

Prateek Agarwal

Chelsea Morris
Washington Department of Ecology
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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.

We need to work with those who raise livestock on a small scale providing locally sourced food. I am a small farmer owning couple of cattle and they are pasture fed and not confined. I use their manure to grow crops for local food markets. The regulatory overhead to determine and comply with these far reaching and all-encompassing regulations would be devastating for small micro operations like me who just got started. Only the big businesses would be able to survive in this environment.

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.

Sincerely,
Prateek Agrawal