

## Liz Wirt

What you are proposing doesn't work and won't solve the problems because only part of the issue has been addressed.

Weather is unpredictable and forecasts are not always correct so even with the best information available there will be challenges with spreading. The increased costs for larger pits and stacking slabs where there is very little profit margin to begin with, will result in a loss of dairy cows. Dairy farming requires land being used for alfalfa and small grains that decrease runoff. Losing cows means increased row crops and more runoff.

All farms need to be included - not just those over 1000 animal units. I would guess that in time that number will drop to 750 and then 500 animal units. 10 small farms might equal one large farm.

It is easy to blame farmers because they are so visible. Please remember that they are not the only people who impact our water. Years ago, farmers were thought to have caused the summer algae bloom in Lake Winona. Studies showed that there were no farms draining into the lake and farmers had no part of the algae bloom.

We need to include everyone in an extended discussion so that we have all the information to make wise decisions. That means farmers, township boards, city sanitation, and anyone with information that would help us with this issue. Have there been municipal sewage spills or septic systems contributing?

Cows are good for our water and farmers take good care of our water and our land. Let's do the best we can to protect farmers, the water and the land.