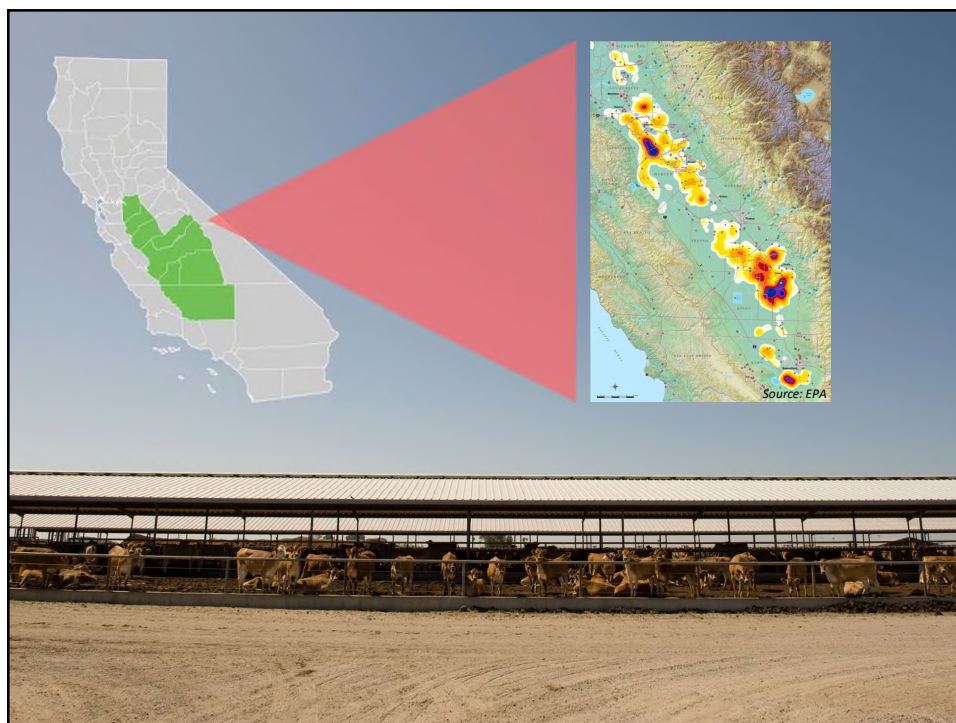




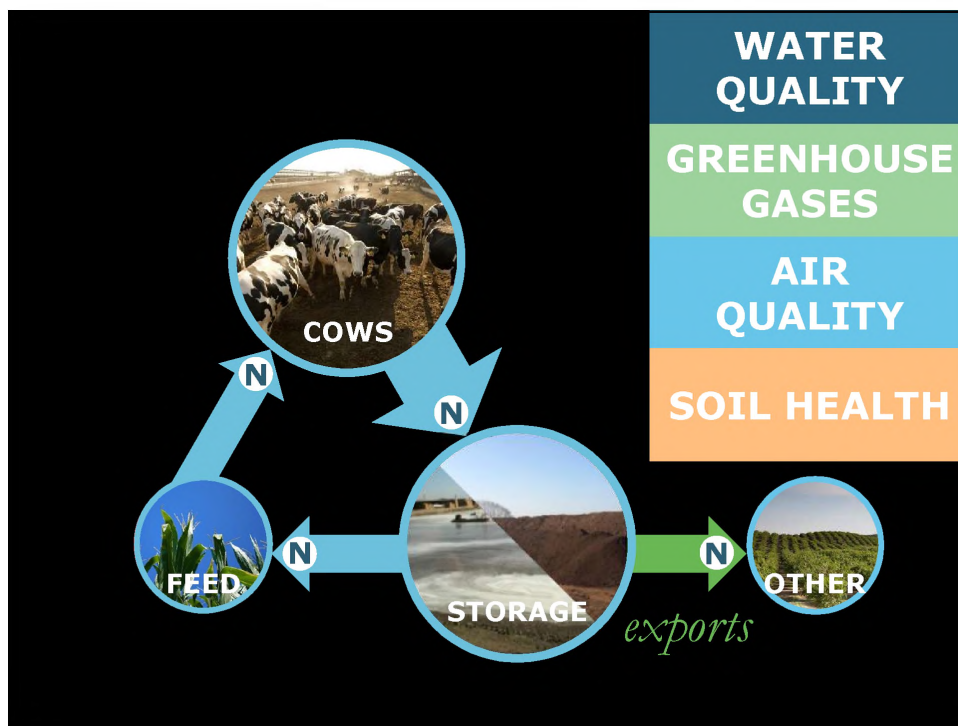
**COMPOST: ENHANCING THE VALUE OF MANURE**

