

## Greener Fields Together Case Study Summary D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California: Energy and Climate at Salinas Facility



The Greener Fields Together National Farm program is designed to build and manage a farm supplier network dedicated to examining and improving sustainability in their operations. Through 5Ps of Sustainability<sup>™</sup> Verified Case Studies, SureHarvest will assist Greener Fields Together National Farm partners to evaluate their sustainability efforts according to the 5Ps. SureHarvest then conducts on-site verification to ensure accuracy and authenticity.





### Meet Greener Fields Together National Farms Partner:

Family owned and operated since 1920, D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California strives to be the best grower, shipper and seller of high-quality fruits and vegetables. Products include Andy Boy Broccoli, Broccoli Rabe, Romaine, Mixed Leaf, Cauliflower, Fennel, Romaine Hearts, Cactus Pears, Nopalitos, Wine Grapes and Cherries. Operating from February into December, the company's main cooling and shipping facility in Salinas, California loads between 150 and 200 trucks of fresh produce per day.

### **5Ps Verified Case Study: Energy and Climate**

Dedicated to making efficient use of non-renewable resources, D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California built a state-of-the art cooling facility in 2006. The new facility achieves energy savings through the strategic location, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the facility. SureHarvest documented and verified the energy program at the Salinas, California cooler facility using the *5Ps of Sustainability*<sup>TM</sup>.

### Sustainability Highlights

D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California's highly responsive organizational structure empowers employees to adapt and innovate in the face of changing resource needs to continuously improve the energy program at their cooler facility.

By merging several facilities into a single location strategically situated in the heart of its farming fields, D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California saves an estimated 300,000 truck-miles traveled each year to haul product from field to cooler. The company's investment to consolidate and centralize its facilities has resulted in reduced emissions and traffic impacts to local communities as well as improved loading efficiencies.

## **593** METRIC TONS OF CO<sub>2</sub> PER YEAR PREVENTED

Since relocating and consolidating its cooler facilities closer to its farm fields the company has prevented more than 4,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.







SureHarvest utilizes its 5Ps of Sustainability™ –a continuous imbrovement

business management methodologyto craft case studies that evaluate the alignment and execution of Greener Fields Together National Farm partners' sustainability efforts that contribute to financial profitability, environmental stewardship and social progress. Each case study goes through a verification step to confirm that the reported information is accurate, thorough and authentic.

#### **Principles**

The core values that define the business strategy

#### Processes

The sets of managed activities that create internal and external value

#### **Practices**

The methods used to accomplish the desired operational results

#### **Performance Metrics**

The metrics and measurements used to evaluate practice and process results

#### **Progress**

The approach used to document, communicate and drive continuous improvement over time

#### I. Sustainability Principles

D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California is committed to being responsible stewards by:

- Making efficient use of non-renewable resources
- · Sustaining the economic viability of farms
- Enhancing the environment and quality of life for all

The company is dedicated to championing solutions for tomorrow's safe, accessible, and nutritious food through its sustainability efforts.

#### 2. Sustainability Processes

Conserving energy and protecting natural resources for future generations is a core value held at D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California, from field to executive offices. D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California grows, harvests, packs, cools and ships all of its own products, which affords the company a high degree of control over its operations. With the goal to ensure product safety and integrity while minimizing energy and fuel use, D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California decided to consolidate its packing and shipping facilities near the heart of its fields.

#### **3. Sustainability Practices**

By consolidating and centrally locating its facilities D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California significantly reduced the travel distance and time from field to facility. The company prioritized traffic flow and efficiency when designing the new facility. From the moment a load of product arrives employees monitor and manage the product and equipment to ensure quick, efficient cooling.



Facility staff monitor product temperature and oversee the cooling process to ensure product safety and integrity as well as energy efficiency.



# Vehicle Reduction Equivalent SAVED: 300,000 TRUCK-MILES EACH YEAR

Reducing the average distance trucks travel from field to cooler is equivalent to keeping 123 cars off the road each year.

