

LEAVING THE WASTE MANAGEMENT BUSINESS BEHIND

Transforming Manure from Waste to Product

Throughout the U.S., dairy operations are in the business of making milk. But, whether they choose to be or not, dairy operations are also in the business of something else: managing waste—or more specifically, managing manure. For these dairy operations, manure management primarily involves making sure that manure does not contaminate ground water or surface water.

The manure management business, though, is becoming an increasingly risky business to be in. State and federal regulatory agencies, such as the EPA, are scrutinizing the manure management practices at dairy operations during inspections and investigations. Additionally, environmental groups are suing dairy operations for violating federal statutes, such as the RCRA and the CWA, by failing to properly manage manure. Because of the risks associated with managing manure, many dairy operations are looking for a way out of the business of waste management.

The best and surest way out of the waste management business is to not have any waste to manage. The innovative Trident technology gives dairy operations the ability to physically transform their manure from waste to product. In fact, it allows dairy operations to physically transform manure into three new materials: bedding, nutrient water, and nutrient cake. Each of these three materials is a valuable, commercially saleable product.

Yet, this physical transformation of the manure into three new materials, by itself, is not enough to ensure that dairy operations are able to leave the waste management business behind; rather, the manure must also undergo a regulatory transformation from waste to product. In other words, dairy operations must ensure that regulators recognize these three new materials—not as wastes, like manure—but as the three valuable products that they are.

EarthWise, as a member of the Trident team, manages the regulatory transformation of the manure from waste to product. By ensuring that regulators recognize the three new materials as products—not wastes—we ensure that any dairy that operates the Trident system is able to minimize environmental risks, eliminate bureaucratic obstacles, and achieve regulatory compliance, effectively leaving the waste management business behind.