

From: oienret@frontier.com
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#); [Jay Gordon](#)
Subject: CAFO permit
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:38:03 AM

September 30, 2015

Dear Jon Jennings,

We were dairy farming for 35 years. We constructed a lagoon with Snohomish Conservation District. We followed all the rules and regulations and received funding to help with the construction of the lagoon. We had a Dairy Nutrient Management Plan which was effective and functional.

We are retired now as Ted has Parkinson's disease. He is 100% disabled per Veteran's Administration we rent out our farm. We are trying to enjoy our retirement after 35 years of working hard and long hours producing milk to feed Washington State and the world.

It is a big commitment on our part but it our heritage as the Oien family has been in farming in Washington State for over 100 years – 50 years in Arlington and 50 years in Stanwood. Dairy farming was done in Norway for at least 5 generations that we know before immigration to Washington Erik Oien, my grandfather. It takes a lot of work and effort for dairy farmers to be successful. We enjoyed it most of the time.

Regulations make it very difficult to farm. We had 2 inspectors from Washington State Department of Agriculture and United State Department of Agriculture. Trying to meet all their requirements can be difficult when you are trying to do the work.

Our lagoon does not leak. It was lined with blue clay. To dig out our lagoon and replace it with a double synthetic liner would be cost prohibitive as would engineering the new specifications for compliance to CAFO would add even more to that cost. Testing the lagoon twice a year would be another huge expense and time consuming. The buffers of 35 feet near river and slough would taken more land out of production for our renters to reduce their income and ours with unproductive land.

The soil testing of twice a year in the spring and fall would be even more costly. Recent cost estimates indicate that it would be \$300-\$500 per field. We have 140 acres so this would be extremely expensive twice a year. This would hurt our renters ability to farm effectively.

A Manure Pollution Prevention Plan would be a duplication of the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan. Our Dairy Nutrient Management Plan is working efficiently and effectively. I was at Governor Locke's signing ceremony of the Dairy Nutrient Management Act in 1998 as the treasurer of the Washington State Dairy Federation.

The Manure Pollution Prevention Plan would take more time to prepare, keep up to date and implement and cost more. Testing manure and nutrients costs the dairy farmer. We are enjoying our retirement with traveling, being with family and being active in our community. There have been very few leaks on other farms. A few bad apples who did not care should not have such a great impact on the rest of us who are the right things to keep pollution out of our precious resource – water. The CAFO permit needs to be function and voluntary.

Sincerely,

Ted E. Oien
Jean Oien
7221 Norman Road
Stanwood, WA 98292
360-939-0510



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