Data Digest June 2026

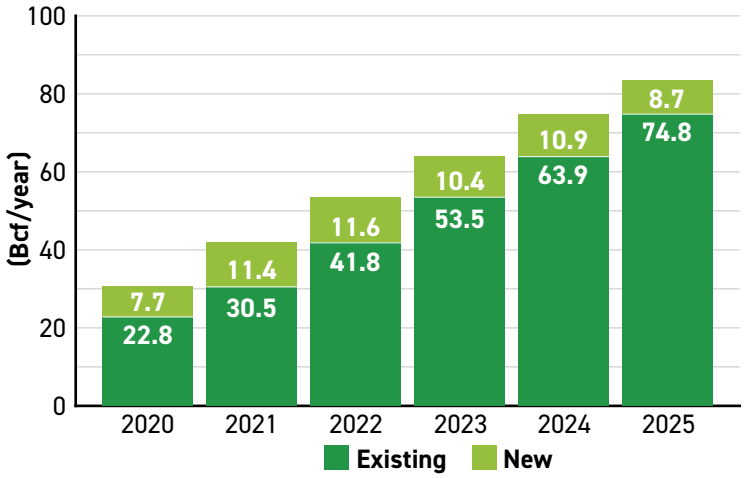
This edition of the **ABC Data Digest** celebrates National Dairy Month by looking at biogas capture at dairies in the U.S.

As of June 2026, there are 496 biogas capture systems in operation at U.S. dairy farms, more than double the number active at the end of 2020. A total of 38 new systems using dairy manure as feedstock went into service in 2025, capable of capturing 9.0 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of biogas per year. All but one of these new facilities is upgrading the biogas to RNG. In preventing biogas entering the atmosphere and using it beneficially to produce energy, these new facilities will prevent the equivalent of 327,000 tons of CO_2 emissions each year, the same as taking 706,000 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles off the road for a year.

The end-use of the captured biogas has seen a major shift over the 2020-2025 period. Of the 496 systems today, 65% are now upgrading biogas to RNG, with the remaining 35% using the biogas to generate energy. At the end of 2020, 74% of the biogas captured was used for energy generation, while just 26% of all U.S. dairy biogas capture systems were producing RNG.

Biogas capture from dairy manure has increased almost threefold since the end of 2020, now standing at 160,182 cubic feet per minute, or 84 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per year. In energy terms, this represents capacity of 52.3 million MMBtu – enough to power 680,000 homes each year and equivalent to preventing one million tons of methane entering the atmosphere every year.

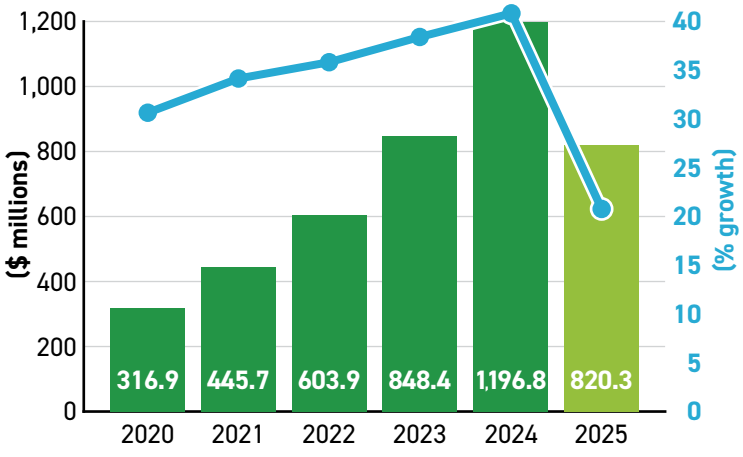
Biogas Capture at Dairy Farms, 2020-2025



Source: American Biogas Council

Almost $4 billion has been invested on US dairy farms since 2020 to capture the biogas from their manure. Farm-based biogas facilities opening in 2025 represented investments of $0.8 billion in that year alone. Over half of these dollars invested in 2025 were attributed to Texas ($163M), Idaho ($143M) and Wisconsin ($137M).

Annual Investment[1] in Biogas Capture Systems at Dairy Farms, 2020-2025



Source: American Biogas Council

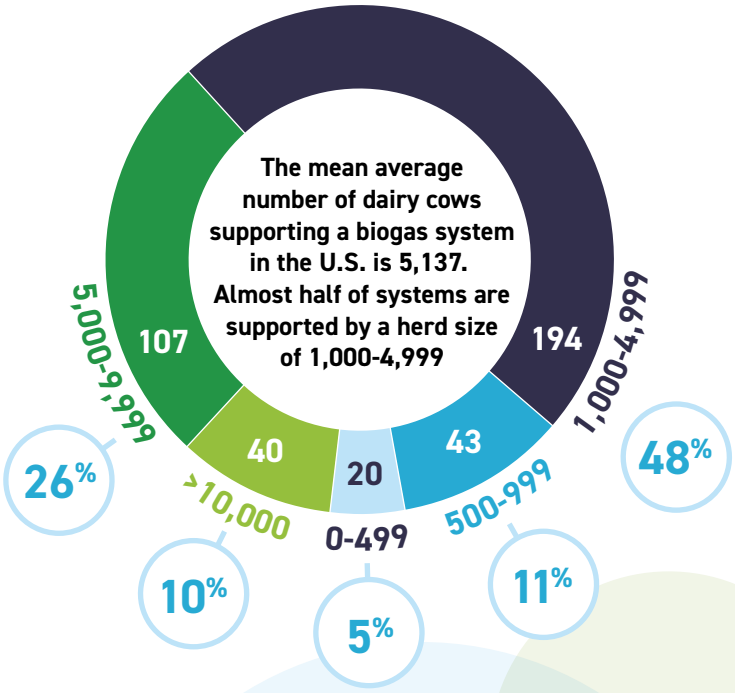
The average[2] number of dairy cows supporting a biogas capture system currently stands at 5,137. Over half of systems are supported by herd sizes under 5,000, including 13% under 1,000 animals. At the other end of the scale, 40 systems are receiving feedstock from over 10,000 animals. The average number of dairy cows supporting a biogas capture system has increased by 26% since 2020, when it stood at 4,075 animals.

