Farm Background
AA Dairy began operating at their new facility in the summer of 1993; odor issues began to cause local concern, and thus, the decision was made to construct an anaerobic digester. The digester was commissioned in June 1998.

Reasons for digester construction and subsequent benefits include:
- Reduced odor
- Reduced risk of runoff and leaching
- Reduced manure transport over roadways
- Electricity and heat generated from the biogas
- Compost from post-digested separated solids
- Irrigation from post-digested separated liquid which has greatly reduced odor emissions and is least costly to spread

Lessons Learned
- Providing a sound insulated engine room reduces the sound on-farm as well as from a distance.
- An oversized engine is less efficient at lower operating speeds; designing the digester for 1,000 cows and operating at half capacity reduces process efficiency.
- Service support is lacking for much of the equipment associated with the digester system; there is demand for a maintenance specialist to assist farms in operating and maintaining digester system components.
- Changing digester feedstock too quickly can disrupt normal functioning of bacteria and shock the system.