

Elias Hultgren

I am writing today in support of the Riverview application to expand West River Dairy. As a young man trying to get my start in farming in the area shared with Riverview, I have seen first-hand the opportunities working with their dairies brings to our neighborhood.

One of my summer jobs has been running hay merger for our farm and we hire on with them to harvest their forages. I also work in hauling fuel in the silage season. The operations in forage harvesting for Riverview are partnerships between dozens of local farms and the dairy, working together toward a common goal which is quality feed for the cows. Safety is always the most important in all we do, and we work very hard to keep the roads clean and to operate with respect to motorists. We take pride in how good a field looks when we get done harvesting.

My family's farm has worked with Riverview for about 10 years and it has provided a good opportunity to add alfalfa to our crop mix and that strengthens soil quality. We put manure on as many acres as possible as it is very cost-effective compared to commercial fertilizer but also great for the soil.

I think that for my generation to be successful, we need to support progress in our rural areas and partner together to do something bigger than what we could do by ourselves. The West River expansion is a good example of what can be done when local farmers, rural neighbors, and dairy employees can do when they are all working together toward the common goal of safety, utmost care for the animals, and providing an opportunity for young people.

I encourage the MPCA to grant this permit to Riverview.

Sincerely,
Elias Hultgren
Age 18
Raymond, MN