



Threemile Canyon Farms Record of Environmental Stewardship

For more than 20 years, Threemile Canyon Farms has responsibly provided for the nutritional needs of a growing population. While we are proud of our contributions, we know that what sets us apart isn't just what we do, but how we do it. We were early innovators in building a "closed loop" system of sustainable farming, which is made possible by our decision to bring together crop farming and dairy production. These are highly complementary pursuits – particularly when it comes to recycling waste. We put organic waste generated by cows back into the soil, which not only minimizes the amount of waste we produce but also helps keep our crops healthy.

We operate in this way because of our values and commitment to the environment, our animals and our community. Since our founding in 1998, TCF has routinely gone beyond regulatory environmental requirements and exceed established standards because we have always been a values-driven organization. While regulations may have changed, our commitment to sustainable farming has not. In fact, TCF has long been recognized for its leadership and commitment to sustainable practices. In April 2020, the farm was named one of three dairies nationwide – and the only one on the West Coast – to receive the Innovation Center for US Dairy's award for Outstanding Dairy Sustainability. TCF was also the first dairy to earn a 100% score on the Validus independent animal welfare audit.

Here are just a few examples of how we are consistently exceeding expectations.

Protecting Water Resources: TCF has designed its operations to take care of Lower Umatilla Basin's water supply for the long term. We rely on the latest scientific analyses to inform our water protection practices and are collaborators with state and independent agencies, including the Northwest Oregon Water Association.

- **Zero Discharge:** TCF strictly adheres to a zero-discharge requirement, so dairy waste never enters streams or groundwater sources.
- **Reusing Wastewater:** TCF recycles and reuses all non-potable water. We collect water used to flush dairy waste and process it for use in our irrigation system. The recycled "green water" is applied to fields on a circle-by-circle basis to naturally fertilize organic and feed crops. By using our recycled green water, we are able to significantly reduce the amount of traditional fossil-fuel based fertilizer we apply to the soil.
- **Stabilizing Water Quality:** TCF, like every other large dairy and confined animal feeding operation is regulated by EPA, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Agriculture to make sure we are not contaminating surface or ground water.
- **Reducing Water Waste with Technology:** TCF's high-tech central-pivot irrigation systems conserve water by minimizing water lost to evaporation and preventing over-watering. State-of-the-art wireless network monitors allow us to spot and repair leaks immediately.

Excelling in Animal Welfare: We are committed to superior quality of life for each animal under our care as evidenced by the high marks given to our Animal Welfare Program.

- **Exceptional Audit Rating:** An independent agency conducts animal welfare audits each year and scoring based on the auditor's own strict criteria. TCF consistently achieves scores above 96% and was the first to receive a 100% on an independent animal welfare audit.



- **Animal Comfort:** TCF takes measures throughout the milking operation to reduce stress and anxiety for animals. For example, in the milking parlor, noise levels – particularly those created by humans – are kept at a minimal level and human contact is minimized. Newly remodeled milking parlors also have temperature controls and air circulation that keeps the parlor warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Animals are housed in open freestall barns with digested fiber bedding made from the solids exiting the digester, then dried using electrical engine exhaust from the digester complex.

Reusing Waste Material, Reducing Emissions: TCF has been a constant investor in innovative solutions that help reduce our carbon footprint – and the footprint of others. TCF is actively involved in conversations around carbon reduction and renewable energy policies. We have worked with our partner, Tillamook Creamery, to ensure that the voice of modern agriculture is well represented in policy decisions design to create the most appropriate solution for Oregon.

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction:** TCF helps to reduce GHG emissions through a host of practices including low-till farming and cover crops. These practices help enhance our soil's ability to naturally capture carbon. Further, we have made a significant investment in a methane digester that converts waste to renewable natural gas. The digester sequesters the equivalent annual greenhouse gas emissions from 28,875 passenger vehicles (136,000 metric tons per year of CO₂). It would take 160,061 acres of forest land to have the same carbon sequestering impact. The sum total of crop plantings, farming practices and digester sequestration makes TCF a significant contributor in helping Oregon move toward a lower carbon emitting future.
- **Renewable Natural Gas Production:** The cornerstone of our GHG emission reduction program is the methane digester, which converts manure to renewable natural gas (RNG), an energy source that can be used to heat homes, generate electricity and as an alternative to transportation fuel displacing fossil fuel based sources of transportation. While RNG is fully interchangeable with natural gas in terms of its use, its production is superior to natural gas because it is carbon negative.
- **Recognition for Managing Emissions:** According to a voluntary audit of the farm by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, TCF exceeds compliance with air quality best management practices for dairy operations in Oregon's neighboring states of Idaho and Washington.

Taking Care of the Community: TCF has been a dedicated member of the local Boardman and greater Morrow County community for more than 20 years. We are committed to being a trusted employer and good neighbor as well as a steady contributor to the economy and county tax base.

- **Employer of Choice:** TCF has more than 300 full-time team members and about 150 seasonal partners who share a passion for farming. Farm and livestock hourly employees enjoy benefits as members of the United Farm Workers union under which they enjoy a competitive wage, as well as health and welfare benefits.
- **Farmers for the Future:** We support the next generation of farmers by offering a robust internship program as well as sponsoring the Morrow County 4-H Dairy Heifer program.
- **Oregon Food Bank/Farmers Ending Hunger:** Since 2008, TCF has donated an average of 8,000 pounds of ground beef every month to Oregon Food Bank through Farmers Ending Hunger. In total, we've donated more than 1.2 million pounds of local, sustainably raised ground beef.

Threemile Canyon Farms knows that good farming is about stewardship of the environment, ethical treatment of animals and commitment to our workers and the local economy. To find out more about our values and stewardship program, please visit us at www.threemilecanyonfarms.com