



# PRESS RELEASE

## YAKIMA VALLEY DAIRY TAKES PROACTIVE APPROACH TO NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

*Increased precision manure application and clean flush water coming soon to Skyridge Farms*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNNYSIDE, WA (May 7, 2019)** – A progressive and respected dairy farm in Washington’s Yakima Valley will be adding advanced nutrient recovery technology to their farm this spring when they install the LWR High Flow First Wave system. Skyridge Farms, located in Lower Yakima Valley, currently converts their manure into an all organic compost as part of their Dairy Nutrient Management Plan. By installing the LWR First Wave System, they will increase the value of their compost, have an easier time achieving balanced nutrient application, make their soils healthier, and increase crop yields.

“Managing our manure is just as important as managing our milk” says Dan DeGroot, a dairy farmer since 1982, and the owner of Skyridge Farms since 1997. “While we currently recycle all of our manure, we wanted to take our commitment to sustainability even further which is why we’ve decided to implement LWR’s manure treatment system.”

With the LWR High Flow First Wave system, Skyridge Farms will create clean flush water that is free of manure solids.

“The system is designed to keep everything that is circulating clean” says Ross Thurston, Co-Founder and CDO of LWR. “By eliminating manure solids in the flush water, we’ve seen other dairies improve herd health while increasing milk production. We expect Skyridge to have similar results,” adds Thurston. Other benefits of installing the system include creating a higher value, nutrient-rich compost for use on the farm and for sale in the community and creating a lighter and fluffier bedding for the cows.



With the First Wave system, manure nutrients and organics are preserved before being precisely applied directly to crops, significantly reducing trucking and other manure handling costs. Easier nutrient uptake is expected to increase crop yields.

Skyridge Farms, known for employing best practices in their business, has always been a leading example of sustainability.

Skyridge Farms is home to 3,200 cows and farms 400 acres of corn, 160 acres of alfalfa, 30 acres of apples and 30 acres of cherries



“Our goal was to create a holistic, integrated environment that develops our employees, makes cow comfort a top priority, and restores the health of our environment. We are excited about the positive impacts we expect the First Wave System to have on our overall operation.”

Today, Skyridge Farms employs 35 people and is home to 3,200 cows, 400 acres of corn, 160 acres of alfalfa, 30 acres of apples and 30 acres of cherries.

Over the years DeGroot has always put sustainability first with the personal motto, “You can’t get new results with old thinking.”

DeGroot’s vision was recognized in 2013 by the Innovation Center for US Dairy for a [US Dairy Sustainability Award](#) as being a replicable sustainable dairy model.

“Skyridge Farms is known for implementing the smartest technology on the market. We are proud that they have chosen the First Wave system for their dairy, and we look forward to working with them for many years to come” adds Thurston.



Dan DeGroot, a Washington State dairy farmer, will install the LWR First Wave System in the spring of 2019.

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#### **About Livestock Water Recycling:**

LWR is an award-winning global manufacturer of manure treatment systems that provide hog, dairy and anaerobic digester operations with patented manure treatment technology to recycle clean water and fertilizer nutrients from livestock manure for reuse at the farm. LWR’s manure treatment platforms have become the most sought-after sustainability solution in the world by global livestock producers who are looking grow more crops and produce more food using less money and fewer resources. LWR has systems operating throughout North America and the Middle East. For more information please visit: <http://www.livestockwaterrecycling.com>

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