

Troy Lenssen

I am writing you to note some concerns with this new CAFO permit regulations.

One area I really wish would be removed is the arbitrary dates. On page 22. Section S.4.J Sub 3.

-Ecology has continued same arbitrary and rather ridiculous language requiring fall "post-harvest" testing must be done by October 1 and after harvest...most if not all farmers are not done with harvest by October 1. I would like to suggest that this language should change to fall testing should occur after harvest and before application of nutrients and any significant applications of water (irrigation or rainfall) and on the westside of the state not later than October 31st.

Also, On page 29. S4.N, (3.a) Ecology added permittees a fourth option for "riparian protection" in addition to the standard options and language that there should be no manure applications within 100' of water body on bare dirt OR a 35' vegetative buffer OR no buffer if there is a berm or dike between field and water. No farm in a flood plain can or would choose this option since they would not be allowed to farm and cease to be a farm!

This is a violation of some principles and "rules" associated with developing a CAFO permit. These rules are permit conditions and requirements must be based on quality science. Provisions and practices in the permit are designed to prevent water quality problems and discharges on a CAFO. This condition does neither. t's not science – The statement at the bottom of page 5 of the DFW RE, Vol. 2 manual states

"The information presented in this management recommendation document is not, in and of itself, science. Rather, it consists of policy recommendations which are informed by the best available science...". This opens up the permit process to anyone with a 'opinion'....quite problematic.

On pages 22 - 24. S4.K. (1)- the Draft uses word "nutrient" too loosely- from S4.K. Sub. 1- "the permittee shall ensure plant available nutrients do not exceed nutrients required to reach crop estimated yield." We will ask Ecology to clarify, better define and improve consistency in language in the permit around what "nutrients" are they referring to. For example, does the above language mean all known Macronutrients and Micronutrients or just nitrogen.

Balancing for every nutrient on every crop, every year, for expected yield is impossible on every farm everywhere.

Regard,

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President Whatcom County Farm bureau