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## SAWDUST TO SEPARATED SOLIDS DATA REPORT

Below is the report from farms that have switched from sand or sawdust to separated solids from their digester.

1. Kish View Farms, Belleville, PA Keith Spicher (717) 363-068

350 cows deep bed free stalls using sand for bedding, their somatic cell count was in the 180,000 – 200,000 range.

After installing an RCM digester and a DODA solids separator, their somatic cell count remained unchanged at 180,000 – 200,000. Keith is very happy with the separated solids. He no longer needs to deal with the wear and the weight of sand. He has maintained his somatic cell count and superb cow comfort.

2. Landy Shade Farms – Landisville, PA John Landis (717) 278-5055

400 cows with mattresses using kiln dried shavings, somatic cell count was 200,000 plus.

Since switching to separated solids from his RCM Digester and using the DODA screw press separator, John has seen his somatic cell count drop as low as 100,000! He said through the hot summer the highest his herd reached was 160,000. He milks his first calf heifers in a separate barn and at one time that herd was at 48,000 on those separated solids. John said since switching to solids he has tremendous savings from not needing to purchase shavings for the free stalls and has great cow comfort since he beds much more liberally now using “free” solids. To quote John “this bedding is awesome, absolutely wonderful”!

3. S & A Kreider Farms - Quarryville, PA Scott Kreider (717) 314-8729

Scott has two herds, one consisting of 400 cows the second 450 cows. Kreider has mattress free stalls and previously bedded with kiln dried shavings. His somatic cell count was 200,000 to 220,000 at the one herd and is now 100,000 to 125,000. This herd at one point actually dipped below 100,000. The other herd at 180,000 to 200,000 on shavings and on the solids from his RCM digester is now in the 150,000 range. Scott also uses a DODA separator. Scott mentioned that he has only been using separated solids since March and that usually the cell count goes up during the hot summer months, however, this year the cell count dropped. He anticipates an even larger drop this fall and winter. Scott also mentioned his herdsman at the first farm was absolutely opposed to using “manure solids” for bedding at first. Now, however, he couldn’t be more pleased, also seeing cow comfort improve as the result of more liberal bedding practices.

4. Brubaker Farms, Mt. Joy, PA Mike Brubaker (717) 575-8565

The Brubaker’s milk 840 cows and have mattresses and in the past used kiln dried shaving for bedding. At that time their somatic cell count was 200,000 to 250,000 range. Several years ago they purchased an RCM Digester and began bedding with the separated solids. Since making the switch their cell count has dropped to the 100,000 to 160,000 range. They love their solids and have even begun to change some of their free stalls to deep bed stalls since they have an excess of solids for bedding and they want to increase the cow comfort of their herd.