## SUBSURFACE DRIP IRRIGATION FOR DAIRY EFFLUENT WATER APPLICATION

#### WHAT IS THE SYSTEM?

A modified drip irrigation system that uses manure nutrients instead of synthetic fertilizers.

Allows dairies to grow feed crops with less environmental impacts compared to flood irrigation and conventional drip systems.

### **GROWER BENEFITS**

- ✓ Increased yields
- ✓ Reduced need for scarce water resources
- Reduced risk of polluting waterbodies
- ✓ Increased water use efficiency
- Reduces fertilizer expense with on-farm produced nutrients (effluent)

#### **CLIMATE BENEFITS**

- Reduced water use allows farmers to weather extreme droughts
- Reduced nutrient use avoids polluting water supplies
- ✓ 70-90% Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions





# KEYS TO SUCCESS

Well engineered effluent water intake

Proper blending controls for fresh/effluent water blending

Operations focus on dripline maintenance

The use of sprinklers or flood irrigation for germination then transition to SDI

Reduction of tillage in between and during crop production

The use of two lagoons or settling ponds to help filter the effluent water



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 $A_{Verage} P_{recipitation} = 0.79''$ 

#### DAIRY EFFLUENT CONTROL HEAD SYSTEM



#### FIELD LAYOUT +-73 Acres - Corn



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