

From: [Kim Vlas](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: CAFO permit comments
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We are dairy farmers in Whatcom county, WA since the 1970's. CAFO preliminary revisions, if approved, without common sense revisions will drive us out of business. We have farmed through thick and thin over these many years and generations - milk pricing volatility, environmental regulations, feed pricing variation, escalating land prices. All these factors have been manageable with great effort, serious planning, specific goals and allot of disciplined spending.

We have two ponds (lagoons) they have never leaked, seeped or otherwise discharged anything unless we are pumping out of them intentionally to utilize needed nutrients and water.

Regulations that make assumptions without solid defensible science help no one.

They drive those few of us left farming into the arms of willing developers and Canadian berry farmers, here in our case. We want to farm, we love to farm, we can't keep farming if we can get a payback of some kind for the investments we make in land, animals, buildings, employees.

Pond lining requirements based on assumptions that leaking is a given is bad decision making and doesn't help those of us who are already good land stewards stay in business.

There is no benefit, only cost. Most of us are mid-50's and older. We are quite capable of farming another 5-10 years or longer - in high hopes of easing the next generation into our incredibly - challenging - but unique way to live and raise your family.

How can we possibly attract the next generation into our business when the gauntlet of regulation such as this hangs so sharply over our head.

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