Lawrence Kershner

I oppose the CAFO rules as they are drafted and agree with the comments of the Okanogan, Thurston and Yakima County Farm Bureaus. We need to work with and encourage those who raise livestock on the small scale providing locally sourced food, and encourage the young people in FFA and 4H who are learning the best practices way of being responsible stewards. Applying CAFO standards to small operations would be devastating to local food production. Ecology personnel and requirements must recognize the work of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and the local conservation districts. Instead of regulating, Ecology needs to encourage participation in these voluntary programs, proven to protect water quality. Additionally, there are laws already written to protect water sources- this is just more job promoting regulation on private property owners. Thank you.