

## Hammlink Dairy recognized for environmental stewardship

*Award acknowledges farm for reducing greenhouse gases using Orion's energy-saving technology*

**BRUCE, S.D. — June 6, 2009** — To further its success and environmental responsibility, the Hammlink Dairy in Bruce, S.D., implemented energy-saving lighting technology that will help control the farm's energy costs and help increase dairy production.

Wim Hammlink, who operates the 1,400 cow dairy with his family, installed an energy management system from Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX) in his new cross-ventilated barn. The new system includes 244 high-intensity fluorescent fixtures designed for energy savings and long-day lighting practices.



Mike Ontrop – Orion Energy Systems National Sales Manager Agriculture Division presents Wim and Nicolien Hammlink – Hammlink Dairy with an Orion Environmental Stewardship Award.

Because Orion's technology consumes 50 percent less energy than high-intensity discharge lights traditionally used in dairy operations, the Hammlink Dairy will consume 597,199 kilowatt-hours less electricity while receiving a higher quantity and quality of light than if it installed high-intensity discharge lights.

As a result of the decreased energy consumption, the Hammlink Dairy will displace 397 tons of carbon dioxide annually with the new technology. Carbon dioxide is a byproduct of electricity generation and a toxic, greenhouse gas.

Hammlink's commitment to environmental responsibility has earned the dairy producer Orion's Environmental Stewardship award. The award was presented today by Mike Ontrop, national sales manager for Orion's agricultural division at Hammlink's open house and Brookings Chamber Ag Committee's Breakfast on the Farm event.

Public officials who attended the event include State Representative Larry Tidemann (District 7 Brookings), State Representative Carol Pitts (District 7 Brookings), on behalf of South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds, David Scaggs from the Department of Agriculture.

“It’s nice to be recognized for our environmentally sound practices,” Hammink said. “We’re always looking for ways to be more efficient and implement energy savings at the dairy. We try to utilize the most advanced technology all the time, and I think we’ve gained a lot of efficiencies recently, including the Orion lighting system.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the reduced carbon dioxide emissions are the air-scrubbing equivalent of a 110-acre forest, removing 96 cars from the road or saving nearly 50,000 gallons of gas per year.

While Orion’s technology will help the Hammink Dairy control its energy use and help improve the environment, the new lighting system will help Hammink’s cows produce approximately 5 pounds more milk daily as part of a long-day lighting practice.

Long-day lighting, or LDL, is a proven technique that provides cows with summer day lighting year round, which affects the cow’s circadian rhythm, allowing the cows to produce more milk, resulting in approximately \$100 net profit per cow per year.

The new LDL system in the new facility took some getting used to, Hammink said. The LDL system, which includes Orion’s NiteLiter fluorescent technology provides full spectrum lighting and reduces the amount of light to just one of six bulbs in the fixture at night. The dim light at night allows farm employees to continue working while the cows get the needed six to eight hours of darkness required for LDL.

“We were used to either working in the dark with no lights on or having all of the lights on,” Hammink said. “The dim light is great because it’s bright enough for the employees to be productive while the cows get the adequate darkness they need for long-day lighting.”

In addition to the energy-efficient lighting, the Hammink Dairy has taken other steps to be environmentally friendly.

The Hammink Dairy recycles the cows’ solid waste, drying it and using it as bedding. Because the dairy doesn’t have to buy bedding, the dairy is reducing costs, reducing waste and reducing the emissions from transporting traditional bedding bought at another location.

The Hammink Dairy also uses chilled water to cool the milk. The water absorbs the warmth as it cools the milk and is later used in the hot water heater and as drinking water for the cows. Hammink said the cows like lukewarm water better than chilled water.

“The environmental practices implemented at the Hammink Dairy will help the business grow through a reduction in energy costs and an increase in milk production,” said Mike Ontrop. “Hammink Dairy is setting the standard for dairy farms seeking alternatives to high energy costs and seeking environmentally friendly processes. In return, Hammink Dairy has received better lighting and more milk production from its herd.”

Orion’s innovation and technology recently won the praise of President Barack Obama, who applauded Orion in a White House speech promoting clean energy, the creation of green collar jobs and the importance of energy efficiency. Obama challenged Orion and other clean energy companies to “mount a historic effort to end once and for all our dependence on foreign oil.”

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 4,581 facilities across North America. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 435 megawatts, saving customers more than \$577 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 4.9 million tons. Orion’s technology was recently internationally recognized with a Platts Global Energy Award for the single most innovative and sustainable green technology of 2008.

***Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX)*** is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting systems, controls and related services for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their quantity or quality of light. For more information, visit [www.oesx.com](http://www.oesx.com).

***Hammink Dairy*** operates a 1,400 cow operation in Bruce, S.D., as well as a consulting and development business. The consulting and development business provides turnkey building projects and specializes in helping foreign dairy producers relocate to the United States by seeking farms for sale or locating land suitable for dairy farming. For more information, visit [www.hamminkdairy.com](http://www.hamminkdairy.com).

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