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Bio Town Ag has a history of generating revenue by recycling waste, or by products. At our farm we began utilizing waste products in our cattle operation in 1995. At that time we had a couple of hundred head of cattle. Today we have around 4500 head of cattle being fed predominately waste products. That many cattle in bedded barns generate a lot of manure. With the advent of Bio Town we were exposed to new thought processes in regard to waste and the potential energy production that could be generated from its use. We also saw energy production from waste as a mechanism for processing the manure and making it more useful as a fertilizer and at the same time making significant environmental improvements.

In 2006 several entities were merged together to form Bio Town Ag. The purpose of which was to consolidate resources to undertake a large waste to energy project. After five years of study and planning, we broke ground on our anaerobic digester in July of 2010.

The digester is an anaerobic system comprised of two main tanks each holding 2.4 million gallons. We feed the digester 218,000 gallons per day, or an average of 150 gallons per minute. The retention time of the material in the digester is twenty two days. We are using cattle manure, hog manure and outside waste materials as feedstock. The total waste processed each day is approximately 35 truckloads.

As the digester produces methane gas, it is piped into our generation building where the moisture is removed. The gas then goes directly to three large internal combustion engines. Each engine is a V20 spark fired engine that runs a generator capable of producing 1050 kw of electricity/hour. The heat produced by the engines is used to maintain the material inside the digester at 101 degrees.

The effluent coming from the digester is processed to create additional value added products. The first process extrudes the largest particles, which are used for bedding in the cattle feedlot. Other processes are being installed to remove the additional nutrients from the water to be used as fertilizer for the production of crops. We have an objective of getting our water clean enough to recycle back to our cattle for drinking water consumption.

As this process is coming to maturity we are evaluating additional opportunities to increase our sustainability approach at an even higher level by doing additional recycling. At the front of the thought process is a greenhouse that would utilize the waste heat and carbon dioxide from our engines.

We at Bio Town Ag believe that identifying sustainable activities to our farm that have symbiotic relationships with the things we are already doing, has greater value than focusing on being large and specialized in one area.

We strive to operate Bio Town Ag as a profitable and growth oriented business; using our circular integration model as the foundation for continued success. We will seek areas for growth that maximize synergies between enterprises, create efficiencies within the company, and add value to our bottom line.