



October 10, 2013 - Dairy CAP Newsletter

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Dairy Production Systems of the Great Lakes Region

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Announcements

- A small subset of our PIs will meet in Madison on October 17th to discuss work activities that are taking place during the first year of the grant. We are hoping that our federal partners will be able to attend.
- Some of the PIs under Objective 2 (Modeling), met while at a LCA conference in Orlando on October 3rd to discuss the process-based models being used.
- Many from the Soil Measurement Team will also meet in Florida while attending the ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meetings in early November.

PIs in the News

"Scientists help farmers create greener dairies" is a news story published through the AP wire service that was distributed far and wide--from the local newspaper to online Business Week. The reporter interviewed several of our PIs including Dairy CAP Director *Matt Ruark* and *Mark Powell* and paid a visit to the Dairy Forage Research Center and a nearby dairy farm. [To read the story, click here.](#)

Jerry Hatfield was recently quoted in USA today in an interesting article, **"Some crops may migrate north with warmer temperatures."** Climate change in agriculture is "happening before our very eyes," says Jerry Hatfield, laboratory director for USDA's National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa. "Everyone's rethinking everything." North Dakota and New York can now grow corn and soybeans (respectively) because these states are no longer considered a haven for cool weather crops. In contrast, Florida and California may suffer because of warmer nighttime lows. [Read more interesting anecdotes here.](#)

Upcoming Events and Webinars

Penn State has a series of interesting webinars this year on dairy housing, nutrition and robotic milking. Tune in on Technology Tuesdays from 8:30 - 10:00 am (eastern time). Next up on October 22nd is Characteristics of Dairy Farms Using Robotic Milking Technology. [To see the full schedule, click here.](#)

International Participants Receive Training on Soil Carbon Accounting



The International Soil Carbon Network (ISCN) recently teamed up with several partners to host a 5-day study tour devoted to methods training in below ground carbon accounting. The study tour was organized by the International Programs (IP) of the US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, with coordination and technical assistance from USAID, SilvaCarbon, and the US Forest Service Northern Research Station (NRS) and National Forest System (NFS). Participants included forestry and carbon monitoring staff from government agencies and academic institutions in Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. The tour was based at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS), and included site visits and fieldwork at diverse soils and ecosystems around northern Michigan. Experts from institutions including Virginia

Commonwealth University, NRS, NFS, Michigan Tech University and UMBS served as technical presenters for the event. IP and the tour organizers are planning to repeat the event again in 2014; anyone with questions or an interest in being involved should contact [Luke Nave](#) at the University of Michigan.

Reports

IPCC 5th Assessment Report

Undoubtedly, you already know that IPCC's 5th Assessment Report of the has been published. What you may not know is that one of the Dairy CAP PIs, Chris Forest, is one of the lead authors of Chapter 9, Evaluation of Climate Models. Among other results, the chapter states that climate models have improved since the 4th Assessment Report. The long-term climate model simulations show a trend in global-mean surface temperature from 1951 to 2012 that agrees with the observed trend, giving this finding one with a very high confidence level.



Animal Feed vs. Human Food

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) (Ames, Iowa) has released a new report asking the question, Are Cows Eating my Lunch? This paper addresses the commonly heard argument that livestock compete with humans for food resources, thus providing support for the continued existence of livestock production. It also addresses the knowledge gap that currently exists as to the quantity of human feed and fiber by-products used within animal agriculture.

[Download this report for free on their website.](#)

Funding Opportunity

Are you looking for ways to enhance your portion of research funding? The Canadian Organization, Climate Change and Emission Management Corporation has released its Call for Expressions of Interest: Biological Greenhouse Gas Management to examine the use of biological organisms (plants, animals, microbes) to avoid or reduce greenhouse gases or to enhance carbon sequestration. The scope of this definition includes projects that: discover, develop and/or deploy transformative practice change in the forestry, agriculture, municipal waste handling and/or energy sectors; develop or modify bioprocesses; Replace non-bio-based feedstocks with bio-based feedstocks; develop and manufacture novel bio-products; or use biological organisms or bio-based materials to reduce emissions in non-biological industrial systems. While the project can be done on a small scale anywhere, the final large-scale demonstration and deployment projects must take place in Alberta, Canada.



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