

Rebuttal of Allegations by YRCAA Board Members Steven Jones and Amanda McKinney at the April 2025 YRCAA Board Meeting.

If an industry cannot survive while taking unlimited amounts of groundwater from falling aquifers in a semi-arid area where there is never enough water, where others must pay for water rights and fight for water, then perhaps that industry has significant problems in the market place.¹

If the United States government spent as much money promoting radishes as the government spends promoting dairy products, the Yakima Valley would be the radish capital of the world.²

FOTC does not dispute most of Dr. Jones's statements. FOTC submits that there are additional reasons for Lower Yakima Valley Dairy problems:

- The market for dairy peaked in 2015 and has not rebounded to previous levels.
- U.S. dairies over-produce and this leads to low prices and low return on investments.
- There is significant competition for dairy markets worldwide. Trade issues with China and other countries do not help.
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, including dairies, contribute significantly to global warming and the world has good reasons to impose restrictions on emission of greenhouse gasses. Required improvements cost money.
- Washington State has spent millions of dollars over decades to address groundwater pollution from dairies. Taxpayers spent \$2.3 million for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area and participants spent thousands of dollars and donated thousands of hours of time to this project. The LYV GWMA Implementation Team spends hundreds of thousands every year. Taxpayers spend hundreds of thousands to provide safe drinking water for Mabton. Those costs will continue into the future. Taxpayers have good reasons to expect cooperation from dairies as we try to protect Washington waters.
- Children in the Yakima Valley pay a high price with impaired breathing due to CAFO air pollution.³ Parents are justified in pushing back.

¹ Journal of Dairy Science. Invited review: Sustainability of the US dairy industry. [Invited review: Sustainability of the US dairy industry](#)

² Sierra Club. CAFO Subsidies: Federal Support for the U.S. Dairy Industry. [SClub Fact Sheet Dairy SubsidiesCVreview III .pdf](#)

³ University of Washington. Industrial Animal Agriculture in the Yakima Valley, Air Pollution, and Pediatric Asthma Morbidity. [Industrial Animal Agriculture in the Yakima Valley, Air Pollution, and Pediatric Asthma Morbidity](#)