

Pam Hartwell

One of the many reasons dairy farmers are struggling throughout the state is that they have to compete with the benefits given, efficiencies and corner cutting of large scale operations. Large scale operations may make sense on purely economic level, but the concentration of animals does not make sense by any other measurement of success. Small farmers across the state are better able to manage herd health, manure handling, and pasture. Large operations with large amounts of animals and their manure NEED to have plans in place APPROVED by environmental scientists that are MANDATED to protect water and land! And neighbors have a right to know what the impact of these extraction facilities, because they are no longer farms at this level! The thought that adding 11,000 cows in one place does not trigger an Environmental review is insane to me.