

A large CAFO, (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) applied last March to construct a 4000 cow milking operation in the township of Little Black, Taylor County. The section it is to be built in is the start of the head waters of the Eau Pleine water shed. It is a tributary of the [Wisconsin River](#) as the Big Eau Pleine River originates in southern [Taylor County](#) near [Stetsonville](#) and flows into [Marathon County](#). Section 26 is located about 1 1/2 miles south of Stetsonville and 1 1/2 from highway 13.

North Breeze CAFO is not only locating at the headwaters of the Big Eau Pleine, but it will be drawing from the ground water up to 200,000 gallons of water from the aquifer. Like much of this area of the state the aquifer is located between 60 and 120 feet to crystalline rock.

The citizens and the township are extremely concerned as to the potential damage the CAFO will do not only to the aquifer with limited amounts of water, but to the potential contamination of the aquifer and surface water from the large amount of manure expected to be generated. The waste created will be larger than that created by the city of Wausau and near what the city of La Crosse produces. Considerable amounts of this will be land spread in the Eau Pleine watershed.

In the original application the CAFO utilized very optimistic crop yields, approximately 40-50% over what the county typically averages. This would allow nutrient loading of Nitrogen and Phosphorus at 80-90% over what crops would remove from the soil. This is in addition to the starter fertilizer that is allowed and the "usual" excess allowance of 15% accorded by the 590 standard. In addition the WDNR is allowing the Nutrient Management plan to use manure samples originating from another CAFO owned by the investment group that is located in another part of the state. The other CAFO is does not handle the manure in a similar manner that is proposed for the North Breeze CAFO. Using these numbers will allow the CAFO to spread even more manure on the land.

In May of 2010 a review of the Livestock Siting Legislation is schedule to be completed. The November meeting of the DATCP board has scheduled this issue to be discussed. No doubt a committee will be formed to correct the numerous faults in it. It would behoove your organization to contact your legislators about this issue. We have received luke warm response from legislators, but enough voices can influence some significant change in this legislation. The legislation was first past in 2004 and the authority for it ATCP 51 was released in 2006. It has been mentioned that there is a goal of having 50 CAFOs being built in Northern Wisconsin.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Neil Micke
Planning Committee
Town of Little Black