



**Comments on EPA Nitrate Study**  
**Wangemann, Stephen** to: R10YVNitrate

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To: R10YVNitrate@EPA

History: This message has been forwarded.

The USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and/or the Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been preparing Nutrient Management Plans and providing design standards and cost share funds for Agricultural Waste Lagoons for over thirty years. While working as a USDA-District Conservationist in Northern Minnesota during the late 1980s, I assisted farmers that were participating in cost sharing through what is now called the Farm Service Agency. I do understand the potential for contamination of groundwater from uncontrolled runoff from feedlots or poorly managed nutrient and irrigation water applications on agricultural lands. Your study was welcomed in the lower Yakima valley. However, there was little discussion of the federal government's responsibility in insuring that leaching from USDA cost shared lagoons, to the extent described in your study, would not occur. In addition, are nutrient Management Plans currently being prepared sufficient in scope and technical input to reduce the potential for nutrient leaching? In other words, has the USDA-NRCS been providing effective design standards and is their staff competent enough to know how to apply them. Secondly, are the Nutrient Management Plans developed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts effective and technically sound.

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