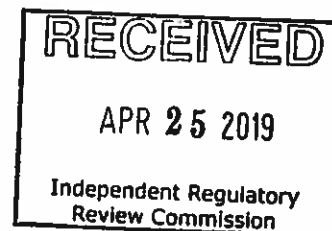


3221

Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)(correction to Table in § 91.22(a) published April 6, 2019; 49 Pa.B. 1665)



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)(correction to Table in § 91.22(a) published April 6, 2019; 49 Pa.B. 1665).

Commenter Information:

Justin Risser
Meadow Vista Dairy, LLC (justin.risser@gmail.com)
166 Risser Road
Bainbridge, PA 17502 US

Comments entered:

To the Department of Environmental Protection:

In response to the laws being pushed through Congress to increase regulatory fees on animal operators:

As a 4th generation dairy farmer, times are tough and the past 4 years have been extremely tough. We milk 850 cows on our dairy in NW Lancaster County and we hope to continue to farm into the future. Over the last 40 months, we only had a handful of months of positive cash flow. Although we have refinanced, rebid our feeding program and added cows, the debt remains there to be settled with the upcoming market deficiency that should bolster prices.

Increasing regulatory fees for animal operators at this time (especially dairy) would be kick to us while we are down. So many factors are out of our control such as weather, markets, labor and immigration policies set by Washington, and finally local and state regulations. As a farmer who desires to see agriculture continue to thrive in PA for its citizens to have fresh, local food at their disposal, we need to support and prop up our farmers in times such as these, not legislate against them to increase their cost of production!

Thank you for considering my thoughts. We continue to take a day at a time in dairy. We have faith in a refined industry such as a God who refines us.

Justin Risser
Meadow Vista Dairy, LLC

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
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