

Daniel Zimmerli

The environmental and social implications Riverview's plan to construct a feedlot of this magnitude alone are appalling. Riverview and CAFO feedlots like it externalize costs, pollute our environment, destroy family farms and deliver no benefit to consumers.

Feedlots like Riverview's externalize costs by putting such significant strain on the environment and the pollution they cause from such a huge concentration of animal manure on a small geographic location. Even with the best of plans the manure inevitably ends up in the water either through structure failure, natural disaster or both. Nitrate pollution in the water is a leading contender for increased cancer rates in the population.

Further, feedlots like Riverview destroy family farms. Through their sheer size they outbid small family farmers for inputs and resources. They claim they'll deliver lower prices for consumers and that may be true in the short term but over a long enough time, and after they've put small farmers out of business, they will increase their prices.

At a minimum an Environmental Impact Statement should be completed and made public. However, this project SHOULD NOT be permitted because of the extreme threat of pollution, the costs the pollution will incur to the communities around it and down stream of it, and the dire threat CAFOs like this pose to small family farmers.