

Orion Energy Systems president presents at world's largest agriculture expo

Dairy producers encouraged to consider economic benefits of energy efficiency and the impact to local and national economies

MANITOWOC, Wis. — Feb. 13, 2009 — Neal Verfuert, president and CEO of Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX), addressed dairy producers on Feb. 12 at what is dubbed the world's largest annual agriculture expo.

Verfuert discussed the looming energy crisis, how it affects dairy producers and what they can do to reduce costs using Orion's lighting platform and increase production through a long-day lighting program.

The 42nd annual, three-day expo was held in Tulare, Calif., from Feb. 10 through 12 and features more than 1,600 exhibitors, and is operated by more than 1,200 volunteers.

"It's exciting to be a part of such a large expo and to be able to show dairy producers how to save money or increase production — and profits — in a time when milk prices are low and many farmers are struggling," Verfuert said. "It's important to farmers' livelihood that they cut costs or increase revenue and Orion can help them do that through immediate and sustainable energy efficient lighting systems. And they'll get better quality lighting."

At the event, Verfuert said the United States will have to invest \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion in electricity utility infrastructure to accommodate growing energy needs. Demand is expected to out pace supply more than 2-to-1 through 2016. The increased utility costs will likely be passed on to the ratepayers.

Instead, electricity users could reduce their consumption through efficiencies, negating the need for the costly upgrades and rate increases, Verfuert said.

According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, 24 percent of a farm's energy use is for lighting, only second to milk cooling, which accounts for 25 percent of a farm's energy use, Verfuert said.

Dairy producers can do their part to reduce use and help curb electricity demand through energy efficiency, which will reduce their costs, and put more money in their pockets, by using Orion's high-intensity fluorescent fixtures, which use half the energy used to power the high-intensity discharge metal halide lights hanging in most barns today.

And, by implementing a long-day lighting system, dairy producers can increase profits by increasing milk production using this simple and proven method.

The recommendations for LDL include providing light levels of 15 or more foot-candles for lactating cows for 16 to 18 hours a day with a daily dark period — of 1 to 1½ foot candles — for six to eight hours. Dry cows should be managed with natural/short day length.

When investing in long-day lighting, the typical payback is one year or less, the net profit is \$100 or more per cow per year, and the return on investment is at least 100 percent. This translates to \$10,000 added net income annually for a 100-cow dairy, or \$100,000 per year for a 1,000-cow dairy.

For more information about Orion's Agriculture Division or long-day lighting techniques, call 1-800-660-9340 Ext. 5726.

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 4,387 facilities across North America. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 423 megawatts, saving customers more than \$514 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 4.3 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.

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