



May Newsletter Dairy LCA Project

Dear all,

Find below the May newsletter. Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please let me know if you have anything for future newsletters.

Best regards,

Brian

Australian Soil Carbon

This subject continues to challenge us despite the substantial amount of information available! I have attached a desk top review undertaken by Dairy Australia and published earlier this year, titled, '*Carbon Sequestration under pasture in Southern Australia*'. The review is focused on the Australian situation and covers aspects such as the background to soil and carbon interactions, what the proponents are saying about sequestration opportunities (reviewing over 100 published papers) and a detailed review of knowledge base in soil carbon and pastures. Don't stop reading this detailed review before you get to chapters 7 and 8. Some interesting conclusions for the farm level.

GGAA Conference – Thanks to Cathy Phelps of Dairy Australia for this.

Registrations are open for the 4th International Conference on Greenhouse Gases and Animal Agriculture (GGAA) to be held on October 3 to 8, 2010 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The Greenhouse Gas & Animal Agriculture conferences have established a successful track record and are regarded as the leading international science conference in this area. Each GGAA conference is organized by a local committee with the 1st conference held in Japan in 2001, the 2nd in Switzerland in 2005 and the 3rd in New Zealand in 2007. The NZ conference attracted 232 registered delegates from 46 countries. Most delegates are active scientists in this field, with about 10% of delegates being from industry and government policy. All papers are published in a fully peer reviewed journal.

The GGAA Banff conference provides an opportunity to learn about the latest scientific advances in the area of greenhouse gas research in animal agriculture. The programme includes three days of invited and offered addresses from many of the best international and local researchers, two poster sessions and a day of participatory workshops. Topics covered include:

- Measuring/modeling/biogas/methanogenesis (four workshops)
- Role of livestock production in GHG issues – the big picture.
- Nitrous oxide and methane losses from livestock manure – atmospheric emissions and biogas capture.
- Measurement of GHG from livestock production.
- Mitigation strategies for enteric methane.
- Microbial ecology of ruminal methanogenesis.
- Modeling livestock GHG emissions.

The programme includes a tour to the Crowfoot and Athabasca glaciers to view evidence of global warming. Further information can be obtained from the website: <http://www.ggaa2010.org/>

Let me know via blindsay@siaplatform.org if you are thinking of going and we will ensure that we have a dairy group link up whilst there.



FEFAC Workshop May27

FEFAC the European representative organisation for animal feed manufacturers and suppliers held a workshop of approximately 40 members and others from allied industries, in order to better understand their obligations/opportunities as the feed sector in relation to Greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately one third of emissions in the livestock supply chain come from the production, transport and feeding of feedstuff to the animal. After a scene setting introduction from Ad Hectors – member of the FEFAC Praesidium, further input was provided from:

- **Nicholas Martin** of the syndicat National de l'industrie de la Nutrition Animale looking at the commercial challenges of carbon foot printing,
- **Theun Vellinga** of Wageningen University/FAO- Calculating the emissions from feed as done in the recently released FAO report,
- **Hans Blonk** of Blonk MilieuAdvies – Greenhouse gas LCA's of feed and
- Me – The LCA project and other dairy sector GHG related initiatives such as the Agenda for Action and Green Paper.

There were good, positive discussions on:

- Reviewing what is already out there in terms of knowledge and tools
- Harmonisation in approach
- Collaboration
- Synergies with other sector initiatives

What was evident (comforting!) through the presentations and subsequent discussions was the various approaches currently being developed/applied in a range of livestock systems, the IDF methodological approach is aligned. It was encouraging to hear that the current Dutch initiative titled PDV is very much in line with our work also. As part of this project a feed emissions database for LCA purposes, of some 300 feed inputs (as opposed the 30 that were included in the FAO report) is being developed. I am in communication with the collaborators on this project to see how to access the outputs of their work for the benefit of the dairy sector.

I will have more information on the PDV project in the next newsletter.

We will continue to liaise with FEFAC with our respective developments and importantly share with them the work that we as a sector have done to date on feed inputs to the dairy system.

Innovation Centre News

Moving forward from the Memorandum of Understanding announced in December last year by the USDA and DMI, the below details outline the next phase of developments. To see the whole story go to

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/lut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_2CbEdFAEU0joE!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/04/0207.xml

USDA Announces a New Initiative to Improve Agricultural Energy Conservation and Efficiency in 29 States

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced an initiative designed to help agricultural producers transition to more energy efficient operations. This initiative will make funding available for individual on-farm energy audits



designed to save both money and energy when fully implemented.

