



Sept. 11, 2016

Chris Spitters, MD
Public Health Officer
Yakima Health District
1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive
Union Gap, WA 98903

Dear Dr. Spitters:

This is a request for the best available recommendations from the Yakima Health District regarding a public health problem in rural communities.

In spite of the fact that agricultural experts from the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service advise against the practice, a significant number of dairymen in the state, or at the very least Yakima County, apply manure to the land by spraying into the air during high winds, burn bans and inversions.

In 2013 citizens from Yakima County asked the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) to ban manure application under these conditions. YRCAA regulations require consultation with public health experts when evaluating proposed policy changes but the agency only consulted with experts in agriculture during this process. On other occasions YRCAA has repeatedly stated that, "Substantial adverse effect on public health should be determined by a person with public health expertise." (YRCAA Concise Explanatory Statement, 2010, Attached). However, YRCAA has been unable or unwilling to engage experts from public health.

At this late date the Friends of Toppenish Creek ask for your expert opinion on when and under what conditions it is safe to apply manures, especially aerosolized manure, to cropland when human and animal exposures and health risks are taken into consideration.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jean Mendoza

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Executive Director
Friends of Toppenish Creek
3142 Signal Peak Road
White Swan, WA 98952