

Alisa Deleon

Chelsea Morris
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47696,
Olympia WA 98504-7696

Dear Chelsea,

I oppose the CAFO rules as drafted and concur with the comments of the Benton, Grant, Okanogan, Thurston, and Yakima County Farm Bureaus. Ecology is overreaching, with ridiculously broad and vague language, without input from affected citizens.

We need to work with those who raise livestock on a small scale providing locally sourced food. Local food is good for the environment. Local food is healthy for our citizens. Local food is good for the economy. Local food must be protected, not regulated.

Applying CAFO standards to small operations, will be devastating to local food production and our overall food security. At a time when inflation and supply chain problems are rampant, Ecology's drafted rules are deplorable!

Ecology must recognize the work of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) and local conservation districts. Instead of regulating, Ecology needs to encourage participation in these voluntary programs, proven to protect water quality. Those of us who raise their own animals have a very personal stake in protecting our environment, and especially water quality. We know our animals, land, and water better than any bureaucrat from Olympia ever will! We already want to do the right thing. The vast majority of us are already good stewards of our water, land, and animals. We absolutely do not need Ecology bullying us when we are not doing anything wrong and local help is readily available.

The Washington Department of Ecology needs to leave us alone, and we will continue utilizing the existing, proven, resources we already have with our local conservation districts and the VSP!

Sincerely,

A. Deleon

August 17, 2022