

There are over 300,000 cows in the Yakima Valley, at least 130,000 are dairy cows and with over 90 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or factory dairy farms in Yakima County and growing. Yakima County officials allowed another dairy to be built near the City of Mabton, WA, last year, where water has tested high as 75ppm nitrates in nearby wells (EPA). There is no effort to curb growth of CAFOs/dairy/ factory farms by Yakima County or industry. One feedlot in the lower Yakima Valley has the capacity for 100,000 cows in one facility. Too many cows equal too much manure on too little land no matter what mitigation method is used.

There are more cows than people in the Yakima Valley. One dairy cow produces as much waste as 23 humans. According to EPA, a 2,000 cow dairy generates more than 240,000 pounds of manure daily or nearly 90 million pounds a year. The USDA estimates the manure from 200 milking cows produce as much nitrogen as sewage from a community of 5,000 to 10,000 people. Ag and or industry has shown no adequate way to deal with manure that protects public health.

USGS stated the pollution goes down over 700 feet deep in Yakima Valley. Water contamination is not just a shallow well problem. Yakima River is listed as impaired. The whole aquifer is in danger of becoming contaminated.

Ecology's Granger Drain Study said over 120 tons a day of nutrient s (Manure) was discharged into the Yakima River. The source was from 5 dairies.

Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority had over 1,000 complaints about dairies, (Les Orenales) yet did not issue one citation to polluters. This is another example of no enforcement by government officials against industry pollution.

Yakima Valley was listed, by EPA, Environmental Justice, as an Environmental Showcase-listed as top 10 most polluted areas in the nation. Citizens invited EPA to the Yakima Valley because of the lack of political will from any agency to address the CAFO pollution issues.

EPA did well sampling with results of over 140, and 190 nitrates in wells near CAFOs. 140 parts per million is 14 times higher than safe drinking water standards; 190 parts per million is 19 times higher than safe drinking water standards. No one else is monitoring groundwater near CAFO facilities. No one is protecting the public's health. EPA used the Safe Drinking Water act after water testing.

After the EPA water study, many citizens in the Yakima Valley are still drinking contaminated water and have not been notified. Very few public announcements have been made to protect the public from drinking contaminated water. There is no political will in the Yakima Valley, WA State, by Politian's, officials, health department and industry to notify the public and protect public health with regards to contaminated water, soil and air.

Municipal wells are in danger- Mabton City well with nitrates and water availability. Outlook School is on its 3rd well. Students were drinking 9ppm nitrates and bottled water because they had no access to clean drinking water. After their third well, DOH still only requires the Outlook School's well to be tested

once a year. Some municipal wells are mixing water from different wells to reduce nitrate contamination and keep it under 10ppms (Grandview). Some municipal wells have been shut down altogether. This only addresses the contamination we know of. What of other contamination? Wells can be dug only so deep before the whole aquifer is contaminated as the case of Texas and New Mexico where factory farms contaminated the whole Ogallala Aquifer.

A Concentrated Animal Feeding herd near Moses Lake, WA, in 2013, was discovered with TB. Bovine TB can be transmitted to humans. These large herds spending their whole life time in unsanitary conditions. Their health is at risk and so are the workers who work with them and the population as a whole.

Yakima County had a case of "Mad Cow" near Mabton, WA and another one was reported near Qunicy, WA. Since these cases, industry has made it legal to put dead cows into manure compost and call it, "Organic." Factory farm dairy cow's life expectancy is around 3 years old. compared to a life span around 17 years of cows raised on grass.

Manure is not required to be tested for disease, It may contain (TB, MYRSA, Listeria, Ecoli O 157, Prions) pharmaceuticals, heavy metals and pathogens. Most of these cannot be "composted out". These contaminants are all a danger to human health. Digester often only heat to less than 100 degrees, yet is recommended a hamburger be cooked to 160 degrees to kill Ecoli in it. Citizens are not being protected from the Cumulative health impacts or synergistic effects of being exposed to manure through air, water and soil contamination.

Manure sprinklers have been set up next to citizen's homes. Sometimes manure water is sprayed through sprinklers all year around. Liquid manure is aerosolized and the neighbors are exposed to pathogens, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and endotoxins which can harm their health. In the recent YAWN Study, (Ecology) experts stated that ammonia from livestock operations can remain in the air over two weeks. They also stated ammonia from the Lower Yakima Valley was traveling as far as Yakima, WA, over 15 miles away. Dr. D'Ann Williams, John Hopkins did an air quality study inside homes of citizens living near CAFOs. She found cow dander inside nearby homes. Activists have invited the CDC/ASTDR into our area to do more air monitoring near CAFOs. Yakima Health District stated last year said that, "Ecoli could be transferred through the air. In 2013, Yakima County had 14 cases of Ecoli. Ecoli comes from a gut of an animal or human.

Manure lagoons are allowed to be constructed near homes and without permits. No one knows or cares where all manure lagoons are located.

Information on where Manure is applied and amounts of application of manure is not required to be made public. Uncontrolled, unregulated, and over application of manure to land is also a threat to public health and safety.

Local health officials have broad legislative authority to enforce the public health status of this state, including all local health rules. This includes the duty to take necessary action to maintain public health and sanitation and to control and prevent the spread of diseases. RCW 70.05.070 (2), (#) Current law

already has established that local health officials have the power and duty to prevent, control or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health.

The existing WAC 246-203-130 is a necessary tool for the local health officials in implementing its statutory authority. The proposed rulemaking limits local health officers in using their authority to protect public health. There is a dire need of enforcement by health officials against polluters, not less regulation and or enforcement.

DOH has the authority to enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act. The DOH cannot give away this authority or abdicate its duty to protect public health. Ecology is supposed to regulate point source discharges from pollutants from CAFOs. Only 13 out of the 600 facilities in the state are regulated by clean water permits. Ecology does not have the tools to protect public health. The Conservation District, who requested the changes in WAC 246-203-130, has no charge to protect public health.

Nutrient Waste Management Plans and Best Management Plans were not created by industry to protect public health, only to protect industry. They are not law, only suggestions that need not be followed. There has been no oversight by DOH over these practices. The Concentrated Animal feeding Operations/ dairies/industry have been using BMPS and NWMPs for over 20 years to address the manure water and air pollution issues in the Yakima Valley. EPA water testing proves they are not effective tools for protecting public health. Industry's high tech Science is not working, nor will it work without enforcement from DOH. The Ag industry and government agencies overseeing Ag have shown their disregard for public health and therefore are incapable of overseeing public health. Ag represents Ag and AG only.

Enforcement, enforcement, enforcement of the existing law: WAC 246-203-130 should be mandatory by the DOH and local officials to protect public health. Anything else would be negligence.

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