

Coby Backman

I am writing this in support of the West River Dairy expansion.

Riverview Dairy has been a positive addition to our agricultural community. From the ability of local farmers to sell their crop to them, to the nutrient rich manure that is then available to be applied to those acres, Riverview has been an excellent partner to work with.

There's been a lot of comments and concerns on ground water contamination. Having worked with Riverview on manure applications, I can tell you first hand that they observe and follow the guidelines set in place by MPCA. Manure is applied in a responsible and conservative fashion. A drive by any one of their sites should be enough to let anyone know that they are responsible stewards of the land. The sites are clean and well kept with no manure running off into the surrounding farm land.

Water usage is another area that I think is being unfairly criticized. Cows drink a lot of water, but, when we compare it to the city of Morris....? Morris, a town of 5000 people, uses 255.5 million gallons of water per year. In comparison, the expansion of 11,000 cows, more than twice the population of Morris (cows also being 7x the size of a human being), will only be using 226 million gallons per year. I find those numbers quite "interesting".

Riverview's commitment to agricultural and community improvement has been phenomenal over the years and I would encourage MPCA to allow this expansion to take place.

Thank you!

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