

## **Beef and Dairy**

This track provides an opportunity to discuss and synthesize relevant building block information from the morning tracks for dairy and beef production systems. We will focus on building blocks most closely related to animal production including Livestock Partnerships, Grazing and Pasture Lands, and Energy Generation and Efficiency. Crop production to provide feed for both beef and dairy cattle is an important component of these industries but the building blocks related to soil health and N stewardship will be covered in the Field Crops track. However, they may also be briefly considered here as needed. In the dairy and beef industries in the northeast there are opportunities and tradeoffs relating to confinement vs. pasture-based systems that have ramifications for GHG emissions, beef and milk production, animal health, and farm profitability. Strategies to mitigate GHG emissions will have to take all these considerations into account.

### **Core issues and questions for workshop:**

- What are the benefits and costs to reducing methane emissions through the use of anaerobic digesters, installing impermeable covers and flaring methane, daily manure hauling, direct deposition on pasture by grazing animals, precision feeding, or other means?
- Reductions in GHG emissions in one area often result in increases in another. What are the potential synergies and tradeoffs between policies that increase C sequestration on one hand and reduce methane emissions on the other?
- What barriers exist that prevent energy efficiency and renewable energy practices from being installed?
- What opportunities exist to strengthen USDA's program consistency and effective delivery through technical and financial assistance? How is interagency cooperation succeeding or not working well? Are there institutional barriers and what are they?