

Sharon Moysiuk

Chelsea Morris, Washington Department of Ecology
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Dear Chelsea,

We oppose the CAFO rules as drafted and concur with the comments of Okanogan, Thurston, and Yakima County Farm Bureaus. We need to work with those who raise livestock on a small scale/and large scale (to be quite honest) providing locally sourced food. We are losing farms, big and small, by the handfuls every year. So where are we supposed to get locally produced food when they are all gone?

Applying CAFO standards to small operations will be devastating to local food production and our overall food security. Ecology must recognize the work of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and local conservation districts.

Instead of regulating, Ecology needs to encourage participation in these voluntary programs, proven to protect water quality. There are a lot of people in our rural and urban circles who believe in protecting water quality and do so to the best of their ability.

Ecology needs to spend some of their resources on cleaning up waterways that are being used illegally by people without homes and are unregulated. These water sources are being used as toilets, have drug paraphernalia floating in them, and these people have no regard for protecting water quality. If Ecology is going to fine farms (big or small), then they need to fix the problem with people without homes who are very destructive to our water resources. The Dept. of Ecology should quit putting people in silos and making certain groups pay their fines while others go unregulated. This also puts citizens who use waterways and government employees who service culverts near waterways at high risk for health hazards.

Kids in FFA and 4-H stay busy caring for their animals and going to fairs and it keeps them out of a lot of trouble out there in our world today. Do you want to take that away from hard working communities too? Farming is and should remain a respected profession whether that is a backyard farm or a farm on a larger scale.

Sincerely,

Dale and Sharon Moysiuk