*December 8, 2017*

Sustainable Conservation



Source: EPA



## Extensive Report, with Summary Findings

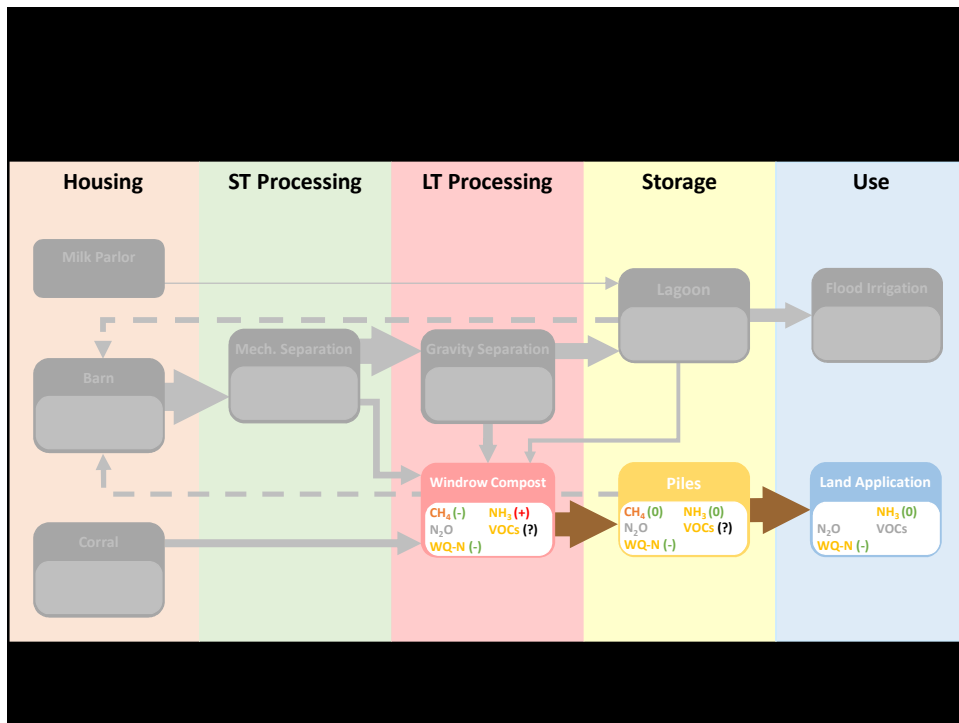
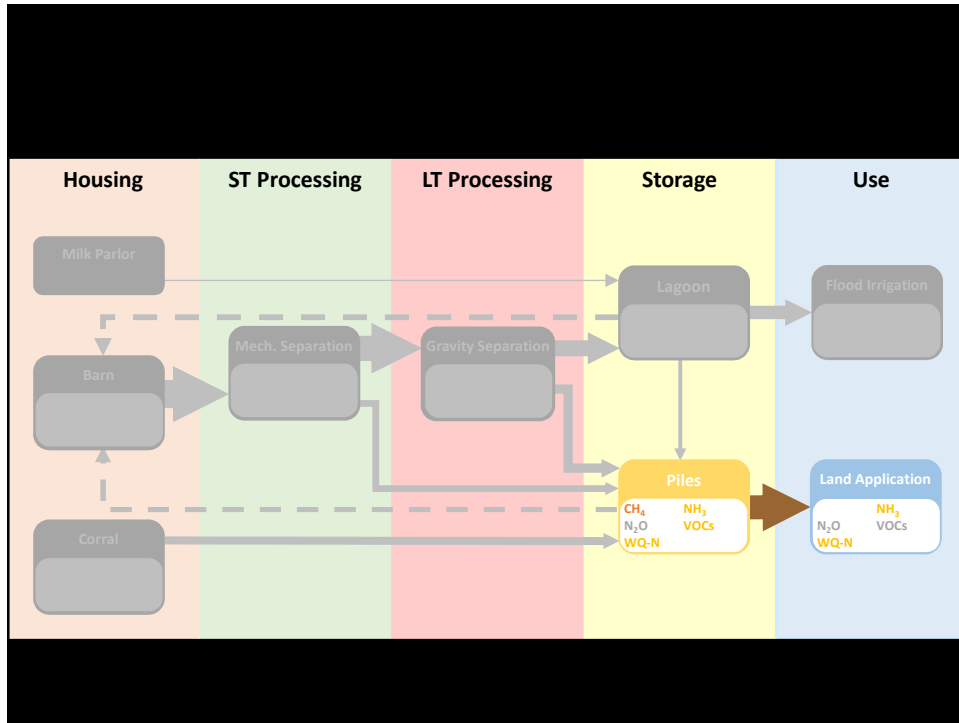


