

The Williams County Alliance was formed in response to the possibility of a multi-million laying hen facility locating in Williams County. This group is dedicated to preserving the quality of life and promoting a sustainable future for our county.

The impact of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) upon communities in Ohio has left citizens frustrated with the current permitting process. Concerns regarding quality of life issues, depreciation of property values and health risks to nearby residents and CAFO workers from emissions are not addressed in the Ohio Department of Agriculture permitting system. The health and welfare of a community should be a primary concern in any regulatory process.

To better inform citizens of Northwest Ohio, we would appreciate your input on these questions:

1. Do you oppose locating a multi-million laying hen operation in Williams County?
YES _____ NO _____

***Based on the information that I have received at this point, there are still too many unanswered questions regarding the quality of life, the risk to the water table, and where it might be located in the county. I continue to support agriculture as the number 1 industry in the state, but there has to be better and more inclusive discussions with all parties involved regarding this important issue.

2. Would you support a statewide moratorium, as proposed in SB230, on the approval of any new concentrated animal feeding operations?
YES _____ NO _____

***I would support a local moratorium, but there are areas in the state that are more conducive to this kind of operation.

3. Should permitted CAFOs, operations of 1000 animal units or more, be regulated as industry?
YES _____ NO _____

***I need more information before I can answer this question. I need to know what kind of regulations apply and where the line for numbers should be drawn if it were to be treated as an industry.

4. Should issues, such as quality of life, odors, effects on local infrastructure and depreciation of property values be addressed in the permitting system?
YES _____ NO _____

Please respond by Thursday, April 27, 2006. Your response or lack of a response will be posted on the Williams County Alliance website and in a press release. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this very important issue.

