

Sept. 30, 2022

Dear WA State Dept. of Ecology,

Thank you for including proximity to agriculture as a risk factor for health impacts on overburdened communities.

Remember that there is a wide range of impacts from different types of agriculture. It would be a mistake to paint all forms of agriculture with the same brush. Within Yakima County, according to research conducted by the Friends of Toppenish Creek, air ammonia levels were 63 times higher at a Lower Yakima Valley (LYV) site near concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) compared to an Upper Yakima Valley (UYV) site about sixty miles distant from CAFOs.

Remember that emissions from some aspects of CAFO operations are more serious than others, as we will describe in future comments.

Below is a 2015 listing of research that documents the adverse health impacts from CAFOs.

Sincerely,

Jean Mendoza

Executive Director, Friends of Toppenish Creek

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