Top-of-the-line energy-efficient materials, equipment, and lighting were selected during construction of the facility. Key efficiencies prioritized during construction included: installation of a leading-edge computer system; variable frequency drives on major cooling equipment; individual forced air tunnels; and automated doors to help maintain low temperatures.

The computer system alerts management when equipment is operating outside optimal ranges and can be monitored on-site and remotely at all times for maximum efficiency. In addition, the company has set a goal to upgrade its facility lighting system to achieve 50% reduction of light bulb wattage by the end of this year.

#### 4. Sustainability Performance Metrics

Key D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California team members regularly review its electricity bills and use data with the utility company's on-line tools. All equipment is inspected daily, and the staff has learned to "listen for problems" as part of a risk management program.

Since opening the facility, D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California has secured two independent energy audits at the facility to identify opportunities for improvement and to employ newly available technologies.

#### 5. Sustainability Progress

The Executive team holds monthly strategic planning meetings to discuss timely business issues. Operational matters are addressed through on-going informal meetings across the company. The executive team periodically discusses energy management during individual meetings with key management and staff.

Management and executive team members are active in industry and local, state and federal committees. This proactive involvement and knowledge gained in the industry allows D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California to respond quickly to challenges, as well as implement new ideas to best achieve company goals.



Designed to optimize flow and efficiency, the centralized facility reduces fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions and road wear-and-tear while improving product quality and safety.

# **84** TRIPS AROUND THE EARTH ELIMINATED

D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California saves an estimated 300,000 truck-miles annually, enough to make 12 trips around the earth every year.

## D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California: Energy and Climate at Salinas Facility





D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California was

founded by Stefano and Andrea D'Arrigo, two immigrants from Messina, Sicily and has been family owned and operated since 1920. D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California strives to be the best grower, shipper, and seller of high-quality fruits and vegetables. Products include Andy Boy Broccoli, Broccoli Rabe, Romaine, Mixed Leaf, Cauliflower, Fennel, Romaine Hearts, Cactus Pears, Nopalitos, Wine Grapes and Cherries.

D'Arrigo Bros. Co., of California, headquartered in Salinas, is in its third generation of family management. In 2006, the company opened its new cooling facility in Salinas, and in 2008, the company administrative headquarters opened alongside. Operating from February into December, the Salinas cooler loads between 150 and 200 trucks of fresh produce per day.

For more information, please visit www.andyboy.com www.facebook.com/andyboyproduce www.pinterest/andyboyproduce www.twitter.com/andyboyproduce www.instagram.com/andyboyproduce



The Greener Fields Together National Farm program was launched in 2012, with the intent to build and manage a supplier network of national farms dedicated to examining sustainability in their operations. Through the completion of *5Ps of Sustainability*<sup>™</sup> Verified Case Studies and reporting, the program will reveal the efforts being made toward more sustainable operations.

Sustainability process areas in the Greener Fields Together National Farm program include:

- Community
- Employee Wellness
- Energy and Climate
- Packaging
- Pest Management
- Soil Management
- Waste Management
- Water Management

The Greener Fields Together effort will demonstrate the commitment farmers are making toward ensuring a future for food.

For more information, please visit www.greenerfieldstogether.org



SureHarvest is an agri-food sustainability solutions company delivering practical strategies, proven technologies, and exceptional services to accelerate financial profitability, environmental stewardship and social progress.

Clients span the agri-food value chain and benefit from SureHarvest's market-leading expertise and experience in the design, execution and verification of sustainability initiatives. Our services are often coupled with farm management and sustainability program management software technologies to provide turnkey solutions.

SureHarvest is the pioneer in adapting business process approaches (e.g., Total Quality Management, Six Sigma, Lean, etc.) to the more variable conditions of farming, harvest logistics, and packing/shipping. Titled the *5Ps of Sustainability*<sup>™</sup>, this business process management approach is used as the principal strategic framework for creating value with our customers.

For more information, please visit **www.sureharvest.com**