



## BC Sustainable Poultry Farming Group (SPFG)

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### Status Summary for the June 2, 2020 SPFG Committee Meeting

Two research proposals was reviewed:

#### 2020-01-Feasibility study for poultry-specific AD

Under CleanBC the province's target is to reach 15% Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) utilization in our pipeline by 2030. One way that Agriculture can help to meet this target is by constructing new anaerobic digesters (ADs) to produce RNG. Due to the amount of nitrogen in poultry litter, it has only been used as a supplementary feedstock as opposed to a primary feedstock because of the formation of large quantities of ammonia. The large quantities of ammonia will kill the beneficial microbes in the digester and any hope of producing RNG.

In the last couple of years, there have been technological advancements that treat the poultry litter in a manner to solve the ammonia formation concerns. On that note, Jake would like to get a contractor to perform a feasibility study on a poultry-specific AD. Whether that be on an individual farm or a central location. He is reaching out to SPFG because SPFG might be interested in this endeavour because it addresses several priorities and ultimately, without any industry support, these projects fail.

- Decision: provide a letter of support and partial funding

#### 2020-02- The BC Ag Industry Symbiosis Centre

They have raised \$1.1M for a project that they will run at the EcoDairy starting soon that includes dairy/poultry/hog manure co-digestion and UBC doing genomics analysis. In addition, they have secured an option on land to build a new digester and fertilizer plant. The focus will be on processing poultry farm residuals; about 100 tonnes of poultry manure per day.

Some project highlights:

- \$27 to \$30 per GJ with a possible 20-year contract with Fortis BC (will cover most of the operating costs)
- It will produce a great deal more gas than the last one (designed for 3x what the first one was, and their business case is modeled using 2x)
- They claim to know a LOT about AD and biogas upgrading now, where they knew NOTHING last time.
- They have selected a digester company with long term experience with poultry manure
- They have a fertilizer plant as part of this for complete end to end processing (Assuming the option to purchase and build on the land goes through – it is not part of the EcoDairy facility.)
- They have a strong relationship with several academic institutions
- They have many partnerships with component subject matter expertise
- They had nearly \$5M debt last time, and will have none this time

- They are intentionally not for profit (Community Contribution Corp) this time and have built their base case on breaking even.

The Centre will learn everything, take all the risks, and then once fully proven, will build commercial facilities with farms that want to. As a B-Corp Non-Government Organization, all their investments are eligible for stacking, as much as 5:1.

□ Decision: provide a letter of support

**Updates on other SPFG projects:**

**2016-06** *BCAC's Public Trust Initiative* – work on the project continues. [Click here to read the latest update.](#)

**2018-05** – Aerobic digestion of spent hen hydrolysate – they have secured the remaining funding, so the project should start shortly.

The next SPFG meeting will be scheduled as required.