

David Mensink

For the past 46 years I have farmed in the karst region. My wife and I farm with our son, his wife and their 3 daughters. We want clean water for our family. There has been livestock and row crops on the land we farm for several generations. When all the nitrate regulation talk started we initiated nitrate testing on our 6 wells, and they all ranged from .05 to 6.62 in nitrates.

A one size fits all regulation does not work for the 8 county area that is being singled out.

We employ several best management practices (BMP) on our farm. I feel it is because of the BMP we do is why our nitrate levels are below the threshold. We feel it is necessary to apply our hog manure in the fall for the following reasons: The equipment needed to apply in the spring will cause soil compaction, which leads to nutrient deficiencies, reduced crop productivity, restricted root development, reduced soil aeration, decreased soil available water, reduced infiltration rate, increased surface runoff, and it damages soil structure.

There are many BMP used today by farmers to protect water quality, while fully capturing the benefits from manure including, applying after soil temperatures fall below 50 degrees, utilizing a biological or synthetic additive to stabilize nitrogen, split applying and the use of precision technologies and equipment to help apply it precisely .

The generations that farmed this land and raised livestock on this same land did not have access to many of these BMP that we use today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed regulation.

Dave Mensink