

# Dairy Lagoon Nutrient Extraction with Vermicomposting

WORC Annual Conference

Introduction of Royal Dairy, home of the Worm BIDA system

General Challenges of Dairy Industry

Solutions to Royal Dairy...worms

How BIDA works

Byproduct-Worm Castings

Worm Casting Applications

# ROYAL DAIRY OVERVIEW

350,000 lbs of milk a day

850,000 lbs of feed per day

750,000 lbs of manure created per day, including winter months

150,000 gallons avg of new water used daily for cows drinking and parlor cleaning

All water that comes on our dairy footprint either flows to our capture system or our asphalt containments and is then put through the process

Dry cows and young stock raised on site

$\frac{2}{3}$  Free stall flush  $\frac{1}{3}$  open lot vacuum

# Cows Eat Animal Feed and Poop Plant Feed



COWS ARE CRUCIAL TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE!

WE NEED TO UTILIZE THE NUTRIENTS FROM COWS BETTER, ESPECIALLY THAT WITHIN THE LIQUID

# Getting More Out of Liquid Manure Utilizing Feed

Feed

Manure

Milk

67% Expenses

8% Expense

98% Revenue

Revenue

8% Expense on Liquid Manure

The cow's digestive process turns that feed into a valuable soil feed, we need to figure out how to process and utilize it better

Most of that expense is in the liquid manure, solid manure turned to compost is a break even for the dairy, is an asset to the farm but not enough to pay the dairy much on top of handling cost

Goal is to take the nutrients out of the water and use them properly as an asset to create revenue and improve farming. Use the water for irrigation.



LARGE LAGOON

SOLID MANURE STACKING

SETTLING POND

SEPARATOR BUILDING

DISCHARGE PIT

SEPARATOR SOLIDS STORAGE AREA

RECEPTION PIT

SETTLING BASINS

FEED MIXING AREA

FREESTALL BARN 1

FREESTALL BARN 3

FREESTALL BARN 2

FREESTALL BARN 4

PEN 11 (MILKING COWS)

PEN 13 (SPRINGERS)

PEN 15 (SPRINGERS)

PEN 21

PEN 24

PEN 27

PEN 28

PEN 10 (MILKING COWS)

PEN 12 (DRY COWS)

PEN 14 (CLOSE-UP COWS)

PEN 20

PEN 23

PEN 26

FEED STORAGE

PEN 19

PEN 18

PEN 17

PEN 22

PEN 25

FEED BAGS

FLUSH TOWER

HOSPITAL BARN & PARLOR

CALVING BARN

CALF HUTCHES

WELL PUMPHOUSE

WEIGH SCALE

SHOP

BACKUP WELL

HAY PILE

HAY

PEN 09

PEN 08

EMPLOYEE HOUSE

KEYS HOLDING AREA

CLEAN WATER POND (IRRIGATION)

# Dairy Challenges

Lagoons.. likely the biggest challenge for a dairy farmer today

Agronomically disposing of nutrient rich dairy liquid

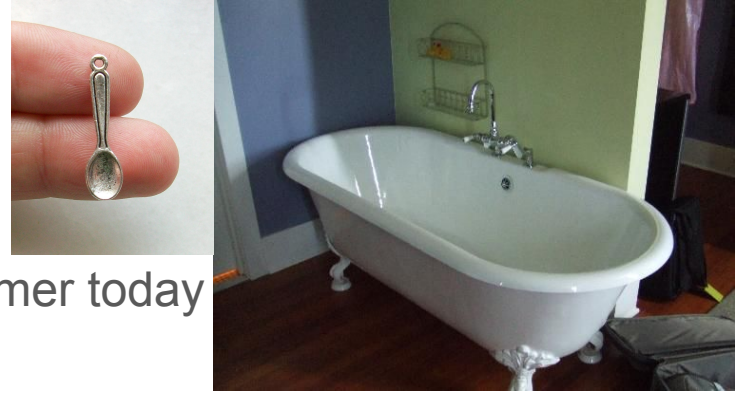
Lots of land needed, lots of trucks on the road, shipping lots of water

Pre worms=4,000 acres needed for 50,000,000 gallons of water a year

Jury is still out on Nutrient Dairy Water, Science still in the air to show how much is agronomical

Lagoon=biggest source of odor and methane gas on the dairy

Reusing dirty water to clean pens is less effective



# Worms Pulling out the Nutrients

Through the Biological Passive Flow through the BIDA system the vast majority of these plant nutrients can be pulled out of the water and digested by worms to make a very effective plant food.



**06**

**HOLDING TANK:** EFFLUENT EQUALISATION AND HOLDING CAPACITY OF 15K GALLONS CAPACITY



THE EFFLUENT, WHERE ORGANIC MATTER, SUSPENDED SOLIDS AND NUTRIENTS ARE REMOVED FROM THE EFFLUENT.