1 By year of facility opening.
2 average derived from data reported by 81% of operational AD facilities.

Data Digest June 2026

AMERICAN BIOGAS COUNCIL

Dairy Cows Supporting Biogas Capture Systems, 2026



Source: American Biogas Council

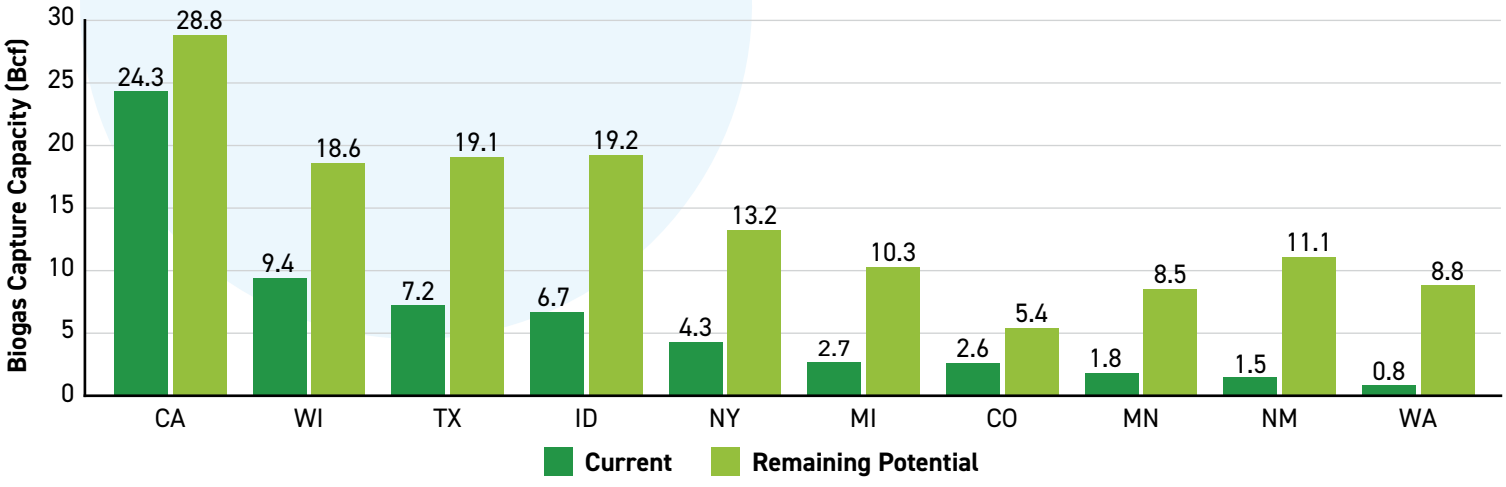
The potential for developing more biogas capture facilities at U.S. dairy farms is huge. Looking purely at dairy farms with 500 cows or more, this potential extends to a total of 2,955 farms that could be added to the 496 facilities already operational. In total, just 14% of all potential dairy biogas facilities in the U.S. have been built. Wisconsin has the highest potential for new dairy biogas capture systems, with 559 possible sites which could be added to the 56 currently operating. Over a third of operational systems in the U.S. are located in California, which still has potential for developing a further 539 with at least 500 head.

In terms of biogas capacity, the U.S. dairy sector has potential for the production of an additional 186 Bcf per year – more than double the current level and enough to meet the electricity needs of an extra 1.4 million U.S. households every year.

Six of the ten states which currently have the highest dairy biogas production capacity also have the highest potential. Leading the way is California which, if all its potential is realized, could capture a further 29 Bcf of biogas from dairy manure each year. Idaho, Texas and Wisconsin each have the potential to capture 18-20 Bcf annually.

Despite Wisconsin having the potential for developing the most new biogas capture systems, smaller average herd sizes means that the state ranks fourth in terms of biogas production potential, behind California, Idaho and Texas.

States With the Highest Dairy Biogas Capture Potential



Source: American Biogas Council

While reducing methane emissions and creating renewable energy, the 496 dairy biogas capture systems in operation today also recycle the manure from approximately 2.5 million dairy cows and produce natural fertilizer and animal bedding, in addition to reducing odors. In total, that's over 16 billion gallons of manure put to beneficial use every year!

American Biogas Council
1126 I St., Washington, DC 20003 US
www.AmericanBiogasCouncil.org