

# **BLUE SKYWAYS AG SUBCOMMITTEE CALL**

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 – 2:00-3:00 pm Central Time

Call-In #: (866) 299-3188  
Conf. Code #: 9135517366#

## **MEETING NOTES**

Thank you for those who were able to attend the call. I hope it was informational and beneficial for each of you. Feel free to contact me if you have ideas to improve the call or would like to visit about a specific topic.

1) **Roll Call** - if you joined after the call started let me know

### **Identified Attendees:**

- Duane Gangwish (NE Cattlemen)
- J.P. Dunn (MO Soybeans)
- Lyn Kirschner (NRCS)
- Frank Thompson (NE Public Power)
- Danny Kluthe (Olean Energy)
- Wayne Graf (MDNR)
- Amber Wolfe (IDNR)
- Joe Francis (NDEQ)
- Erin Birgfield (EPA HQ)
- Alan Banwart (EPA R7)

2) **Methane Capture Projects**

a. **Nebraska Methane Workshop (Joe Francis – NDEQ) -**

[joe.francis@nebraska.gov](mailto:joe.francis@nebraska.gov)

- Upcoming Ag Methane Capture Workshop in NE on Feb. 19th
- NDEQ and NPPD formed a partnership in 2000
- In 2002, they had their first methane workshop, but they didn't have much interest as they had hoped for
- Decided to have another one because of more interest and new topics of Greenhouse Gases, Alternative Energy focus, and success stories
- Email includes the save the date for this event

b. **AgSTAR (Erin Birgfield – EPA) – birgfeld.erin@epa.gov**

- Upcoming events and recent presentations found at [www.epa.gov/agstar](http://www.epa.gov/agstar)
- Currently looking for states to work with more closely
- Also interested in working more with the swine industry... maybe Iowa
- Nat'l Conference on Feb. 24-25 in Baltimore, MD

**c. On-Farm Operating Methane Capture System (Danny Kluthe – owner-operator farmer)** – Discussing his methane capture system - - his motivation, operation, challenges, successes.

- 8000 head, early wean to finish operation swine farm located across the road from the old town of Olean that now only has a church located there
- His motivation was mostly to stop the smell and be a good neighbor
- The 2002 NE Workshop (although he wasn't able to attend) sparked his interest
- 440,000 gallon complete mix digester - - manure held 21 days and methane powers a CAT engine that powers a generator 24/7 (can also run on propane by a switch)
- 80 kW unit and programmable system
- NPPD worked out an agreement five years ago to buy his electricity at 3.66 cents and to spend \$16,000 on the necessary transmission infrastructure
- Manure is fed every day into the digester in the morning and mixed 18 hours or so later
- Heat exchanger captures the heat from the engine and heats the digester to 102 degrees and excess heat goes into a radiator to cool the engine - - engine temp goes up and the digester temp goes up
- The manure moves from the digester to the lagoon with all of its initial value, but without the smell
- He has had many doubters (including neighbors) but he has been able to show them that there really is no smell
- Could use the system to dispose of hog fatalities... has put bad batches of ice cream in the digester and it produces a lot more gas
- A scrubber is currently being built to test on the site to clean the methane and make pure propane to heat the barns - - there are different opinions on if this is a better option
- The early challenge was getting permitted, but this might be easier now that it isn't a new permit anymore, but it still might take awhile to make sure everything is permitted properly
- The digester shut down once for 12 days at the worst time of the year (cold winter) - - only lost 10 degrees
- Managing takes some effort and has been a hassle at some times, but with a desire, patience, and willingness to work with the system it can be successful. In fact, his system has exceeded way beyond all his expectations
- He is excited about carbon credit possibilities, but currently sells them to NPPD for 1.5 cents

3) **Other**

- Blue Skyways 2008 Clean Diesel Emission Reduction State Grants
  - Kansas, Missouri, & Arkansas have diesel, agricultural, mobile sources eligible to receive funds

4) **Next Call**

- For calls in the future we plan to bring in different speakers to talk about the projects that they are working on to inform the whole group about the options that are out there. **Please let me know if you have an idea or an interest.**
- Blue Skyways is looking for you to apply to be a partner by filling out an application that describes your project that gets emission reductions – Blue Skyways in return will follow-up with your emission reduction numbers and any recognition desires that you may have
  - Alan Banwart – banwart.alan@epa.gov or 913 551-7819

The next meeting will be held on **March 11, 2009**, following the Nebraska and National AgSTAR Conferences. The call-in number will be (866)299-3188 and the code will be 9135517366# unless otherwise noticed.

**THANK YOU!!!**