

April 8, 2019

Dear Governor Reynolds,

We, the Supervisors of Greene County, see and understand the benefits of animal agriculture of all sizes in our County and the State. We also believe the Master Matrix is working as it was designed, in that it has set consistent rules that all producers must follow across the State; however, new technology and agronomic practices have been developed since its inception that we believe should be considered. There are many animal feeding operations in Greene County large and small with more being added yearly. The farmers that own and run these operations are good people and do their best to be good neighbors.

We would ask that some of these new technologies and practices be reviewed and possibly added to the Master Matrix:

1. Electra Static fence that removes particulate matter from the air helps to reduce odor attached to the particulates.
2. Trees make a good buffer and help reduce odors from the buildings, but due to the way the Master Matrix restricts tree species and timing of their planting, producers often don't plant them. We believe fewer restrictions would encourage this practice.
3. The use of cover crops on fields where manure is applied will help to keep nutrients from leaving the fields and having them available for the next crop. Manure is an excellent fertilizer; it just requires different management than commercial fertilizer.

The Greene County Supervisors strive to do what is best for all of Greene County. Many people have concerns about animal feeding operations in the County. Livestock is an important part of the many farm operations in, and an important part of, the economy of Greene County. We do not believe there is any need for a moratorium or local control, but regulations that are the same across the State means everyone is playing by the same rules.

We feel that a blue-ribbon committee could be convened to look at the Matrix as a decision-making device; to see what can and should be updated; and to make recommendations that the Legislature can act on.

Respectfully,

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John J. Muir, Chair

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Dawn Rudolph, Supervisor

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Peter Bardole, Supervisor

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Mick Burkett, Supervisor

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Tom Contner, Supervisor

cc: Jerry Behn, State Senator  
Philip Thompson, State Representative  
ISAC Supervisor Affiliate