

May 4, 2024

Linda Maclean



NRCB
RECEIVED
MAY 13 2024
LETHBRIDGE
ALBERTA

Natural Resources Conservation Board
Agriculture Center 100, 5401 1 Ave S.
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 4V6

Re: Application LA24002, Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd.

Attn: Kelsey Peddle

I am writing this letter to express my concern for the application for expansion of the Confined Feedlot Operation from Van Huigenbos Farms Ltd.

My first concern is water. A huge amount of water would be required for 16,500 feeder calves when our supply of water is severely challenged by the current drought that is ongoing, and not likely to improve in the future. I'm also concerned for leaching of contaminants into aquifers, Willow Creek, and surface wells. My household water comes from a surface well, which is only about 20 feet deep. As I am only about 0.5 miles downstream of the feedlot, contamination is very possible.

My second concern is the increase in foul smell that such a large operation will generate. There have been many times that it is unpleasant to be outdoors, and those odors are only going to get worse with this large expansion. There are not many people that would willingly move close to a large feedlot, therefore, property values would fall.

Expanding a feedlot to this size in such close proximity to the Town of Fort Macleod residents and also a number of acreage residents, does not make any sense. A large confined feeding operation this close to an urban area would impact everyone's ability to enjoy the outdoors.

Sincerely,



Linda Maclean

Cc: Town of Fort Macleod
MD of Willow Creek