

Vernanne Matson

I am against the CAFO rules as drafted and agree with the comments of Okanogan, Thurston and Yakima County Farm Bureaus. Small family farms and Buy Local are in much need. However, the proposed "Small CAFO" definition is backwards! It needs to be a "more than" numerical designation. As the draft currently defines a Small CAFO, probably 50% of the population would be considered a "Small CAFO" what with the 6 chickens for the family egg supply or the pony and horse that the grandkids ride when they come to visit...

Why would DOE even consider the proposed definition when DOE has already stated it would create a "disproportionate impact" on small operations?

If I understand it correctly, if I wanted to apply fertilizer to my strawberry patch or my garden boxes when prepping to plant a garden in the spring, I would have to first determine whether it might rain within 24 hours of the application?? How preposterous to think that can be done; this is Washington, the Evergreen State. It doesn't get green because of an arid climate.

Join forces with the VSP's and conservation districts to work with the people rather than against us. Many people struggle for affordable fresh food but can afford it from the neighbors farmstand; others count on the side income from selling a few dozen eggs to offset monthly household expenses. Why would DOE want to create a potential deterrent to enterprising individuals and put local food sources in jeopardy?

Please rethink and revise the draft currently being considered. In my opinion, it's in great need of revision.