

Rachel Grayless

Chelsea Morris
Washington Department of Ecology
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Dear Chelsea,

The CAFO proposal under consideration is too ambiguous for families who are simply homesteading and responsibly caring for their own property. Water protection rules already offer protocols to pursue remedies if family homesteads were negatively impacting local water quality.

In a time of current and impending food shortages, we should be encouraging good stewardship of our lands instead of imposing vague restrictions that could remove our ability to simply homestead.

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.

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,

Rachel Grayless

August 17, 2022