

From the April 13, 2025 YRCAA Board Minutes:

#### **9. Other Business**

Jones expressed his belief the Yakima Valley is suffering economic stress and suggested the Friends of Toppenish Creek (FoTC) and others have been successful in closing two of the legacy dairies in the Valley. He added the combined income for the two dairies was close to \$90 million per year and that studies show dollars from dairy operations circulate through the local economy seven times—representing up to \$600 million in economic activity in the Valley. Jones noted the closure of the dairies in question resulted in the loss of 170 jobs with no means to replace them and stated many of the employees laid off had worked at these operations for ten to thirty years with the income used to support their families, the community, and pay the tuition for their children to attend college.

Jones explained a number of businesses provided services to the shuttered dairies and these will also have to reduce personnel as a result of the closures. Jones reminded the Board the FoTC and others have repeatedly requested the Agency pay more attention to the overburdened and underserved members of the community and suggested they have served to create these overburdened and underserved groups.

McKinney concurred, adding it has been disheartening to see what has taken place and suggesting the long-term impact will be devastating. She stated the continued targeting of the agricultural community in the county is contemptible.