



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 23, 2013

Rick Feddema
9592 Axlund Rd.
Lynden, WA 98264

Re: Site visit and inspection report

Dear Mr. Feddema:

Thank you for meeting with Jessica Kirkpatrick and me on June 7, 2013, to discuss the farm management practices on your property. I requested this inspection of your property as part of a comprehensive effort by Ecology to reduce surface water pollution associated with non-dairy livestock farms located in the Bertrand watershed. The visit included review of your property's condition and livestock management to determine compliance with the Washington State Water Pollution Control Law (RCW 90.48). The enclosed site visit inspection report summarizes my observations and provides recommended corrective actions.

As we discussed during our site visit, we are working with livestock owners where property is not covered by a dairy nutrient plan (DNP). Areas of your property that are part of a DNP are instead regulated by Washington Department of Agriculture. So the recommendations discussed in the report are primarily intended to help ensure your calf raising operation does not pollute surface or ground water.

Concerns addressed in the report include:

- 1) The solid manure pile associated with your calf operation is currently not covered. Runoff that contacts the manure pile is contaminated and drains via a catch basin to your pasture where it accumulates near a ditch. It is recommended that you install a permanent roof over the manure pile to prevent rainwater from being contaminated before discharging onto your pasture.
- 2) A berm has been installed on a portion of the southern edge of your pasture to prevent contaminated surface water from discharging into the adjacent ditch. Water ponds in the pasture behind the berm. Both discharges from that calf operation and inputs from the dairy (manure applications and pastured animals) contribute pollution into this standing water. This berm should be monitored to ensure the contaminated surface water does not overflow the berm and reach the ditch.

State law (RCW 90.48) requires that you prevent pollution generated by your activities from entering state waters. The corrective actions listed in the report are intended to help ensure your operation does not discharge pollution and complies with state law. **If you choose to implement a different set of practices to prevent pollution from discharging from your farm, I may need to monitor runoff from your property to verify that your practices effectively prevent pollution of state waters.**

Technical Resources. I strongly suggest you contact a qualified technical service provider to help you address the issues identified in this report. The Whatcom Conservation District (360-354-2035) is a source of technical assistance, or you are free to retain the services of a private consultant. It is my understanding that technical providers are currently working with the dairy Storm Haaven Dairy to update that facility's DNP.

Financial Resources for Best Management Practices. Ecology has a cost share program available to provide financial support for installation of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. Items such as exclusion fencing, roofs to cover manure storage facilities, gutters, and off stock water tanks may be eligible for cost share. Additionally, Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have other cost share programs. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this cost share program.

I want to again thank you for making the time to meet with us. Please contact me within 14 days (by August 6, 2013) to discuss your intentions regarding these recommendations. If you have any questions about this letter please do not hesitate to call me at 360-715-5220.

Sincerely,



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