

From: Julia Vollman [mailto:juliavollman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 12:11 AM
To: Reg-Comment
Subject: Amending Regulations 5 & 6 To Prevent Future CAFOs

Commission Members,

I am writing in support of amending regulations 5 and 6 to prevent future CAFOs. Areas in proximity to the Ozark National Forest and Buffalo National River are not appropriate for factory farming. The reasons for a ban in this area are multifarious, but most importantly the factories could have severely detrimental impacts on the environment, public health, and an important sector of the Arkansas economy.

The geological features of this region are not conducive to large pools of hog waste. The karst limestone of the Buffalo National Watershed is known to be porous and any seepage of waste will have deleterious effects on water quality, therefore; plant, animal, and human life are at risk. Any pathogens released into the water system would quickly spread throughout the region, as the wells, streams, springs, and tributaries in connection with the Buffalo River would all be affected along with all wildlife and human life who rely on this resource. Additionally, over the past several months and years, there have been several catastrophic weather events. Severe storms, floods, and tornadoes which the region is prone to, exacerbate the likelihood that there could be a widespread contamination of the waters of this region due to failures in hog waste containment. Rather than allowing more hog farms here, I believe we should concentrate our efforts on ensuring that the hog farms already present do not pose a threat to the environmental quality of important natural resources.

The Buffalo National River is critical to Arkansas's tourism industry. In my own personal experience, nearly everyone I've met who've told me they've visited Arkansas, have come to enjoy fishing, kayaking, canoeing, climbing, or hiking. These activities are not enjoyable when the fish and animals have been poisoned by e.coli or when the water and air are known to be polluted. Tourists will not come to the Ozarks. If they do not come to the Ozarks, they may not wish to go anywhere else in Arkansas either. If Arkansas is known as a state where pollution is rife, tourists may not care to visit, for example, the Ouachitas, either, due to uncertainty over how well pollution is controlled in Arkansas as a whole. This industry accounts for millions of dollars and its health is important to the economy and national image of Arkansas. This state is known for its natural beauty and as a vacation destination for those interested in outdoor recreational activities, sports which are seeing a rise in popularity. I believe this economy should be protected from the threats posed by Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

I hope you will consider my thoughts and ban any new CAFOs.

Respectfully,

Julia Vollman