

Jacquelyn Dent

As a small farm owner with a few animals to raise and care for, I oppose the CAFO rules as drafted.

The mission of the Dept. of Ecology is to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations. As written, your CAFO rules have the potential to destroy any opportunity my grandchildren and other future farmers would have to own and support their own farms and animals.

The vision of the Dept. of Ecology is to sustain healthy land, air, and water in harmony with a strong economy. As written, the rules of CAFO have the potential to destroy the economy of small farmers and agricultural hobbyists by imposing regulations that limit their ability to raise animals to enjoy as pets, to teach young people the value of caring for animals and their land, and, if wanted, to sell these animals for a small income.

One of the Dept. of Ecology's goals is conservation. I would assume that you have heard of James Herriot, the well known author of All Creatures Great and Small. He was a well-known and highly respected veterinarian in Ireland, where he made house calls. He said many times that the farmers' animals had better housing and were better cared for than the farmers themselves. We small farmers know that if we do not take proper care of our land and animals, we will be setting ourselves up for financial loss. NO one takes better care of their land and animals than the small farmers I know!

Please reconsider the rules and regulations you have stated in this very ill-thought out CAFO.