

September 13, 2015

Department of Ecology,

Below are comments of how we think the CAFO Permit will affect our dairy. We have been in the dairy business for 42 years and have tried to comply with all of the requirements set forth by the government and its different departments. When nutrient management was required, we were the first dairy in the county to complete our management plan and have complied with it since. Now we are to understand that the rules have changed and no one knew what was really needed to prevent polluting the water? It would certainly reduce much of the burden on farmers if the different departments could communicate with each other and get on the same page.

In the area where we farm about the only way we could contaminate any water would be to spread manure directly into running water during the spring snow melt. This is something we would never do even if it were possible and yet this permit would apply to us also. Sometimes the 'one size fits all mentality' leaves much room for consideration. Before a binding permit of this nature is required, it should be determined if it is even needed for any particular area or farm.

Our farm is over 1 mile from any running water other than snowmelt streams, all of which are dry before the end of May. With this in mind, suggested rules of the proposed permit pertaining to manure spreading or grazing close to waterways would have no effect on our farm. The suggested soil sampling down to 3 feet deep would cost us \$2000 to \$2500 per sampling, not counting the expense of renting a backhoe and the damage done to hay fields to accomplish this type of sampling. If this permit goes into affect, the added costs for bringing our manure system into compliance (leak-proof liner and whatever else would be required) would have to be weighed very carefully to determine if dairy farmers such as ourselves (60+) could justify the cost. At this time we feel it would be the final straw. Though we would like to continue to dairy, we do not know how many more bureaucracies we can afford to pay the salaries for.

Sincerely,
Stephen & Marina Simpson

