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OCT 05 2006

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Gary Spackman
Hearing Officer
Idaho Department of Water Resources

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

September 28, 2006

Honorable Spackman,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond and submit additional material on the Diamond A. Livestock water transfer.

Ohlensehlen #4:

According to Marv Patten, Chief of the Bureau of Dairying with Idaho Department of Agriculture, "phosphorous were established in the NRCS 1999 Nutrient Management Standard 590 as agronomic thresholds. It is a standard that basically says there is no agronomic advantage to apply more than 40 ppm phosphorous to Idaho grown crops." Who will monitor the fields where the manure (sludge) is going to be spread? The Idaho Department of Agriculture already does not have enough staff or manpower to monitor the dairy operations. Also according to Mr. Patten, 20ppm of phosphorous is the threshold for ground water. With the fields tested at 20ppm of phosphorus already, where will additional phosphorous be absorbed? Any more nutrients will seep into the groundwater or blow off site in the wind.

The map (previously submitted) that was in the Times News seems to show heavy phosphorus levels right in the area of Diamond A L. and towards Tuttle...the same direction as the flow of the aquifer. The Agricultural Research Service's N.W. Irrigation and Soils Research Lab in Kimberly, Idaho staff scientist, Dale Westermann, performed the soil tests. We have included his credentials for your information.

We disagree with Mr. Ohlensehln comments regarding "the attacking" among the citizens "lack of (their) understanding". The concerned vocal voices are coming from people that live in the country. City families aren't as aware of the direction this community is heading. This "lacking of understanding" couldn't be farther from the truth. The names submitted on September 15 of concerned citizens from the two Rosa hearings, and the Diamond A. Livestock included a large number of families that live, farm and even run livestock. They are people that have high ethics, good neighbors plus good stewards of the land. They recognize the damage that is happening in this County even at the risk of losing a relationship with their neighbor.

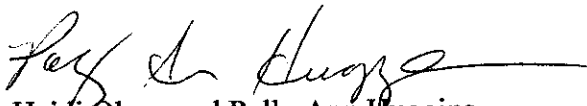
Protestant Heidi Olson born and raised on a family ranch. She has fond memories of the first 50 head of cows she bought on her 21st birthday. For over 20 years she worked for one of the largest cattle buyer's in the area. He operated 10 of thousand's head of cattle in the eight western states. Currently the Olson's pastures border Diamond A. Livestock. Because of this close proximity, there is also the possibly of Diamond A.

Livestock cattle getting exposed and become carries to the unknown diseases that survive in the manure that will be spread onto their pastures.

We ask you to consider the letter of September 15, 2006, the information provided at the hearing and all information submitted. We trust that the Honorable Monte B. Carlson, Fifth Judicial District Judge from the Idaho Supreme Court, knew what he was talking about when he made the decision that commercial business need to be develop in commercial designated areas and not on agricultural areas. This decision was made in regards to Gooding County. We would also like to point out that Diamond A, Livestock admitted that they were running the truck washout for at least 20 years without proper water rights. Water issues are currently in or about to be in several courts. What type of precedent will be set by transferring water rights from agricultural use to commercial use when not properly used for the past 20 years?

For all of these reasons, we ask you **not** to approve of the two water transfers No. 72177 and No. 72178 as applied to the Idaho Department of Water Resources by Diamond A. Livestock to convert water from agriculture into water for a proposed commercial truck washout facility in Gooding County.

Thank you,


Heidi Olson and Polly Ann Huggins

A.D. //

Feeding high phosphorous levels waste of money

For many years producers, nutritionists and other consultants have touted the use of higher levels of phosphorus to increase milk production and reproduction than were actually needed by some of the different classes of dairy animals.

A common misconception was that high levels of phosphorus improved reproductive performance and was necessary for high producing cows. Feed personnel routinely exceeded NRC recommendations; phosphorus levels in many dairy herds ranged from 0.48 percent of dry matter to 0.70 percent. Current NRC requirements range from 0.34 to 0.41 percent of dry matter depending on level of milk production.

Research has shown no reduction in milk production or in reproductive performance when phosphorus was fed at the rate of 0.33 to 0.38 percent of dry matter.

Excess phosphorus is excreted in the manure and contributes to pollution of both surface and ground water. In addition, excess phosphorus increases feed cost without providing any in-



**Nutrition
news**
David Wieland

crease in production. Phosphorus in the manure spread on cropland not utilized by crops will build up in the soil and may increase the amount of pollution in runoff.

The first step in determining phosphorus supplementation is to accurately determine the actual levels in the feedstuffs rather than relying on book values. Differences in fertilization levels, soil type, harvesting dates, water, and various other factors may influence phosphorus levels in feed.

Type of analysis may also affect the accuracy of feed analysis. Wet chemistry analysis is more accurate than the NIR test and, in addition, gives a more accurate picture of the total mineral content of the feedstuff. Book values tend to understate actual phosphorus levels.

All feedstuffs must be tested for total phosphorus content. Ruminants have the unique ability to change unavailable

phosphorus (phytate form) to an available form due to the microorganisms in the rumen.

Balancing diets for lactating dairy cattle is generally done for the top 15 percent to 20 percent of the herd. Using the same mineral supplement or ration for the mid- and lower-producing cows is a waste of phosphorus and money.

Having stricter grouping of cows, based on production levels, if possible, and utilizing different rations or mineral supplements for these groups will result in less phosphorus being used.

While most of the phosphorus in the feedstuffs may be available to the animal, a portion of it may not be absorbed by the animal. Previous NRC guidelines indicate that phosphorus is absorbed at the rate of 50 percent.

This may not be true. Recent research indicates that the actual level of absorption may be close to 70 percent. This factor would reduce the amount of phosphorus in the diet while still providing adequate phosphorus to the animal.

Balancing the diet based on

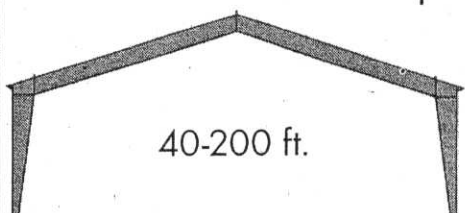
milk production, dry matter intake and body weight will give a more accurate indication of the phosphorus requirement. Knowing the actual amount of

phosphorus in the feedstuffs and using a more accurate indicator of phosphorus absorption will also reduce the amount of phosphorus supplemented.

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Soil Scientist

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Degrees Received

B.S., 1963, Colorado State University (Soils)

M.S., 1965, Oregon State University (Soils)

Ph.D., 1969, Oregon State University (Soil Fert./Chem.)

Present and Past Positions

Research Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID, 2004-present

Research Leader/Location Director, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID 1996-2004

Research Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID, 1985-1996

Soil Scientist, USDA-ARS, Kimberly, ID, 1968-1984

Assistant in Soils, Oregon State Univ., 1965-1967

Personal Research Activities

Conducts research on relationships between plant nutrient concentrations and physiological plant growth and soil processes under irrigated conditions; emphasis on nutrient cycling and availability under climatic and physiological stresses, different soil-crop management practices, and the uptake and partitioning of nutrients at different plant growth stages.

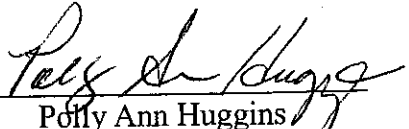
Professional Activities & Interests

Adjunct Prof., Utah State Univ., 1985-present, and Univ. Idaho, 1978-present.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY That on this 29th day of September 06, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document on the person(s) whose names and addresses appear below by the method indicated:

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