

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 experience of Ohio and other states with such operations, I am concerned about the health of the people (workers and nearby residents) and the risks to the environment.

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

I have not yet read this legislation, but the concept of a moratorium is a wise one in light of the call for a national moratorium on any new CAFO's by the American Public Health Association to protect public health.

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

Industrial sized livestock operations have tremendous potential for environmental and public health harm and as such require some level of regulation as any other large-scale business.

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 _____

And probably within any regulations that are instituted.

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.

