

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 _____

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

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

Exceptions for me are family operations, already in existence, where the family lives on said properties; and County and State fairs where, for their duration, more animals are housed for exhibitions. I don't want to lump legitimate family operations with the corporate entities who are our biggest polluters. Another problem, with CAFOs the penalties sometimes are less costly than putting in the proper manure lagoons. I don't like lagoons anyway, we should require digesters.

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 _____

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Health Departments, and Township Trustees should all have a legitimate approval voice in placement. As I understand current law, Health Departments can express a concern. Also, **ALL OPERATIONS OF BEEF, DAIRY, AND SWINE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO INSTALL DIGESTERS.** Digesters are tanks that all manure is placed in, creating electricity from the methane collected from the manure. This can power the lights, milking machines, etc., while totally eliminating the odors from pits, and eliminating the need to spread the manure on our soil. This is the law in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and has worked for the local citizens in eliminating ecological harm, while allowing for the growth of the agricultural businesses. I'm

still opposed to mega-chicken farms in our state but feel that with proper requirements, cattle and hogs can be regulated in a way that allows farmers to make a living, while also supplying our population with the food it needs, at a price it can afford. I will promote the use of these new technologies for the betterment of agriculture and the consumer.

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.

Completed surveys may be returned to: wmscoa@yahoo.com