

## Merrilee Stahler

I am a land owner in Syness township where the proposed expansion of Riverview Dairy is to take place. My concerns include excessive stress and possible near depletion of the Pomme de Terre watershed, the volume of liquid manure and the magnitude of land required to offload it as well as the impact this expansion will have on neighboring land owners whether they are farming or renting their property.

The impact on wildlife and the wetlands that define this area would be disastrous. Both of these naturally occurring environmental factors have already been diminished over the years due to farming practices. Not that many years ago this township was rich in a natural habitat that fostered the continued migration of huge numbers of waterfowl as well as protective habitat for deer and other land animals. Today the elimination of this natural habitat has created major problems for wildlife including changes in migration patterns. The opportunity and desire to hunt for food which is a prominent cultural practice in this part of the country that has been handed down through generations is already threatened by farming methods. Riverview expansion would put additional stresses on this fragile connection between people and their environment.

As a land owner I also anticipate the negative impact this expansion would have on the land value of property in the township. A return to the land held by many young people would be discouraged by neighboring fields of manure and the constant threat that one day their wells would run dry and they would be unable to water their own livestock and themselves.