



Producer Sustainability

Resource Guide

The ever-evolving landscape of “sustainability” can be hard to keep up with. In agriculture, there are constantly new technologies and practices. Sometimes, it can be difficult to know where to start, or who to connect with. This Resource Guide is our attempt to compile a short list of sustainability initiatives we think are worthwhile exploring for your farm, and a potential contact to reach out to learn more.



PIPESTONE

Helping Farmers



Energy



LED Lighting

LED lighting is significantly more energy efficient than conventional lighting such as incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lamps. On average, LED bulbs consume 75-80% less energy to produce the same amount of light.



"Night-time" Practices

Evaluate your "night-time" hours on farm where lights are off for animals sleeping patterns. Pipestone Research has shown that increasing nighttime hours from eight to twelve had no effect on animal welfare or health.



Heat Mats

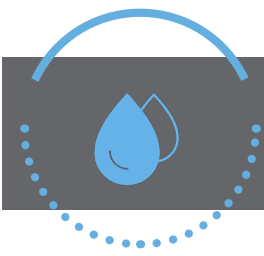
While exact savings can vary, on average heat mats consume 30-50% less energy when compared to traditional lamp heating. Heat mats also provide gentle, even heat, minimizing livestock stress, and reducing overall fire risk in the barn.



Renewable Energy Sources

In recent years, renewable energy generation at the site level has developed immensely. This includes solar panels, wind towers, and biogas production. Implementing these on-farm renewable energy practices not only reduces the environmental impact of agricultural operations, but also contributes to long-term cost savings and energy resilience.

Company	Specialty	Learn More
REAP	Offering grants for LED light fixture and light bulb replacement, and heat mat installation with cost recovery of up to 50%.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act/rural-energy-america-program-reap
National Pork Board Climate Smart Grant	Offering grants for LED light fixture and light bulb replacement, and heat mat installation with cost recovery of up to 80%.	https://www.porkcheckoff.org/news/grant-advancing-u-s-pork-sustainability-and-market-value/
Pipestone Veterinary Services	Assistance with LED light fixture/ bulb replacement and heat mat replacement cost estimates.	https://pipevet.com/
Solar Power World	"Solar Power World publishes the Top Solar Contractors List annually. The list includes hundreds of solar contractors and developers in the United States, listed and categorized by state/ territory, service and market. "	https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2023-top-solar-contractors-by-state/
Thomas	Thomas has served as North America's number one industrial sourcing platform and marketing powerhouse. They are an excellent resource for producers interested in wind energy generation for different sized operations.	https://www.thomasnet.com/suppliers/usa/wind-turbines-89570907
EPA	A vendor directory for biogas systems.	https://www.epa.gov/agstar/agstar-vendor-directory-manure-digester-systems



Water



Water Meters

Consider adding water meters to your farm to not only track your water use but catch water leaks before they become a problem.

Company	Specialty	Learn More
Flow Measurement Solutions	A vendor directory for water meter companies	www.flows.com
Badger E-series	Chosen device used in PIPESTONE managed sow farms	www.badgermeter.com/products/



Manure & Land



Manure

Manure holds significant value due to its multifaceted benefits for soil fertility, crop growth, and overall farm sustainability. However, it's crucial to note that while organic fertilizer offers many benefits, its application needs to be managed to reduce nutrient overload, water contamination, and odors. Working with an agronomist can help you maximize organic fertilizer value get the most out of manures benefits.

<https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/certifications/professional-search/>



Land

The land we rely on also relies on us to treat it with care and respect. Conservation and regenerative agricultural practices promote sustainability, soil health, water conservation, and overall ecosystem resilience within agricultural systems. The following practices can be implemented, often overlapping, to produce positive environmental and agricultural outcomes: minimum or no till, cover crops, less or better nitrogen source use, and manure as an organic fertilizer. Companies are willing to pay farmers for implementing these regenerative agriculture practices that capture carbon.

Company	Specialty	Learn More
GreenStone Farmers	A farmer-owned company focused on profitable carbon solutions.	www.greenstonefarmers.com
Monarch Joint Venture	A Non-Profit Organization that donates seed mixes for pollinator habitats.	www.monarchjointventure.org/
Bee Vectoring	Leaves, roots and soil contain sophisticated communities of bacteria and fungi. Innovations targeting these microbes can have profound effects on plant and ecosystem health. Bees are used to transfer microbes to crop areas.	https://www.beevt.com/