

INPUT FROM GEORGE BUSSEY (9-28-17)

I will be out of town and unable to attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
My input, in brief, is as follows.

It is clear to me from the public input that most people want Ashland County to be protected from the potential intrusion of a large CAFO.

It is reasonable to put in place one or more ordinances which will both respect the public in general and farmers in particular.

I propose that Ashland County adopt an Ashland County Operations Ordinance by incorporating two of the suggestions we've discussed as modifications of the Bayfield County Operations Ordinance.

The first of those two suggestions is Todd Berweger's idea that a potential CAFO operator ought to have a good track record. So that might mean something like 5 to 10 years of prior smaller scale operations with no uncured violations of agricultural regulations and ordinances.

The second of those suggestions was mine; that the ordinance apply only after a defined amount growth of an operation, rather than after a specific size limit. So that might mean that the Ashland Operations Ordinance would apply only after an operation has INCREASED in size by more than 1,000 animal units from the date of the adoption of the ordinance. This is intended to ease any immediate impact on existing Ashland County farms.

The detail nature of such an operations ordinance empowers our elected officials (County Board and officers of the County) to execute judgment if the nature of a proposed operation is questionable. Further, the detail nature of such an operations ordinance ensures that any operation that complies with its requirements will very likely to be a safe and reasonable operation.

These are my conclusions based on all of the input and discussion of our prior meetings.

Hoping the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting is productive,

Kind regards,

George B.

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