

My name is Peggy Curtis. I invested in two farms on Shelburn Dr in 1983 and 1986 respectively, directly between two proposed mega chicken factory sites. I produce many acres of hay, have raised hundreds of sheep, currently board horses, raise miniature donkeys and have called this my home for 38 years.

I support Senate Bill 583 but am concerned that it doesn't go far enough. We have little recourse to protect ourselves from large factory farms. We need help to protect communities like ours from all large animal operations not just large mega dairies. Please add an amendment that will include large factory chicken farms to the moratorium.

Foster Farms is targeting our community to build several large chicken production facilities within two miles of my home. This area is not suitable for industrial animal operations. We are concerned about both the environmental and social effects a factory chicken farm will have here.

We are concerned about:

1. The strong, year-round smell of decaying chicken manure and dead chickens from composting on site. The smell will affect the cities of Stayton and Jefferson as well as the rural areas.
2. The effect composting will have on wildlife, such as increasing the number of carrion eaters, coyotes, feral cats, seagulls etc.
3. The unknown effect that chemicals such as growth or other hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, etc. that will be dumped into the composting site, will have on wildlife, fisheries, the water table, and water runoff into the North Santiam River. This may have an effect on other areas as well because the composted manure will be moved offsite as fertilizer.
4. A mega chicken factory will require an immense amount of water that will come from wells. We don't know the effect this will have on the local water table for existing farmers with water rights.
5. The mega chicken factory will require large amounts of feed and other materials that will be shipped to the site by truck. The chickens as well as composted materials will also be shipped from the site by truck. This will increase the number of vehicles using the farm to market road. This will increase the likelihood of accidents, increase the wear and tear on the road and bridges, increase noise level, and increase traffic congestion at the bridge crossing the North Santiam in Jefferson. The last mile on the road into Jefferson is through neighborhoods with school busses, children and driveways.

6. The North Santiam River is two minutes from my home and very close to the proposed Foster Farms operation. Every summer we and many other families use the river between Stayton and Jefferson for recreation. This includes rafting, fishing, swimming, walking, and picnicking. The smell from the compost piles would be unacceptable! Truck traffic would be dangerous, especially at the Green Bridge river access.

7. I will also see a large reduction in my property value. My property is a long-term life investment. Foster Farms will be making a profit at all of our expense.

Please consider adding factory chicken farms as an amendment to SB583. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Peggy Curtis  
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