

Susan Scherer

Having lived in rural areas for much of my life, small businesses, whether they are agricultural, recreational, or anything that offers a comfortable livelihood, a safe place to live and raise a family, is an essential choice for any person. Increasing the size of farms/dairies is a distressing indication that the values of rural individuals are being dismissed, in favor of corporations that make profit the sole reason for existing. What that consolidation means is that communities lose their residents who are no longer able to make a living.

Small, rural communities have been a safe, affordable choice for people who want to know their neighbors, to be there to help when needed, to enjoy each other's presence, and to raise children in an environment that values the land they thrive on, rather than the need to be bigger and richer. Allowing a massive dairy to become even bigger is a move that nullifies those values, and it contributes to the destruction of the very land we treasure.