

Mark Roalson

There are many things to consider on this issue. Large CAFO consolidations threaten small farmers and basically crowd out the small farm enterprise market-share wise and in available land and possibly permitting as well.

Manure is always a logistic issue. How is this (285,00 tons a day) going to be handled and controlled? Is it going to seep through its containment area and get into groundwater? Will nitrates eventually get into local drinking water? What are the preventive measures that will keep groundwater and drinking water free of contaminants? Air quality is a concern for local home-owning residents. People with lung and breathing issues will have a difficult adjustment, and maybe having to move.

I am not against dairy farming, but I know from experience that the bigger the animal agriculture system, the more chance there is not only of pollution, but the likelihood of disease increases and the need for more antibiotics arises. That is why we have the high antibiotic resistance factor of bacteria and in other human pathogens today. Creating more opportunity for pathogens to become resistant to antibiotic chemicals is a bad idea. Show me a CAFO that does not use large quantities of preventive anti-pathogenic chemicals today. There are none.