



RE: New Fashion Pork
Sections 12 and 14 of Superior
Township, Dickinson County, Iowa

Dear Mr. Hessenius:

On December 16, 2014, the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing referencing a new swine confinement finishing facility to be located in the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 12, Superior Township in Dickinson County, Iowa. The producer was identified as New Fashion Pork. On that date, the Board of Supervisors heard comments from a representative of New Fashion Pork, L.L.P., and from some of the approximately 75 members of the public that were in attendance. Following comments, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to send a letter to the DNR asking denial the construction permit application.

On January 19, 2015, New Fashion Port formally requested that the Construction Permit for the Guge Farm, located in Section 12, Superior Township, Dickinson County, Iowa be withdrawn from the DNR's review process.

On April 3, 2017, New Fashion Pork notified Dickinson County of its plans to build three confinement buildings housing 4400 piglets under 55lbs. These three locations are in sections 14 and 12 of Superior Township in Dickinson County. After this notification, there were numerous attempts by the County and surrounding neighbors to work with New Fashion Pork on a compromise, as these sites are not ideal for these confinement buildings. New Fashion Pork turned down any suggested compromise.

On July 11, 2017, the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on an existing manure management plan from Emmet County and the added acres to the E ½ of section 12 in Superior Township of Dickinson County. The producer was again New Fashion Pork, L.L.P. New Fashion Pork is in the process of building three new confinement buildings in this same section as this letter is addressing. Incorrect information in the manure management application was reviewed and discussed to the dissatisfaction of the County and the public, with the New Fashion Pork representative basically saying those statistics were of no importance. Again, after comments from NFP and the public, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to send a letter of denial to the Department of Natural Resources. *It should be noted that some of the errors were remedied in a later submission from New Fashion Pork.

As the Department of Natural Resources is well aware, Dickinson County relies on a unique combination of industry, tourism and farming to advance our overall economic well-being. For more than a century, these economic forces have worked in concert such that today

Dickinson County is one of the most economically stable and fastest growing (by percentage) counties in Iowa.

However, as evidenced by the out-pouring of public concern over “so-called” factory farming in our county, we find conflict growing between numerous individuals and citizen groups and the farm industry over the construction and location of confinement operations. As importantly, conflict has arisen over the distribution of manure generated by these facilities. There exists a large segment of our population that is concerned about intrusion by confinement operations into the quality of life we enjoy and offer, not only to the citizens of Dickinson County, but to the hundreds of thousands of visitors we host annually.

Dickinson County has over the last several years made it abundantly clear to the Department of Natural Resources that we believe the Master Matrix does little to address our unique concerns. These include placement of the facilities, odor emissions, density of confinement facilities allowed, and manure management plans that overlap and cover by percentage an ever-growing portion of our county. Now, the producers have become clever by half, and Dickinson County faces animal confinements being built that are just under the Master Matrix regulations. This will now result in confinement buildings and manure management plans in close proximity to a cemetery, a Bed and Breakfast, a winery, small lakes, areas currently zoned as environmentally sensitive, and watershed areas where both the DNR and the County are investing tens of thousands of dollars in water quality initiatives.

We believe the number one priority of government is to protect the citizens over which they have jurisdiction. Again, we absolutely do not believe the Master Matrix takes into account the safety of our citizens, and that the Department of Natural Resources is very limited legislatively to do what they are tasked to do; that is, to protect the air, land and water that is so precious to our quality of life.

That being said, and with specificity referencing sections 12 and 14 of Superior Township in Dickinson County, the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors has determined that the manure management plan prepared for section 12 is deficient on its face, and must be disallowed.

The location of the Manure Management Plan (MMP) in Section 12 has no barrier and is adjacent to a cemetery and to Christopherson Slough, and has close proximity to Little Swan Lake. What is to prevent the introduction of manure into Christopherson Slough? This creates a great deal of concern from residents in Dickinson County, particularly around this proposed site, the population that draws its water from lake sources and those that have their local businesses in close proximity to this proposed manure management location.

The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors believes the Department of Natural Resources has the right and a duty to impose a moratorium on the construction of additional confined feeding operations (CFO's) until Master Matrix matters can be reviewed more thoroughly and appropriate action taken to amend the application process at a minimum, as follows:

- 1.) Limitation of animal density per watershed.
- 2.) More stringent process for issuing permits developed.
- 3.) Enhanced local control.
- 4.) Mandatory environmental impact statements and
- 5.) Study and technical update on the physiological toxicity effects of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) on residents in the vicinity of CFO's and manure application, particularly regarding long-term exposure.

While every county in Iowa is beautiful and environmentally sensitive, we believe that Dickinson County and the Iowa Great Lakes are a unique treasure and a resource for the entire State of Iowa to enjoy and protect. If we fail to do so now, the next generation of Iowans will surely question our wisdom in failing to act before the problem get any further out of hand. The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors respectfully implores the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to deny New Fashion Pork any building of confinements or additions to the existing manure management plans soon to be implemented in section 12 of Superior Township, Dickinson County, Iowa. We would ask the Department of Natural Resources to actively join with the residents of Dickinson County and the Citizens of the State of Iowa to effectuate change in the regulations and laws that currently govern animal confinements and the distribution of manure created thereby.

This is an issue that is not likely to abate. Please assist us in getting regulations promulgated that will benefit the residents of Dickinson County, and ultimately all of the State of Iowa.

Respectfully submitted
Dickinson County Board of Supervisors


William Leupold, Chair