"Reducing energy use on America's farms and ranches will not only help our agricultural producers become more profitable, but also help the United States become more energy independent," said Vilsack. "Through this initiative, producers will be able to receive individual on-farm energy audit evaluations and assistance with implementation of energy conservation and efficiency measures."

Nutrient Density and Sustainability – Thanks to Cindy Schweitzer GDP for this.

Discussions during the recent three day, Utrecht Group meeting (the Utrecht Group is a group of nutrition representatives from around the globe involved in both nutrition and nutritional communications who meet together annually - *in Utrecht, hence the name!*) highlighted the following activities:

1. The Nutrient Rich Foods Index (NRF 9.3) model developed by Drewnowski and colleagues has been applied to data collected in 3 countries so far: US, France, and The Netherlands. Professor Edith Feskens also reported being part of a team that will evaluate the model on data from Finland.
2. Alternative ways to express nutrient density that can use existing information in a simplified manner are desired. Cindy Schweitzer presented examples of charts comparing the percentage of micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) requirements provided by 3 servings of dairy products, fortified soy beverages and fortified orange juice. Such comparisons can be customized to reflect local food nutrient composition as well as local reference standards for nutrient requirements.
3. Feskens, Schweitzer and Jan Steijns are collaborating to: 1) assess outcomes from the use of the NRF model in the 3 countries 2) identify a southern European database for additional evaluation 3) determine what available information currently exists to "package" nutrient density in a simple, easy to understand way 4) continue to monitor Drewnowski activities linking NRF 9.3 to carbon footprint. Anyone with additional ideas is encouraged to contact Schweitzer.

For further details on this contact cindy.schweitzer@globaldairyplatform.com . We will also be posting more information in relation to this topic on the sustainability members forum on the GDP website <http://www.gdpmembercenter.com> which we are using as the resource centre for our work in this specific area. You will require 'permission' to access the site firstly. To gain access contact Melanie.nimrodi@gdp.com and you will be informed of the registration process.

Training on Nutrient Density and Sustainability:

The Dairy Council of California has developed a course on Sustainability for Health Professionals to broaden their perspective about nutrient density related to health and wellness of the *individual* when they think about sustainability...not just carbon footprint or food miles traveled. Nutrition Dimensions is hosting the course (it is worth 4 CE (continuing education) units for RDs). The course was launched about a month ago and can be accessed at:

<http://www.dairycouncilofca.org/HealthProfessionals/SustainabilityandHealthCEcourse/index.aspx>



PGgRc Newsletter Thanks to Jim Barnett of Fonterra for this.

We are all challenged with wondering if the work we are doing/considering is already happening elsewhere. This is especially so when it comes to research. I have attached a copy of the latest newsletter from the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium in New Zealand.

The PGgRc research programme aims to provide New Zealand livestock farmers with the knowledge and tools to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector.

If you wanted to have a look at their website go to:

<http://www.pggrc.co.nz/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

If there are other groups that you are aware of in your respective countries working in this area, please let me know so that I can profile them via this newsletter.



LCA Guidelines progress

Progress is being made. The second draft has just received feedback from the action team, which has now been compiled. A conference call will take place with the Action team on June 7th to discuss actions related to the feedback provided. Once these actions have been agreed these can then be applied and will get us to a point for circulation to a wider audience, such as IDF National Committees, GDP and SAI Platform members for their comments.

The IDF Science and Programme Co-ordination Committee has approved the appointment of a communications specialist to assist with the 'packaging' of the LCA guidelines. It is hoped that this appointment will be made shortly so that we can fully immerse them into the discussions taking place over the guidelines to ensure we get the correct look and feel to the finished document.

The current target is to get the document in a form for wider circulation by the end of June, though this is slightly dependant on the agreed action of the conference call on June 7.

IDF Conference Auckland – November 2010

Please don't forget that the next IDF World Dairy Summit will take place in Auckland, New Zealand in early November. The program for the conference will have a major environmental and sustainability component to it. There will be many interactive sessions where we have the opportunity to guide future debates and work programs. One key area that will be investigated are developments in water foot printing and associated research needs and management opportunities.

To learn more about the conference or to register go to www.wds2010.com .



Global Agenda for Action and Green Paper developments:

The Signatories of the Agenda for Action want to increase the profile of this agreement especially as it linked nicely with the recently released FAO report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Dairy Sector.

