

Harlie Treat  
437 Daniel Hill Road  
Leslie, AR 72645  
(home) 870-447-2960 (cell) 870-504-0448  
[hrtreat@ozarkisp.net](mailto:hrtreat@ozarkisp.net)

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Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission  
101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 205  
Little Rock, AR 72201

To whom it may concern,

I read with much concern about the attacks on the family farmers who opened that new hog farm in Newton County. Those families have jumped through hoops to ensure compliance with all the environmental and regulatory requirements of the state and federal government.

I know that Mike Masteron keeps referring to this as a 'factory farm' because the families involved dared to enlarge the size of their farm. But there are three families that make up that hog farm, all cousins.

We have fewer hogs in the watershed than any time since it became a national river. Now in 2014 the PC&E Commission is choosing to put the clamps on any more hogs on the Buffalo? If hogs are a threat to contaminate the river, why isn't it already contaminated? And how do you think the Buffalo River has stayed so clean and perfect? Well, it's the work of those family farms in the area that have kept it in such good condition!!

From my standpoint, it looks like the Commission has heard one too many complaints from those who are against that farm and have decided they will not allow any further farm feeding operations in the Buffalo River watershed.

Here's a question for you: Are they objecting because there is evidence of wrongdoing by the hog farm? If so, someone needs to let the general public know. From what I understand, though, there have been no environmental violations. Why would the PC&E Commission restrict the next person who wants to use his land to make a living if they meet the state's environmental standards?

The PC&E Commission needs to do what is right for Arkansas, and that is to go by the laws that we already have in place. Our farmers have taken care of the Buffalo by following those laws, and it has worked so far!

Sincerely,

  
Harlie Treat