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Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 11:09 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Why factory farming is bad for us

Dear sirs: We are living in literal "Hell" here in the Yakima Valley, Washington State, where there are over 72 unregulated, factory farms, feedlots and dairies. We are the county where "Mad Cow" case was discovered. We feel less safe than ever over the safety of our food, air and water. We know testing is poor and very little for "Mad Cow." Dairies have made it legal to bury their dead cows near wells. There is no enforcement from EPA (3% enforcement nationally) or any other government agency. They all turn a blind eye because the laws have been written to protect the polluters. NPDS permits are a joke. They mean nothing. In Yakima County there is no enforcement on wetlands near residences, nowhere. The dairies have moved here from California because they boast publicly that there is no enforcement in Yakima County. The Outlook School well was found contaminated. The kids and staff were drinking bad water. No attempt was made to find polluter. Many of us have contaminated wells with the burden of digging a deeper well left on individual citizens. Eventually, our whole aquifer will be polluted. The dairies will just move to another poor place where they can rape another community. All this factory farming is supported by we, the taxpayers! Stop funding factory farms of all types! The small sustainable farmers should be supported.

My friend had his air filter tested inside his house. It had 6,000 parts per million of fecal coliform in his house. How would you like to have your children and grandchildren breathing diseased air every day? Yakima County has the highest diareha and asthma rate in the state. CAFOs are destroying America. You are government people hired by Americans to protect Americans not just corporate America. Next time you take a breathe of fresh air, think of us in Yakima County, who have no fresh air to breathe.

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