

From: James D. Simpson [mailto:simpsonj@centurytel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Reg-Comment
Subject: Buffalo River Moratorium

As a fourth-generation farmer in Arkansas, it concerns me to see the future of any farming enterprise threatened – especially for invalid reasons. As a whole, Arkansas farmers have been, and will continue to be good stewards of the land we make a living from and protect in order to pass it and our occupation on to the next generation. The C&H Hog Farm is no exception. They have been labeled a “factory farm” because of the size of their operation, when it is truly still a “family farm”. I have experienced and observed farming operations forced to expand because of rising costs and decreasing returns in order to maintain a sustainable operation. C&H faced that situation, did everything right, got all the required permits, built according to professionally engineered specifications, and truth be known – probably have a more environmentally-friendly operation than before. And there was not a problem before! Now, emotionally-charged knee-jerk reactions from uninformed outside parties who know nothing (and don’t care) about the science have ADEQ and the P&C Commission backed into a corner, ready to consider a third-party rule making proposal from an attorney representing environmental interests! A University of Arkansas research team is studying the impact of the hog farm in the Buffalo River Watershed, using money Gov. Mike Beebe put behind their efforts. The research being performed at the C&H Hog Farm by the Big Creek Research Team is the most extensive performed on any farm in Arkansas and likely the country. Getting ahead of this effort before the first results come in is irresponsible and does not speak well of the agency’s ability to do what is right. It is a solution looking for a problem. If there is a problem found, apply the appropriate solutions. Please, let the science work and make informed decisions based on that, not emotion.

Sincerely,

James D. Simpson