

# Frank Henry

To the Director, ADEQ:

We strongly favor and urge the DENIAL of any operating permit for C&H Farms.

Based on the data produced by acknowledged experts and on their professional opinions before and since this business was originally certificated we view a decision to approve any application by C & H Farms for a license to operate in its current - or any similar - location as an abject failure of the ADEQ to perform its core mission and its responsibility to the people of the State of Arkansas.

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is a department of the government of Arkansas under the Governor of Arkansas. It is responsible for protecting human health and for safeguarding the natural environment: air, water, and land. The initial approval of this confined animal operations permit was a large enough civic and political sin. Common sense and a decision to err on the side of caution should have prevailed. C & H is a readily identified potential point source of severe pollution. The surrounding terrain and geology (north Arkansas's porous limestone substructure) has been clearly shown to be unable to support the amounts of effluent routinely being applied through its liquid waste management system.

Assuming those holding power in this agency are adequately educated in matters such as this and/or are concerned about protecting the larger body of those they serve and not a particular business or special interest group, how could such a gamble have ever been made with a true Arkansas and national treasure? Former governor Mike Beebe acknowledged that this was one of if not the biggest failures of his time in office. That should matter to folks. It should matter to Governor Hutchinson. It should matter to ADEQ. Look long at North Carolina following the recent devastation of hurricane Florence. Look at the areas downstream from their damaged CAFO's and the likely worst case scenarios that were realized. Look very hard at the area surrounding C & H as well as what is immediately downstream (and downhill) from this operation.

We sincerely hope and pray that this ADEQ decision will be a civic minded, responsible to the public, scientifically supported and, yes, an environmentally friendly decision to begin the process to remove this blight from environmentally fragile northern Arkansas and not another narrow political decision catering to a monied special interest.

Do the responsible thing. Make the thoughtful, conservative decision to protect both the environment for the long term and the livelihoods of thousands of fellow Arkansans. Support the beauty of our Natural State.

Sincerely,

Frank and Jo Henry

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