

Angela Anderson

The revision of policies is long overdue. Much has changed in Minnesota since the early 2000s. I live in the watershed of the nationally protected Wild and Scenic St. Croix River. This watershed covers a relatively large area of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Any fouling of this river affects thousands of people in Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as all the other living organisms, who call this river their home. In order to protect our precious natural resources, we must strive to practice a more sustainable form of agriculture, one that is place-based, dependent on the carrying capacity of the natural resources of a given area. This is true for all of Minnesota. The number of CAFO's has increased much since the early 2000's. It is time for a major careful revision.

I believe, as the Department of Natural Resources, your paramount responsibility must be the protection of land, water, and air, and to prevent the building of giant manure lagoons, which are emptied several times each year and spread across designated fields. As we know of CAFO's in other areas of the state and the country, these fields become oversaturated with liquid manure, which is toxic and laced with E. coli as well as growth hormones and antibiotics administered to animals packed tightly in confined holding pens. In addition these liquid manure lagoons emit a significant amount of methane gas, which is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂. This overabundance of manure promotes run-off and groundwater pollution when spread on dead soil, (alive soil needs to be nurtured carefully to maintain its biological health) heavily compromised through compaction by machinery endless monoculture practices and oversaturated by poisonous manure.

In order to protect our precious natural resources, we must strive to practice a more sustainable form of agriculture, one that is place-based, dependent on recognizing the carrying capacity of the natural resources of a given area.

We are desperately trying to save our local, sustainable farming practices and protect the health and wellbeing of our communities.

All life needs clean water to drink and clean air to breathe. Our local natural resources and the health of our communities should not be sacrificed for the profits of large agricultural enterprises, exploiting our resources only to export their product to countries like China. This unfair, unethical market competition destroys all sustainable practices in service of global enterprise. This 'robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul' form of resource management is unacceptable and to our communities' detriment.

Thank you
Angela Anderson