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In 1995, Minnesota had 9,000 dairy farms. By 2025, that number has fallen to 1,605. As farms have grown larger, many small family dairies have disappeared, and our rural communities feel that loss in real ways.

Among the organic farms, only two remain, and both are struggling.

Riverview says this 18,500 cow facility would create 40 jobs. Yet the same number of cows could support around 70 conventional family farms. Those are families who hire local help, support small businesses, build relationships, and keep small towns alive.

I do have concerns about the environmental impact of concentrating so many animals in one place. But I am also concerned about what is lost when family farms disappear. There is something so good about families caring for animals, tending the land, and working together with purpose. Family economies grow strong families and strong communities.

Please consider supporting family farms over corporate agriculture.

Thank you!