As a result we are currently investigating suitable and exciting opportunities that profile the good work that has already been completed and is on-going by the dairy sector and importantly looking ahead to future discussions and initiatives. . Discussions with the conference organizers have been extremely positive regarding what might be undertaken to support this aim.

Directly related to this is the need for new entries for the 'Green Paper'. A letter was sent in May to over 100 organisations globally seeking further submissions. We need to capture more initiatives that are being implemented by the sector. Additionally we need the quantifiable measures related to these initiatives that enable us to 'tell a story' about the project and fundamentally, how successful they have been. New entries are easy to submit and we are not looking for in-depth reporting, more an overview of the project with some basic measures to start with i.e. this project covers x number of farmers, y hectares or h dairy cows. The IDF have developed an on-line submission form to make submitting new entries really easy. Please see:

<http://www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org/Public/TextFlowPage.php?ID=1172&parentID=29->

We are currently very weak on entries from Asian countries (though we have recently received several submissions from Korea) so if any organizations are undertaking sustainability activities in these areas, we need to hear from you. Both Marylène Tucci (IDF) mtucci@fil-idf.org and I, blindsay@saiplatform.org, are more than willing to support you in developing new case studies if that would be helpful. Just get in contact.

Dairy UK and DairyCo. Carbon and Farming conference

A reminder from the April newsletter...

The Carbon and Farming conference will look at how the dairy sector can respond to Britain's challenging climate change targets and how dairy farming can contribute to a lower carbon future. The event will be held at the Sixways Stadium in Worcester, England on Tuesday, 22 June so please put this date in your diary now. Speakers will explain current tools and policies and use case studies to illustrate the impact on farm.

Tesco's Agricultural Manager for Dairy, Emma Jones will present on the retailer's work with their supply group on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the Tesco's carbon label for

milk. Michael Masters of Agri assist (joint venture between Dairy Crest 40% and Dairy Crest Direct 60%) and John Allen of Kite Consulting will present on tools for monitoring carbon on farms, with John presenting the key findings from the E-CO2 project. In addition to the confirmed speakers Dairy UK has invited the FAO to present (and they have now confirmed their attendance) on their recent study looking at GHG emission from the global dairy sector.

For further information, contact Fergus McReynolds at DairyUK on fmcreeynolds@dairyuk.org or Karen Wonnacott at DairyCo on Karen.wonnacott@dairyco.org.uk



SAI Platform Sustainable Farming Conference – ‘The Art of Farming’

More than 230 delegates (and it would have been more but for a small Icelandic volcano!) from over 25 different countries gathered in Brussels earlier this month for the 3rd Sustainable Farming Conference. The delegates heard speakers from many different food sectors, NGO's and Governments deliver their words of wisdom related to a globally sustainable food production sector.

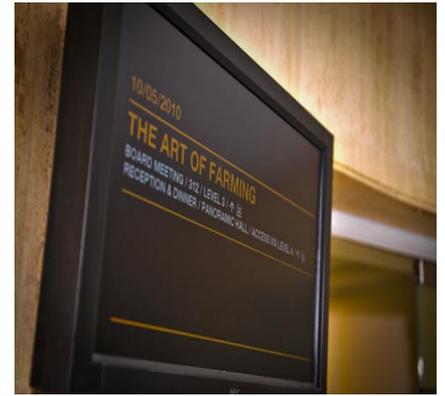
The event was a blend of main presentations and smaller break-out sessions that let the delegates explore specific issues in smaller working groups, such as Farmer Capacity Building, Sustainable Agriculture Metrics, Water, and Food Security, Sustainable Development and the Role of Business.

Importantly the conference catered for plenty of networking during meal and coffee times.

To see the presentations and written summaries from the conference sessions, go to:

<http://www.sustainable-ag.org/program.html>.

Make sure you don't miss the next one!



COWPOOTING? The art of lateral thought to solve challenges!

Thanks to Ceris Jones of the National Farmers Union of England for bringing this to our attention.

I think this concept proves the value of cross industry collaboration in the name of solving challenges. Here is news of two modern industry challenges (one very close to our hearts!) being solved mutually though a bit of lateral thought. Much of my life has been spent challenging farmers to see manure as a resource and not a waste. This confirms that the resource has even greater potential than originally thought. And to think one cow will generate enough energy to run three household televisions sets...what next? Go to this link to see how agriculture can support the computing industry.

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/technology/article7133868.e