

**From:** [Krista Stauffer](#)  
**To:** [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)  
**Subject:** CAFO Permit Response  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 06, 2015 5:42:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [Stauffer Dairy-CAFO Permit Letter.docx](#)

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Jon,

Please consider this letter in regards to the proposed CAFO permits. We have been dealing with major breakdowns & repairs. Time simply got away from us with this deadline.

I have attached a photo of our family so you can see the faces of the people in which these proposed permits will impact.

Thank you,

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Krista Stauffer  
Stauffer Dairy  
[thefarmerswife.com](http://thefarmerswife.com)  
[twitter.com/TheFarmersWife](https://twitter.com/TheFarmersWife)  
1 (509) 675-2063

Stauffer Dairy  
Brandon & Krista Stauffer  
2082 Addy Gifford Rd  
Addy, WA 99101

Washington Department of Ecology  
c/o Jon Jennings  
P.O. Box 47696  
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

RE: CAFO General Permits

To whom it may concern:

I would like to ask you to consider this letter as it is several days late from the deadline. Time got away with us on the farm as we have been dealing with major breakdowns & farm repairs.

My husband has always wanted to dairy, ever since he was a kid. He moved from Whatcom County to Stevens County in 2009 to make that dream a reality. We met shortly after and his passion soon became mine. In the past six years he has worked more hours than he has slept. We are so thankful to be farming but the farm we have come to call home is old, worn down. Any funds above the bills go into this farm to keep in line with regulations. There is no money for cosmetic repairs, there is no room for doing the things you would like to require in this proposed permit. You may say there are/will be funds available for cost-sharing, but we don't have the funds to cost-share.

I have read and re-read the verbiage for the new CAFO guidelines. I have to say, the first time, I just started crying. That might seem strange to you, but my first reaction was that this would financially end us. I cannot help but wonder if that is not the actual intent of these proposed permits.

I drive through our county, up almost every road is an old dairy farm. Most of the farmers we buy feed from are previous dairy farms. Our lagoons were designed and built to be in compliance with NRCS standards. Our lagoon was designed by an engineer. We are regulated already by the Department of Agriculture. We are inspected already by the Department of Agriculture. We do everything we can to be in compliance with any regulation that is in place for us as dairy farmers. We pride ourselves in being good stewards of the animals and land.

As I read these proposed permits, all I see is Department of Ecology trying to control an industry in which they do not understand. Extended buffers which takes away land unnecessarily. Days in which we cannot apply manure to land due to weather? Soil testing is something that farmers already do, but the new regulations would increase the amount of land tested costing a tremendous amount of money to the land owners we purchase from. Waiting 180 days for approval to make repairs which also requires an engineer? This is not how farming works. You simply do not sit and wait to farm. If something breaks, it needs fixed immediately. We have a small window each spring and fall in which we have someone that pumps our lagoon. We have to act in that window in order to be in compliance and properly manage our

cow manure according to our nutrient management plans we have in place with the Department of Agriculture.

The proposed regulations are going to lay a heavy burden down on not just our farm but many others. Several farms we know have already stated they will sell their cows, it's time to retire anyway. Us? We just got started. We have a family to provide for.

I would honestly like to think you have our best interest in mind, that you are really trying to protect the environment, but I just cannot believe that. You running with junk science and the collateral damage is going to be hard working Washington dairy farmers. This whole permit is a complete overreach of Department of Ecology's authority. Department of Ecology is out of line.

Regards,

Krista Stauffer  
Owner/Operator of Stauffer Dairy