3,300

### Pathogen kills at 35 C

- Salmonella T.
- Salmonella D.
- Coliform Bacteria
- Staphilococcus Aureus
- Mcrob' Para TB
- Foot & Mouth

2.4 Days **2.1 Days 3.1 Days** 0.9 Days 6.0 Days 1.0 Day

#### Figures are from the 3 year research programme undertaken by the Danish Veterinary Directorate.

## What to do next?

- Assessment of your own inputs.
- Assessment of external inputs.
- Availability of land for outputs.
- Feasibility of local grid connection.
- Environmental and planning implications.
- Sources of funding (grants).

# AD versus the three P's Politicians.

• Are vocal in their support of AD, however the message is not getting through to the administrators.

Planners.

• Currently view AD as an industrial process best suited to industrial estates and not rural locations.

#### Power companies.

 Are keen to encourage renewable generation but make it very difficult and expensive to connect to the national grid. – (Turkeys voting for Christmas).

#### **Final comment**

We'll be up to our necks in water, fireballs will rage across the sky And there'll be monster hurricanes, but there'll still be a man in a suit telling us we've filled in a form incorrectly. Unfortunately, like cockroaches, l think they will be the ones to survive climate change!



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