**01**

**RAW EFFLUENT FROM DAIRY OPERATION.**



**02**

**SLOPE SCREEN:** REMOVE BIG SIZE PARTICLES OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS.



**03**

**CENTRIFUGE:** REMOVE MEDIUM SIZE PARTICLES OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS.



**04**

**POND 1:** BUFFER CAPACITY OF 7 MG (MILLION GALLONS)



**05**

**WOOD SHAVINGS FILTER:** REMOVE SMALL PARTICLES OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS.



**09**

**CLEAN WATER POND:** IRRIGATION WATER STORAGE OF 30 MG



**ROYAL DAIRY**  
600.000.GPD

# How Biofiltro Works

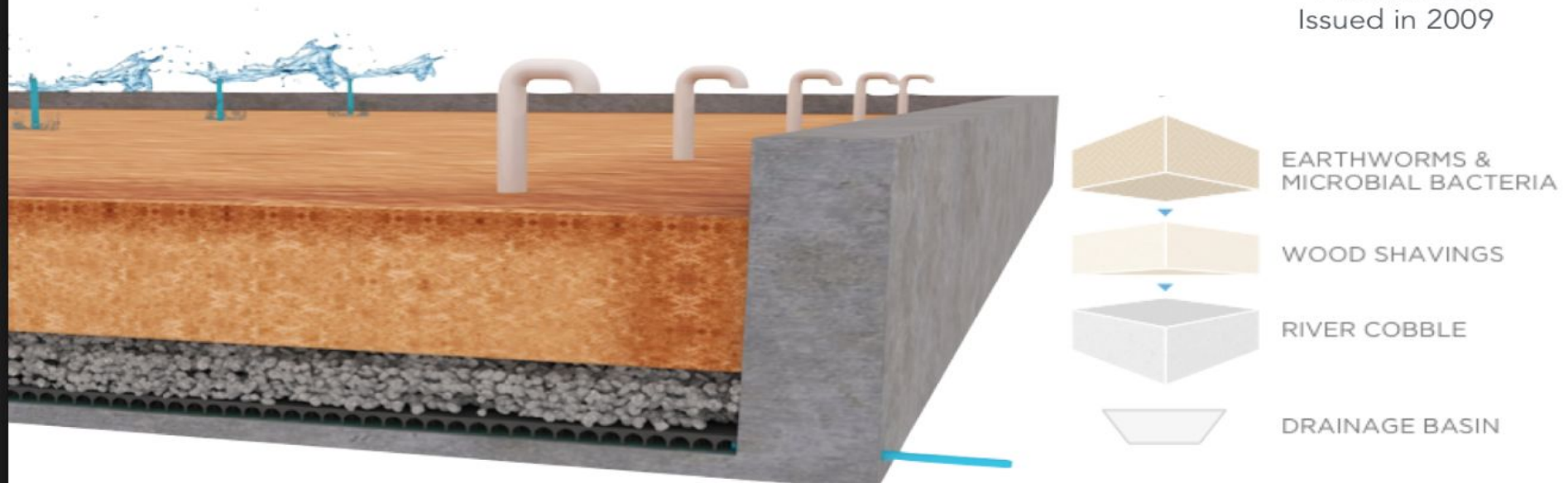
**BIOFILTRO**  
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<https://vimeo.com/214224089>

BIDA® System Patented Process

“Method and system for inoculating bacteria in contaminated water using earthworm humus”

US 7,540,960  
Filed in 2007  
Issued in 2009





81,000 square feet

200,000 gallons a day

Runs aprox 7 minutes per hour, in the cold it'll run 1 minute per 15 minutes

Aprox 4 hours from sprinkler to irrigatable water





At peak about 500 worms per square foot



### Worms

- Solids
- Burrow - Aerate and Saturate
- Neutralize pH (5 - 8)
- 6-10 year lifespan
- ~ 4 Cocoons Per Week
- Microbe rich castings - benevolent
- Stabilization

### Industry Specific Microbes

- Target soluble and dissolved solids
- Billions of colonies

Symbiotic relationship forms biofilm, a dynamic external digestive layer, across the system medias for

# Royal Dairy, Royal City, WA (2015)

Dairy Farm

Phase 1: 6,000 GPD

Phase 2: 200,000 GPD (To Be Completed in Summer 2017)

	LAGOON			AFTER BIDA			EFFICIENCY		
	TSS (mg/L)	TN (mg/L)	TP (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	TN (mg/L)	TP (mg/L)	% removal TSS	% removal TN	% removal TP
1	14,560	2,317		144	391		99%	83%	
2	19,940	2,582		1,620	116		92%	96%	
3		2,446			114			95%	
4	29,180	2,282		2,600	123		91%	95%	
5	35,320	2,428	412	290	90	77	99%	96%	81%
6	14,680	2,265	272	514	260	36	96%	89%	87%
7	23,860	2,302	303	332	175	15	99%	92%	95%
8	21,890	2,454	282	490	144	18	98%	94%	94%
9	25,200	2,036	327	278	126	21	99%	94%	94%
10	22,420	2,012	267	252	101	18	99%	95%	93%
11	13,060	1,771	290	447	115	32	97%	94%	89%
<b>Average</b>	<b>22,011</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>90%</b>

