

Ruth Lovander Foley

I am respectfully submitting my comments about corporate farming. I oppose West River Dairy expansion as the proposed size of the expansion will be unable to keep environmental safety, is extremely damaging to small family dairy operations and is cruel to the dairy animals. I grew up on a family Holstein dairy operation. Animal husbandry was always practiced on our farm. Our cows were milked two times per day. Between the morning and evening milkings, our cows were let out of the barn to feed on pasture grass and get fresh air and sunshine for the health of the animals. Animals on these corporate farms are denied fresh air and are merely MACHINES for continued breeding until they are physically exhausted. Then they are disposed of (which SADLY may be the best part of their lives). We surely owe our domesticated animals much more empathy than this! When did we begin to put corporate profits above concerns for family farmers and the animals we are entrusted to care for? The tradeoffs for the benefit of huge corporations and their owners/shareholders should not override all other concerns! Please deny all corporate farms in Minnesota the ability to expand and - even to exist.