COMPANIES: Danone

PRACTICE

Improving the quality of dairy cows' feed and the nutritional value of their milk, to also reduce methane emissions

PROBLEM

Methane emissions from dairy are a significant contributor to greenhouse gases/global warming.

DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE

In 2008, Danone launched the Linus project in France, in partnership with the Bleu Blanc Cœur association and INRA (the National Agronomic Research Institute), in order to improve the quality of cows' feed and reduce the amount of certain saturated fatty acids in milk. Introducing baked flax grains (or other ingredient, depending on country and local production constraints) into cows' diets not only improves their health and productivity, but also enhances the nutritional quality of their milk, and enables a 20 to 30% reduction in methane emissions.

RESULTS

To date, the Linus project has been implemented at over 200 farms in France. The project extended to Spain and the US. Using this method, Bleu Blanc Cœur and Danone can now measure very accurately (and therefore predict) the quantity of methane emitted by cows.

RELEVANCE TO COCA-COLA

- As Coca-Cola increasingly expands into dairy offerings, developing strategies to deal with milk quality and emissions are critical to meeting product and operational goals.
- By partnering with not-for-profit organizations and development organizations, Coca-Cola can help its large and small suppliers improve their practices in substantive ways.

RESOURCES

Journal of Dairy Science - In October 2009, the *Journal of Dairy Science* (a scientific journal in the field of agricultural research related to dairy products and animal sciences) published the results of a study that highlights the link between cows' feed and methane emissions and the very strong correlations that exist between methane emissions and the amounts of saturated fatty acids in milk.