

13 May 2024

Natural Resources Conservation Board
Agricultural Centre, 100, 54301 1 Avenue S
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4V6

RE: APPLICATION LA24002 – Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd. - SE 21-9-26 W4M

The purpose of this letter is to express our grave concern regarding the Van Huigenbos Farms' application to expand a confined feeding operation (CFO). The proposed CFO expansion plans will have a significant negative impact on the surrounding area.

The following issues are of primary concern:

1. The significant impact on the water demand on Willow Creek and on the aquifer - potentially 80,000 +/- gallons per day at anticipated capacity.
2. Contaminated above-ground water running downhill and contaminating Willow Creek.
3. Large, shallow below-ground aquifer considered to be at high risk due to a low restrictive layer below pit run and gravel bed.
4. Many of the concerned owners also have livestock that require fresh, uncontaminated water.

Other factors that must also be seriously considered:

- Increased travel with subsequent degradation of a one-entry road not suitable for heavy traffic endangers public safety.
- Increased environmental impact on the local areas affecting acreage wells (72 wells).
- The proposed operation enlargement is extremely close to a densely populated area.
- Odour concerns – close proximity to all concerned properties as well as Town of Fort Macleod.
- Dust and other airborne pollutants which increase the risk of airborne and other health concerns.

Owners: Heather and Robert Gunn

Legal Land Description: [REDACTED] SE-15-9-26 W4

- Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
- Email: [REDACTED]

In closing, the area in question will not safely accommodate an expansion as stated in the concerns noted above. It is also disturbing to note that on May 25, 2023, Van Huigenbos Farms was issued a NRCB Compliance Directive regarding the "unauthorized construction of a Manure Collection Area" which inherently shows a clear disrespect and concern on the part of Van Huigenbos Farms for the surrounding environment.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Heather and Bob Gunn
[REDACTED]