

## Anna Larsson

The Riverview Dairy must be required to submit an environmental impact statement. This proposed farm is almost twice as big as any current Minnesota dairy operation. It will cause enormous environmental damage. I am an environmental educator, and here are the main concerns I have about this farm.

- **Poo-lution** The 11,000 proposed new cattle will create almost as much biological waste as all the people in Saint Paul. And this waste doesn't get treated in a sewage treatment facility. Instead, it gets sprayed on nearby fields. The Pomme de Terre watershed is designated "sensitive," and the Pomme de Terre River is already listed as "impaired". Adding this much waste to the watershed will almost certainly worsen the situation.
- **Water Use** The farm will pump up to 226 million gallons of water per year from the aquifer. Is this a little or a lot relative to what the area can handle? I don't know, and neither does anyone else. The DNR hasn't analyzed what this means in the context of what the environment can handle. It is irresponsible to permit such large withdrawals without knowing if the system can handle it. What we do know is that throughout the US, groundwater resources have been declining. This is an issue that needs to be evaluated before the project moves forward.

Advancing permits without a full understanding of water-quality and groundwater risks is irresponsible. It is critical that the MPCA require a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Dairy consumption in the US is flat. The only way adding a dairy of this size makes sense is if they are expecting to push other, family-scale dairies out of business, or if they are planning to export their products to other countries. Neither reason is justification for harming our beautiful, clean Minnesota environment.