

FACTORY FARMS Research

(Submitted to Wis. DNR Sept. 21, 2012)

Today many people don't have the time or access to read pages and pages of documentation, even if it is in their own best interest. So here are the HIGHLIGHTS of over 1,000 pages submitted by "Protect Wood County and its Neighbors" to the DNR concerning the proposed GSD in the Wood County Town of Saratoga.

- * Source is cited briefly in parenthesis at the end of each bulleted item. "GSD" abbreviates "Golden Sands Dairy" in application stage; "CSD" abbreviates existing "Central Sands Dairy" in the Juneau County, Town of Armenia.

Geology / Demographics

- * Well Survey, Town of Saratoga--5000+ residents, 2176 dwellings with private wells (Rigelmon Appraisal Service)
- * 760 homes within 1-2 mile radius, 440 homes within 2-3 mile radius of proposed GSD (Saratoga Well Survey Committee, '12)
- * Soil that exists on & near the Tower Rd. site in south Wood County is classified as "Plainfield Friendship # 7 (PfA) Of all the soil types in Wis., it is the worst with regards to ground water contamination and seepage into residential wells. Available water capacity is low, and the hazard of soil blowing is very severe. The soils are not suitable for cultivated crops. This land type is used for pasture, woodland, and wildlife habitat. Available water capacity is low and permeability is rapid. (Soil Survey of Wood, Co, Wis. "76-77)
- * 1 dairy farm with 2500 cows produces as much waste as a city with 411,000 residents. (Sustainasbletable.org)

Water Quality

- * From the famous "Stockton Study" (UW-SP) "... nitrate & pesticide residues penetrated most of the study area aquifer." (Kraft, Browne, DeVita, Mechenich, '04)
- * Water testing throughout 2002 at Toad Creek CAFO near Hudson, Mich. showed elevated levels of bacteria, as much as 300 times the allowable level for partial body contact. (Environmentally Concerned Citizens of S. Cent. Mich., '12)

Water Quantity

- * "... available ground water in much of central Wis. is limited . . . water for public and industrial supplies is limited. The result is a water-poor area in a water-rich state." (Bell & Sherrill, '74)
- * Concerning two creeks and 6 lakes in eastern Wood & northwest Adams counties, "The amount of missing water (is) only explainable by pumping where high capacity wells are prevalent." (Kraft, Mechenich, '10)
- * . . . groundwater pumping for irrigation effects on streamflow was studied in the Central Sands Plain . . . The authors predicted that streamflow could be reduced by as much as 70-90 % during drought conditions. (Weeks & Strangland, '71)
- * The GSD would pump 7.2 billion gallons of well water annually. (Wis. DNR Informational Session, Jan. '09)

Fish & Wildlife

- * "... a loss of baseflow may harm fisheries or wildlife habitat." (Wis DNR, '97)

- * Ten protected endangered wildlife species; including the bald eagle, slender glass lizard, wood turtle, & karner blue butterfly, live in Saratoga. (Wis. DNR Natural Heritage Inventory database)

Health

- * Dairy CAFO operations increase community exposure to agents with known human health effects . . . airborne particulate matter are statistically elevated up to 3 miles from CAFO dairy operations. (National Institute of Health)
- * “. . . fecal coliform bacteria in wells can cause severe illness or death.” (Sierra Club, Wis. John Muir Chapter)
- * High nitrate levels in well waters, when mixed into infant formula, have been associated with blue-baby syndrome (a potentially fatal blood disorder) in infants under 6 months of age. (U.S. EPA, '98)
- * There are over 150 pathogens in manure that could impact human health. (Kaufman, '00)
- * “. . . up to 400 separate volatile compounds are generated by CAFOs.” (American Public Health Association)
- * The American Public Health Association urged federal, state, and local governments and health agencies to impose a moratorium on new CAFOs until additional scientific data on the attendant risks to public health have been collected and uncertainties resolved.

CAFO Workers

- * Asthma, bronchitis, and organic dust toxic syndrome can be as high as 30% in CAFO workers. (Herrigan, Lawrence, & Walker, '02)

Antibiotics

- * Most of the CAFOs problems are caused by their excessive size and crowded conditions. They are not as efficient as they seem, . . . Cattle are healthiest when on a grass and forage diet. When on a corn-fed diet, they end up sick, necessitating the need for antibiotics. (Union of Concerned Scientists, '08)
- * According to John Hopkins researchers, inhalation of airborne bacteria from CAFOs presents another potential exposure pathway for transferring antibiotic-resistant bacteria from animals to humans.

Vegetation

- * The removal of natural or forested vegetation can open up the soil to wind & water erosion, with pollutants bonding to the eroded soils, and ending up in watersheds, polluting the air and also surface waters. (EPA, '01)

Property Values

- * Living near a CAFO has an impact on property values. In Nebraska and Washington as much as a 50% decrease. (Tax Protest Project)

Manure

- * Overapplication of animal wastes or application of animal wastes to saturated soils can also cause contaminants to move into receiving waters through runoff and to leach through permeable soils to vulnerable aquifers. (Westerman, '95)

- * Applying animal manure to the ground near wells doubles the likelihood that nitrate levels in the well will be unhealthy. (EPA, '98)

Odor & Other Problems

- * CAFO odors can be smelled from as much as 5 or 6 miles away. (State Environmental Resource Center, '04)
- * Increased levels of mosquitoes, house flies, stable flies, and rats are commonplace around CAFOs. (Hribar, '10)

Animal Treatment

- * Crowded, dirty conditions of animals confined to small areas & never allowed out on pasture is inhumane & causes needless stress & suffering by the animals. (Pew Commission, '08)

Sewage Lagoon

- * "... tanks constructed of concrete or steel are not leak-proof. Concrete tanks are subject to cracks. Metal tanks are subject to corrosion. (Texas Agric. Extension, '12)

Siting Law

- * Wis. Assembly Bill 868 (2003) prohibits a town from prohibiting a CAFO from being sited unless the site is located in a zoning district that is not agricultural.

Courts

- * Thus far, the courts have upheld the rights of local communities to pass regulations more stringent than federal & state laws, when clearly justified for the protection of public health. (Ikerd, '07)

CSD--Armenia CAFO

- * Nitrate-N concentrations over 30 ppm were frequently detected in wells downgradient several miles of center-pivot irrigation fields. (Arntsen, '93)
- * Groundwater monitoring wells were installed & monitored by CSD since Jan., '08, apparently without reporting to the DNR . . . increasing contaminant concentration trends signifying a contaminant release were apparently not reported to the DNR. (Wade, '12)
- * The CSD is not in conformance with the spray irrigation requirements of NR214.
- * Excessive accumulation of phosphorus in CSD waste application fields appears to be a result of over-application of waste nutrients & poses a risk to Lake Petenwell due to eutrophication impacts (Wade, '12)
- * Recommendation--The manure basin should be drained & inspected & a remedial lining plan implemented. (Last 3-- Wade, 9-21-12)