

Stephen Hoffman

#3227

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 4:05 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:

Tim Stoner
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Comments entered:

I own and operate a 650 cow dairy with my brother and four cousins in Franklin County. Please reconsider the proposed CAFO fee increase. The past four years have been a financial disaster for many dairy farms in PA, many strong dairy families have been forced to sell out. The dairy industry in PA, once one the strongest in the nation, is declining while dairy production in other states continues to grow. There are many reasons for the decline, but the main reason is PA dairy farm's cost of production is not competitive with other states including NY. The high cost of regulations and property taxes in PA are a major reason why we can't compete with other states. Further increases in these fees will only hasten the decline of the agricultural industry in PA.

My farm has made many efforts and investments to improve water quality and environmental stewardship on our property. We are 100% no-till, have planted riparian buffers along all streams on our farm, and put highly erodible soil in the CREP program. It seems to me that a 50 acre field of alfalfa is considerably better for water quality than 50 acres of blacktop?

If you want agriculture to survive in PA, you must vote against these fee increases.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tim Stoner

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IRRC
2019 MAY 10 A 8:47

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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