



**U.S. Dairy
Sustainability Awards**
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Werkhoven Dairy, Inc.: *Elanco* Award for Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability

During a recent visit to Werkhoven Dairy, Jim and Andy Werkhoven shared how their unique partnerships are yielding benefits for the community and the environment.

Community connections formed to preserve land



Before their involvement with the local Native American Tulalip Tribes and the Northwest Chinook Recovery, Andy Werkhoven did not know how his family's Werkhoven Dairy could hold its ground against rising land values in Monroe, Wash., outside of Seattle. Today Andy and his brother Jim are thrilled to be a part of an unlikely alliance that has the strength to preserve land and enrich the community.

As a nonprofit organization, Qualco Energy's goal is to generate enough revenue through tipping fees and power sales to invest in recycling projects, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, state-of-the-art farming practices and renewable energy. The project has been invigorating for business and personal relations. Jim is thrilled by the newfound connection he's made with like-minded business partners; and equally enthused about the digester's capacity to accept a variety of substrates that lessen Werkhoven's need for fertilizer and feed purchases while purifying the air and ground.

"Cows are better than condos"



Jim's wife Dolores and Andy's wife Gloria are partners at Werkhoven and work together to manage and care for their cows, employees and neighboring dairies. The Werkhovens share their post-digested liquid fertilizer with neighbors at no cost, saving fuel and the need for commercial fertilizer transport.

The Werkhovens love the slogan: "Cows are better than condos." Through Qualco Energy, cows and people do their jobs to help preserve the land for agricultural use.



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A vision for sustainable growth



Qualco Energy's digester runs on a variety of substrates, and it currently produces two times as much gas as their single 450-kilowatt generator can use. Their generator powers 300 homes, but Qualco has dreams brighter than the flame that burns tall with excess gas from the digester. As active community members, the Werkhovens are planning with local government officials to ensure a second generator can deliver maximum benefit to all involved. They also allow access to Washington State University researchers, who study manure management and nutrient management. Qualco Energy enables the researchers to work on what otherwise be off-limits tribal ground, changing perspectives about the land's utility. "It's not about us," Andy repeats. "This is a partnership that will change the game."

To learn more about the sustainability initiatives underway at Werkhoven Dairy, visit USDairy.com/Sustainability/Awards.