

Lori Bocher, Agricultural Information Specialist  
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center  
1925 Linden Dr. West  
Madison, WI 53706

**SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

October 16, 2008

RE: Future of USDA/UW Dairy Forage Research Center Farm

Dear Ms. Bocher,

Thank you for the invitation to submit comments to the Planning Committee representing the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center (DFRC), University of Wisconsin Agricultural and Life Sciences, and 2 stakeholders (Agri-King and Crave Bros. Farm) regarding the future of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center farm at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin.

It is our understanding that the committee is at the early stages of gathering information concerning current and future research needs, current and future research capacity at the DFRC farm, and various options for housing, feeding, and milking its herd, and other related matters. One possible outcome is construction of a new dairy facility on former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands to house lactating cows and expansion of current operations.

As the committee evaluates the pros and cons of renovation of current facilities versus new construction, we would like to encourage the prioritization of certain fundamental criteria in this important decision-making process.

We believe that farm operations and research activities, including new construction and site selection, should be purposefully and specifically designed to facilitate, prioritize, and promote managed pasturing rather than perpetuate confined animal operations which are not sustainable or competitive dairy forage systems.

Managed pasturing is a superior means to protect the environment, promote animal health, and ensure a safe and healthy food supply. The environmental benefits of well managed pasturing include reduced soil erosion, better plant diversity, improved surface water and groundwater quality, superior financial performance, and enhanced aquatic and wildlife habitat.

We look forward to continued participation in this important decision-making process and ask that you keep us informed in this regard.

Sincerely,

Laura Olah, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger

Don Timmerman, Christian Mission, Park Falls, Wisconsin

Kiera Mulvey, Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition

Al Gedicks, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

Jan Conley, Executive Director, Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education,  
Duluth, Minnesota

Barbara and Andy Holtz, Holtz Farms, Friends of the Mukwonago River

Jerry Viste, Executive Director, Door County Environmental Council, Inc.

John E. Peck, Executive Director, Family Farm Defenders  
Ronnie Cummins, National Director, Organic Consumers Association  
Kaye Kiker, Citizens Task Force, York, Alabama  
Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary, Madison Audubon Society  
David L. Williams, Peregrine Forum, Madison, Wisconsin  
Cecilia Zarate-Laun, Program Director, Colombia Support Network  
Rebecca Katers, Clean Water Action Council  
Bob Burkart-Lemke, Program manager, Peace Action Wisconsin  
Shahla M. Werner, PhD, Sierra Club- John Muir Chapter  
Wayne and Kay Craig, owner/operators of The GrassWay Farm and Grassway Organics Farm Store  
John LaForge, Nukewatch  
Robert and Karen Breneman, Citizens Advisory Council, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, UW Madison  
Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund  
Marcia Halligan, Kickapoo Peace Circle  
Steven Adams, Viroqua Biodynamic Group  
Miriam Grunes, Executive Director, REAP (Research, Education, Action and Policy on) Food Group  
Jackson Tiffany, Madison Friends Meeting  
Lyndie Malan, Secretary, The Great Keppel Island Environment Group  
Chamomile Nusz, Artha Sustainable Living Center LLC  
Cindy Stimmler, Co-Chair, Wisconsin Green Party  
Hiroshi Kanno, President, Concerned Citizens of Newport  
Will Fantle & Lynn Christianson, The Cornucopia Institute  
Helen Emslander, Jump River Cheese  
Mary Ann Novascone, Women in Black – Sauk City Bridge  
Karen Schapiro, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates  
Tom Wilson, Northern Thunder  
J. Gilbert Sanchez, Executive Director, Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance  
Russ Tooley, President, Centerville Citizens for Air, River, and Environmental Solutions (C-CARES)

**Please address replies and inquiries concerning this letter to:**

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