

## Lin Wellford

As someone who has been focused on the presence of a hog CAFO that was sited within the Buffalo watershed, from the beginning it was clear that this operation had been rushed into place to avoid adverse public reaction. Now, in reading through the depositions of many of those involved, it is clear that our suspicions about whether due diligence had been sacrificed in the haste to get the CAFO built were correct. I now know that an out-of-state engineer erred in how he used software designed to calculate the amount of nutrients that could be safely applied to the fields. Whether it was unintentional or deliberate, misusing the program allowed C&H to dump manure on fields far in excess of what the grasses could uptake. And no one in our state agencies noticed. Andrew Sharpley testified that plans to use equipment designed to measure subsurface flow was damaged by the flooding of the fields where the devices had been deployed. Why worry about what's happening under the field when Big Creek is washing over the top of the field, carrying away all the excess P in the ground due to over application? I also read about Jason Henson's practice of stirring or agitating the main waste pond to keep the solids from filling it up too fast, and in the process, changing the makeup of the slurry so that it was more potent in terms of nutrients.

I resent that as an Arkansas citizen, I am paying for the BCRET study that refused to focus on monitoring trends and instead has spent years gathering data but not doing the analysis that would show that tons of excess nutrients were being applied while at the same time, the Buffalo River was undergoing a rapid change from a beautiful recreational and natural resource to an algae stuffed, highly objectionable travesty that can hardly be called our state's crown jewel. Anyone who floated the river below Carver this last summer, and more so below Gilbert, likely found themselves swatting biting flies, swarms of them that weren't there before. An algae specialist explained that when algae mats cover large surface areas, they cause the water temps to rise. Warmer water attracts these biting flies who breed in warm waters. The ecosystem changes in ways large and small when humans abuse the watershed and put it out of balance. What humans do on the land ends up in the water. This is an inconvenient truth for those promoting the growing of thousands of large mammals in metal sheds in an area where thin soils cover porous substrate. Now that there is many years worth of excess phosphorus in the ground surrounding Big Creek, will Farm Bureau and the Pork Producers step up to help clean up the mess they helped create?

I stand with ADEQ in their belated attempt to make this right. How does ADEQ plan to help heal this waterway? Will ADEQ advocate for a nutrient surplus designation within the watershed?