

Barbara Haag

To Whom It May Concern,

My family home and surrounding land on Frog Lake (Gorter Lake on a map), with familial ownership dating back to the early 1920's to present, sits one mile north of the Riverview LLP dairy. I voiced my concern when it was originally planned and talked to the MPCA at that time, as well. Despite my disapproval and that of many others in the community, the dairy operation went forward. My concerns over the water table and the tremendous amounts of animal waste are still at the forefront of my mind, especially since they have increased their capacity from their original plan and now have much larger wants. They have outbid the small farmer to gain more land when land is sold.

What are the working conditions in their barns and what wages do they offer that causes them to bypass American workers and seek cheaper labor and veterinarians from Mexico?

Our beautiful lake, Frog Lake, next to where my late parents' home sits and that I now own, is a wonderful place for waterfowl and game. Artists, naturalists, and conservationists have visited, written about, and painted the wildlife that are regular visitors to the lake, farm and prairie lands in the area. Because of those people and the wildlife, this area has become known to people around the state of Minnesota and the country. The abundance of varied waterfowl is amazing. What is not amazing is the odor that is carried on the wind from the Riverview Dairy (West River Dairy) one mile away. The odor is so offensive at times that you can't stay in the area. Enjoying the outdoors or having your windows open is impossible.

Most people don't know that the life of a dairy cow at a place like Riverview's is cut short by living all their life on a concrete slab, never being outside to graze in the pasture, and being milked 2 or 3 times per day. Have they not learned anything about how a dairy farm should be operated?

My parents left their home to me when they passed away as a place where my children and grandchildren could come to enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area and the family ties that connect us to this land. My brother continued farming this land after our dad passed away and he has now passed that legacy to his son and two grandsons. The Riverview Dairy (West River Dairy Expansion), just one mile away from where they live and farm, will be an even bigger threat to their health and livelihood if this operation increases capacity.

Let me end by saying this: When money is your god, your hunger to obtain it overtakes your ability for sound reason and compassion.

Sincerely,

Barbara (Holslin) Haag

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