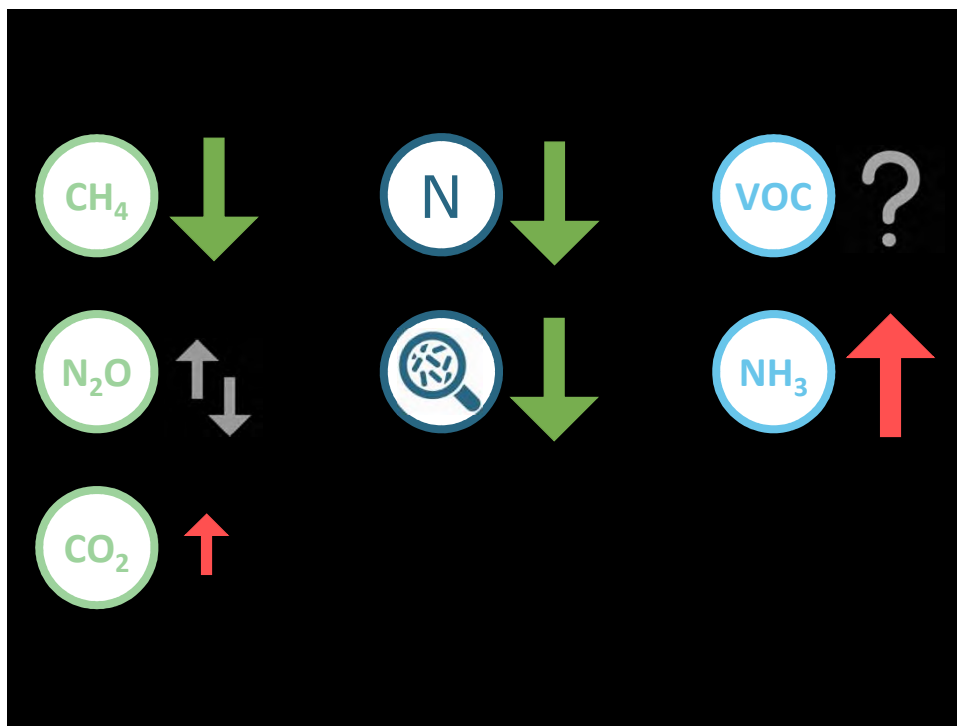
Table 1. Summary of Dairy Manure Compost Impacts, Barriers, and Opportunities

	Environmental Impacts	Regulatory/Policy	Policy	Overall Assessment
Water Quality	Composting reduces nitrogen and phosphorus runoff, improves soil structure, and reduces sediment runoff.	Regulatory barriers include the Clean Water Act, which requires permits for discharges of pollutants into navigable waters.	Policy opportunities include incentives for composting, such as tax breaks or grants, and regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process.	Composting is a beneficial practice for water quality, but regulatory barriers can be a significant challenge.
Greenhouse Gases	Composting reduces methane emissions from manure storage and increases soil carbon sequestration.	Regulatory barriers include the Clean Air Act, which regulates greenhouse gas emissions from certain sources.	Policy opportunities include incentives for composting, such as tax breaks or grants, and regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process.	Composting is a beneficial practice for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but regulatory barriers can be a significant challenge.
Air Quality	Composting reduces ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emissions from manure storage.	Regulatory barriers include the Clean Air Act, which regulates ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emissions from certain sources.	Policy opportunities include incentives for composting, such as tax breaks or grants, and regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process.	Composting is a beneficial practice for reducing air quality impacts, but regulatory barriers can be a significant challenge.
Soil Health	Composting improves soil structure, increases soil organic matter, and reduces erosion.	Regulatory barriers include the Clean Water Act, which requires permits for discharges of pollutants into navigable waters.	Policy opportunities include incentives for composting, such as tax breaks or grants, and regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process.	Composting is a beneficial practice for improving soil health, but regulatory barriers can be a significant challenge.
Other	Composting reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and improves crop yields.	Regulatory barriers include the Clean Water Act, which requires permits for discharges of pollutants into navigable waters.	Policy opportunities include incentives for composting, such as tax breaks or grants, and regulatory changes to streamline the permitting process.	Composting is a beneficial practice for reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, but regulatory barriers can be a significant challenge.

Source: Sustainable Conservation, 2017.

[www.suscon.org/composting-dairy-manure](http://www.suscon.org/composting-dairy-manure)





## Key Takeaways & Recommendations

## **Composting manure beneficial itself, much more so combined with other practices**

- Environmental, operational, economic

## **Market ripe, need to address a few barriers**

- Ensure quality control of final compost
- Establish BMPs for compost use, esp. NMPs
- Better align permitting between agencies
- Ensure RWQCB Dairy General Order reflects water quality benefits of composting manure
- Clarify & communicate SJVAPCD BACT requirements
- Ensure regulatory thresholds for exports consider need for dairies to achieve nutrient balance



[suscon.org/composting-dairy-manure](http://suscon.org/composting-dairy-manure)

*Ryan Flaherty*  
*rflaherty@suscon.org*