

## Leland Stoe

I am a fly fisherman and outdoorsman. I was on Rush Creek near Lewiston with my 6-yr-old grandson and my son three weeks before the massive 2021 fish kill, where approximately 2,500 trout were killed over a one-mile section just upstream from where we had our magical outing. On that day, my grandson presented a #18 dry fly to the fish by himself and fooled his very first trout. He netted the fish himself while broadly smiling with pride.

The fish kill resulted from a combination of 1) low stream level in late summer 2) large rainfall 3) poor farming practices. There was (and is) a CAFO of about 1,500 cows near the headwaters of Rush Creek in Winona County. Basically, storm runoff transports these toxins into the water at higher concentrations when stream flows are lower (especially as summer progresses) and therefore provide less dilution of the toxins. And large storms are increasingly becoming the norm.

The Driftless Area in SE MN (in places like Lewiston, where Rush Creek is) has a "Swiss cheese" geology, which is why we have cold water spring creeks in the area. Water from the surface can reach the aquifer in 0-3 days.

We learned this the hard way with the 2021 Rush Creek fish kill.

The Central Sands area (like the Willmar area) is also has a very sensitive geology, where surface water can quickly reach aquifers. We cannot afford to find out the hard way with this massive CAFO proposal permitting 18,855 dairy cattle on a single site. Being over ten times the size of the CAFO near the headwaters of Rush Creek, the environmental risks are clear.

We cannot, in good conscience, approve a CAFO of 18,855 dairy cattle before performing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

If the analysis shows that a CAFO of this size would be safe, so be it. But moving forward without and EIS is risking the environment and human health. We must require an EIS for a proposal of this magnitude.