

“Between the **free electricity** generated and the **income from selling power back to utilities**, our farm will **earn back its investment** within **three years.**”

~ Brett Reinford  
Reinford Farm,

### Project At-a-Glance

**Built:** 2008

**Generation:** 140kW

**Herdsiz**e: 500 cows, plus food waste:

**Design:** Complete Mix



**RCM**  
DIGESTERS

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### Case Study:

## With Cogeneration, Walmart Food Waste Boosts Dairy Profits

*Reinford Farm, Mifflintown, PA*

### Situation

Reinford Farm in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania didn't just have an energy problem, it had a manure problem. Steve Reinford sprayed raw manure from his 500 cows on crops he grew on his 1,000 acre farm. The fertilizer was popular with the crops, but not his with neighbors who hated the odor.

### Challenge

It was Steve's son Brett who initially suggested they install a biodigester. The RCM Complete Mix system they installed controlled odors, turned the manure into energy and bedding and was so efficient they had excess electricity to sell.

### Solution

A waste company approached him with a surprising proposition. It needed someplace to process unsold produce from 50 Walmarts and Sam's Clubs. The company would pay him tipping fees for taking the waste, which he could feed into his Complete Mix digester to turn into energy.

### Successes

Reinford Farm in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania receives 60 to 70 tons per week of commercial food waste, which it processes with manure from the cows. The farm receives \$2,500 each week in tipping fees, adding waste that doubled biogas production and maxed out his generator. He currently produces 140 kilowatts around the clock, enough to power the farm and about 100 additional homes. The dairy has additional profit streams through the sale of bedding and carbon credits.