

## Angela Anderson

This proposed operation is the first of this size in Minnesota. It would be nearly double the size of the next largest operation in our state in terms of animal units. This makes it a fundamentally new and particularly powerful threat to Minnesota farmers and rural communities and our natural environment. The existing West River Dairy operation in Stevens County wants to dramatically expand its footprint.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has not yet completed a mapping of Stevens County's groundwater resources and aquifers for their County Geologic Atlas Series. In fact, they have not even begun the hydrological survey of the county. The Pomme de Terre River watershed where the expansion is located is a tributary to the Minnesota River, is already considered impaired. Because of the lack of detailed information about the groundwater situation in Stevens County and the unprecedented size of this operation in Minnesota I believe an EIS will be needed before allowing this expansion. I hope the findings of the EAW will show the way.