



**Lower Yakima valley nitrate study**  
**Smeenk Brothers Dairy** to: R10YVNitrate

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- The release of the report and related legal action has created much anxiety in the dairy community greatly hampering collaborative efforts such as the Ground Water Management process in Yakima. (i.e. GWMA).
- Dairy farms are the only agricultural sector where fertilizer application is regulated (not tree-fruit, beef cattle, wheat, potatoes, etc.)
- Dairy farmers adhere to science-based NRCS standards via farm plans that are routinely inspected by WSDA. Why is EPA now adding a second contradictory set of standards on top of federal USDA guidelines, that have been in place for years.
- Implementing and complying with these standards has been extremely costly and time consuming, but the industry has complied with those responsibilities.
- The comment period should be extended to allow for a more thorough review by a land grant university or other experts.
- Reliable information and science is essential in any endeavor, short cuts in the science process by EPA will not maintain integrity or trust in agency credibility.
- As a small dairy (less than 900 cows) it cost us thousands of dollars to adhere to gov't regulations but that's a price we are willing to pay to be able to do what we love and that's being a dairy farmer however its getting harder and harder to stay in business sometimes we wonder if its worth it. I fill that we are the true stewards of the land were the ones that own it and take care of it without it we couldn't survive.
- If you truly want to tackle this problem of nitrates we need to work together. Lawsuits are just going to make dairymen spend their time and money defending them not fixing anything.