

Hi everyone-

I wanted to update everyone on a conversation I had this afternoon with Paul Daigle, Marathon County Conservationist. Bob had a few questions that I threw Paul's way and I wanted to share those answers.

1. John Sweeney mentioned there is an organization that has the amount of registered cattle in an area. Yes, this does exist, but it is not public record. We cannot access that information.
2. Is there something on the books that determines when a farmer needs a manure storage facility? For example, so many head of cows, or cubic feet of manure. No. Farmers should be following State Standards (on manure spreading). If they don't have the land capacity to spread, or have to spread during winter (no storage capacity), they should be investing in a facility. But nothing is requiring them to build a facility.
 - a. As Oneida County stands right now, a farmer can build any type of "structure" to hold manure. And that structure can be located within a water quality management area. If we pass an ordinance, the farmer will need to get a permit, which means the County has oversight of that facility.
3. If we establish an ordinance, any new manure facility will need to get a permit. Even one over 500 head of cattle (where a CAFO designation begins). DNR will regulate the CAFO (County would regulate anything smaller), but the County will have permitted it, and in Paul's county, it allows a close working relationship with the DNR.
4. If we do not pass an ordinance, DNR would regulate the 4 prohibitions listed on page 28-10 of our ordinance and CAFO's. L&W could work with a farmer that is breaking the law, but County will have no oversight and no regulatory power.
5. Can we put a minimum animal unit on our ordinance? For ex., have our ordinance only apply to those farms with over 100 animal units. Paul strongly recommended against this angle. He told me he has been in discussion groups that have expressed the need for regulatory consistency across small and large farms. Also, Paul has seen issues with small producers. So by limiting our ordinance, we could be allowing the very thing we want to prevent.
6. Lastly, Paul was asked to go over our ordinance (by Mr. Sweeney) and made mention of those areas that he thought exceeded NR151. Paul also shared those areas with me. I have highlighted those sections, and included some notes. I will not have time to research and list all of these sections in a document for the public hearing (and would feel uncomfortable in doing so), but will be able to address the setbacks in a document by tomorrow's meeting (those things that I know are in or out of State Statute). I wanted the group to know of these "pinch points" before tomorrow's hearing.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele".

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