# Water Treatment

Average of 10+ samples of pilot and full scale system

99% Removal of TSS

90% Removal of TN

70% Removal of TP

99% Removal of FECAL COLIFORM

70+% Reduction in Greenhouse Gasses



We treat approx 200,000 gallons a day

4000 acres down to 250 acres needed for  
same amount of water



# Castings

Take about 1 year for worms to convert the top foot of the filter to castings, this top foot is where a majority of the nutrients out of the water will be.

Harvest about 2,500 yards or 1,000 tons every 18 months

Harvest using an excavator we skim off the first 1' - 2' of casting on top of filter

We will then use a traumel screen to seperate out some worms and put them back in the system if needed

1 of 2

RAW Castings out of Royal Dairy  
5,000 ft2 BIDA system at harvest

Assay Name	Result	Units	Desired Level	Commentary
<b>Organism Biomass Data</b>				
Weight	0.61	N/A	0.20 to 0.80	Within normal moisture levels.
Active Fungi	<b>1.64</b>	µg/g	> 3.00	Fungal activity low, foods may be required. -
Total Fungi	<b>237.64</b>	µg/g	> 300.00	Low fungal biomass, inoculum and foods may be required. - Fairly good fungal diversity, hyphal diameter: 1.5 to 6µm
Hyphal Diameter	2.90	µm	> 2.50	Good balance of fungi. -
Active Bacteria	38.05	µg/g	> 3.00	Bacterial activity within normal levels.
Total Bacteria	708.15	µg/g	> 300.00	Good bacterial biomass. -
Actinobacteria	15.03	µg/g	< 50.00	
<b>Organism Biomass Ratios</b>				
TF:TB	0.34		0.01 to 10.00	Balanced fungal and bacterial biomass.
AF:TF	0.01		< 0.10	Good fungal activity.
AB:TB	0.05		< 0.10	Good bacterial activity.
AF:AB	0.04		0.01 to 10.00	Bacterial dominated, becoming more bacterial.
<b>Protozoa (Protists)</b>				
Flagellates	76,028.77	number/g	> 10,000.00	Should provide a good inoculum of protozoa.
Amoebae	760,287.73	number/g	> 10,000.00	
Ciliates	4,577.24	number/g	< 8363.00	
Nitrogen Cycling Potential	300+	lbs/acre		Nitrogen levels dependent on plant needs. Estimated availability over a 3 month period
<b>Nematodes</b>				
Nematodes	<b>2.45</b>	number/g	> 10.00	Low numbers and diversity.
Bacterial	2.25	number/g		
Fungal	0.00	number/g		
Fungal/Root	0.20	number/g		
Predatory	0.00	number/g		
Plant	0.00	number/g		

For many application fungi food would need to be added to make more effective plant enhancer

2 of 2

Pram-01-126032-biology.pdf



Report prepared for:

Biofiltro

Sina Pram

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Fresno, CA 93740 USA

sina.pram@biofiltro.com

Report Sent: 07 Sep 2017

Sample #: 01-126032

Unique ID: Worm Farm Castings

Invoice Number: 15311

Sample Recieved: 25 Aug 2017

Earthfort, LLC  
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 Corvallis, OR 97333  
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 info@earthfort.com  
<http://earthfort.com>

**For interpretation of this report please  
 contact your local Soil Steward or the lab.**

# per gram

**Classified by type and identified to genus.  
 If section is blank, no nematodes identified.**

Nematode Genus	number/g	Units	Group	Common Name
Butlerius	0.13	number/g	Bacterial Feeders	
Cuticularia	0.07	number/g	Bacterial Feeders	
Diploscapter	0.40	number/g	Bacterial Feeders	
Monhystrella	0.46	number/g	Bacterial Feeders	
Rhabditidae	1.19	number/g	Bacterial Feeders	
Ditylenchus	0.20	number/g	Fungal/Root Feeders	Stem & Bulb nematode

35 Seeds to start



TAP media  
8.20 pH  
35 seeds/tray

WORM CASTINGS  
8.20 pH  
35 seeds/tray

# Castings Application

Use Raw Castings for more efficient plant growth

Mix castings with compost for agriculture application

Introduce fungi and other ingredients into castings to make a better casting

Use worm castings to make a worm tea

# SUMMARY

After BIDA we have Clean Water to irrigate with through our circles

We have Castings and Compost to work with to advance our farming practices

We reduce our greenhouse gasses and odor

# QUESTIONS???

<https://vimeo.com/214224089>

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Emissions: Filter

