

Mr. Tom Cajka; Mr. Stephen Henrichsen  
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Re: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group

Dear Mr. Tom Cajka and Mr. Stephen Henrichsen,

I would like to reiterate my remarks Thursday 27 July, to the CAFO Working Group public hearing at Scott Middle School (2200 Pine Lake Road) in Lincoln. Having attended and watched one of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group sessions, I was extremely upset to see that you have been using the University of Nebraska-Lincoln "odor footprint tool" incorrectly.

1) Were you aware that land topography is a big factor in how far odor travels and where it travels? This issue of topography having a big role is important because topography is not built into the UNL odor footprint tool. It seems you were making no effort to correct for topography at the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group session I attended. In the case of the Randy Essink CAFO, the CAFO will sit on a hill so the odor is going to travel farther than predicted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln "odor footprint tool", so this does matter. Was this clearly made known to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group?

2) Were you aware that the annual removal of manure and other waste from a poultry CAFO (about 4000 to 5000 tons, in the case of the Randy Essink CAFO) or any other "high risk times" are not included in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln odor footprint tool? During the operations to remove manure and waste (projected to take about 10 days in the case of the Randy Essink operation, because there are only so many 15 ton trucks one can get on to the property to remove manure in a day), the odor footprint will be about 4 miles in radius and includes not only odor but dust as well. The fact that extreme events are not included in the odor footprint tool means that extreme weather events are also not included in the UNL odor footprint tool. There are times in Nebraska when the wind is known to blow with some vigor. Was all of this clearly made known to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group?

3) Were you aware that there is no scientific basis for choosing 94% odor free as a metric in the UNL odor footprint tool? What is that 94% odor free does not mean a bad odor 22 days of the year (6% of the year), because the odor footprint is calculated in hours. So, this choice of "94% odor free" could just as easily mean a bad odor for 88 days at 6 hours of bad odor per day or 132 days at 4 hours of bad odor per day and this has to be added to the 10 to 14 days of the year with really bad odors when the manure and waste is being removed. Thayer County chose 96% odor free in the UNL odor footprint tool. Was all of this clearly made known to the Concentrated

Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group and does the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group understand this point?

4) Did you make any effort to make known to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group that about 1/20 people, with a heightened sense of smell, are not represented by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln odor footprint tool?

Please note that studies show that if people detect bad odors, they change their behavior. This is not a situation where “live with it” seems to apply. Had you made even a little effort, I am sure that Prof. Rick Stowell of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln would have been very forthcoming and made available suitable explanations as to the limitations of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln "odor footprint tool", when he spoke to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Working Group to explain the "odor footprint tool". Prof. Rick Stowell of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been very generous with his time and seems very willing to continue act as a true servant to the public. It is very distressing to see University of Nebraska-Lincoln "odor footprint tool" used so very inappropriately by Lincoln Premium Poultry and also by the Lancaster Co. Planning Department. In your approach to designing recommendations on the placement and regulations governing CAFOS, you are not following the science, rather you are treating the rural residents of Lancaster Co. very badly and not serving the greater good of the county.

Sincerely,



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cc. Deb Schorr (District 3); dschorr@lancaster.ne.gov