

# Susan Frenzel

The manure containment system for this expansion is sufficient "except in conditions of weather extremes." Today's March 18, 2026, Star Tribune weather report by Paul Douglas states: "Welcome to the United States of Weather Extremes."

Even before the dairy expands, it's a reality and a given that the manure containment systems will fail, because they aren't built for weather extremes, and weather extremes are a fact of life now.

I'm 72, and in my lifetime, MN lakes and rivers have gone from being swimmable and fishable to being covered with blue-green algae from overflow of fertilizer from fields and animal factory farms. That's the case from ice out in spring to the freeze in winter. There aren't a few weeks of good swimming anymore in summer.

The MPCA has already allowed the quality of life in Minnesota to be destroyed in favor of profits for animal factory farms. We Minnesotans paid too high a price for thirty cents off a package of meat or a gallon of milk. We lost what makes Minnesota great in our lifetime.

Future generations will be rolling in shit. Thanks a lot, MPCA! You knew what you were doing.

You were not doing your job for the state of Minnesota. And you did a number on us in favor of animal factory farms.

Is your mandate to promote industry over livability?

How about the poor neighbors to the dairy? Can they breathe freely? Can they sell their land for the same amount of money as they would have gotten before the dairy first expanded? What will their land be worth after the expansion?

What's the water table like around the dairy? A.I. data centers will draw down the water table statewide. How about that aquifer under us from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border? Is it drawn down beyond use yet? What do we do when the aquifer is gone, or polluted?

What good is the MPCA to the people of Minnesota?

I hope you'll do your jobs to the best of your ability and disallow an expansion of this animal factory.

Shoppers prefer milk humanely produced. When calves are given cow's blood to drink instead of cow's milk, that's not humane.

Milk produced by cows that are housed skin to skin in dark barns in conditions conducive to turning bird flu or any disease spread among them into an extremely powerful pathogen, endangering human life, we don't want that. You shouldn't either. You are supposed to be protecting us, not pushing the limits of what corporations can get away with, to the detriment of our environment and health.

It's not ok for you to expand West River Dairy. If you approve it anyway, to the detriment of Minnesota, make the dairy ship the manure to farms in other states, instead of dumping it all on this county and this state. How many tons? The animal factory system generates 5 tons of manure per year for every man, woman and child in the U.S.