



PHONE (419) 354-9128
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, COURTHOUSE SQUARE
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO 43402

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 30, 2004

RECEIVED

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Fred L. Dailey
Director, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture
8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

WOOD COUNTY ENGINEER
By *EW*

RE: Proposed dairy operation, Section 31, Portage Township, Wood County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Dailey:

This letter is being drafted to express public health and safety concerns, primarily, flooding concerns, regarding a dairy operation proposed for the above noted location in Wood County, Ohio.

Wood County's physical landscape is characterized by extremely flat topography. There is only 5 to 10 feet of fall per mile along throughout the boundaries of the County. From a geophysical standpoint, Wood County is composed of limestone bedrock and tight, highly compacted clay soils. The flat topography of Wood County coupled with the abundance of poorly drained clay soils that rest upon shallow limestone bedrock work to create a unique and difficult flood hazard situation. While flood events in Wood County lack the speed and volume of flash flood events in other Ohio Counties, Wood County's flood events are nonetheless equally dangerous in terms of damage to infrastructure and buildings. When a flood event occurs in Wood County, floodwaters spread out over a wide geographic area causing problems for home and business owners. One of the most serious problems in a Wood County flood event is the contamination of private drinking water wells and the overflow of untreated waste from home sewage disposal systems.

All of these above described factors lead to general concern about the proposed dairy operation in Portage Township. Portage Township is one of Wood County's most floodplain prone Townships. The location of the proposed dairy operation is within the 100 year floodplain of Rocky Ford Creek, and the proposed site of the dairy operation, as well as immediate surrounding areas are often inundated with standing water several

November 30, 2004

Letter to ODA

Page 2

times a year after a heavy rainfall or snowmelt event. The location of a manure storage lagoon for the dairy operation is cause for concern due the increased potential of runoff during a flood event given the lagoon's proximity to the 100-year floodplain of Rocky Ford Creek. Even with F.E.M.A. flood proofing methods of construction that the lagoon and other buildings at the site will need to be constructed to, there is still an increased chance of contamination due to the floodplain.

Another issue of concern regarding this dairy operation in relation to floodplain problems is the issue of manure disposal. As noted above, Portage Township is one of Wood County's most floodplain prone Townships. Not only is there severe floodplain at the site of the proposed dairy operation, the floodplains continue throughout the Township. It was my understanding that manure was not allowed to be disposed of in a 100-year floodplain area. Since the majority of Portage Township lies within a 100-year floodplain, it may become quite difficult to dispose of manure in the manner prescribed by the Ohio Department Of Agriculture.

In closing, I would like to once again stress that the 100 year floodplain of Rocky Ford Creek at the site of this proposed dairy facility is cause for public health and safety concerns. The risk of run off and contamination into surrounding residences and watersheds will be increased significantly due to the floodplains in the area. There is also considerable concern regarding the disposal of manure generated from the dairy operation into the surrounding Township floodplain area. I urge you to consider these floodplain issues strongly for they have the potential to generate a large array of public health problems. I also urge you to consider not locating a dairy operation at the subject location. I have attached a map to this letter that clearly depicts the whole array of floodplain areas in Portage Township. Please review this map, and consider the issue of floodplains. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact my Office.

Sincerely,


Dave Steiner

Director

Wood County Planning Commission

cc: Large Livestock Environmental Permitting Office
Tony Allion, Wood County Engineer ✓