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Contact: N. Michael Langenberg  
Tel: (415) 663-5464 ext.101  
[www.strausfamilycreamery.com](http://www.strausfamilycreamery.com)  
email: [family@strausfamilycreamery.com](mailto:family@strausfamilycreamery.com)

## **STRAUS DAIRY WINS AWARD FOR WATER QUALITY WHILE STATE CRACKS DOWN ON LARGER FARMS**

MARSHALL, CA — While the Federal and State governments struggle to force large confined livestock operations to be more responsible for their waste systems to prevent ground water pollution, Albert Straus, president of Straus Family Creamery and the owner of Blake's Landing Farms, the family dairy that provides milk for Straus organic dairy products, has won an award from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for his excellent compliance with California Standards for Confined Animal Facilities.

With financial help from the EPA and the Marin County Resource Conservation District, Albert has built a methane digester on his family dairy. The digester uses anaerobic bacteria to break down manure washed from the barns. This process eliminates toxins, creates methane, and provides an organic fertilizer for pasture. The methane is captured and will soon power the dairy and the new Straus Family Creamery being built on the dairy. The new creamery is expected to be completed by 2005.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board presented the award in early December to show appreciation for exemplary effort and cooperation. The Regional Board feels that it is very important to recognize dairies using effective pollution prevention and waste management practices and to give special thanks for their efforts.

Straus Family Creamery ★ P.O. Box 768 Marshall, California 94940  
Tel: 415/663-5464 ★ Fax: 415/663-5465 ★ [www.strausmilk.com](http://www.strausmilk.com) ★ email: [family@strausmilk.com](mailto:family@strausmilk.com)