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More Background on Rockview Farms's Amargosa, Nevada Factory Farm Organic Dairy

"Currently the local Ponderosa dairy poses more of a hazard to human health in Amargosa Valley than the proposed Yucca mountain repository for nuclear waste bordering our valley," said Bill Barrackman, a certified organic pistachio grower located in that Amargosa Valley.

"The local Ponderosa dairy has already polluted the groundwater in Amargosa Valley, Nevada while millions in taxpayer dollars have been spent drilling monitoring wells to check for *potential* radiation pollution from the proposed Yucca mountain site for nuclear waste storage which may never be built, Barrackman added." The Amargosa Valley is in the shadow of the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear depository.

Rockview's Amargosa operation, called *Ponderosa Dairy* was indicted by a federal jury for illegally dumping nearly 2 million gallons of cattle waste in February 1998, creating a spill that snaked 18 miles across Nevada and California. "As far as I know, it's the biggest dairy waste spill in the western United States," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard J. Cutler, lead prosecutor in the case told the media elsewhere.

Who would've ever thought that you could combine the words 'environmental bad actor' and 'organic farm' in the same sentence!" Said Mark Kastel of The Cornucopia Institute.

Ponderosa faces a \$100,000 fine in Nevada, where the state Bureau of Water Pollution Control concluded the dairy broke the law by allowing the sludge to spill out of a containment pond and by failing to report the spill.

Eric R. Goedhart, Amargosa Valley, NV received warning letter for offering animals for slaughter that contained illegal drug residues. (FDA Veterinarian Regulatory Activities May/June, 2000). These violations involved illegal residues of gentamicin in cows, oxytetracycline and gentamicin in a cow, sulfadimethoxine in a dairy cow, gentamicin and penicillin in cows, and penicillin in a dairy cow.

"The facility has an extensive history of compliance issues due primarily to elevated nitrate concentration at Dairy 2 pond system" (NDEP Fact Sheet for permit NV0023027)

The Amargosa Valley Town Advisory Board and concerned residents recently protested the expansion plans of the Ponderosa Dairy in their valley, claiming the business was ruining their quality of life:

In addition to not being in compliance this office is also concerned that the operators of the Ponderosa Dairy have continued to pump ground water from unpermitted wells located upon Ponderosa Dairy for a beneficial use within the dairy after your law firm and the operator of Ponderosa Dairy were advised during the December 9, 2006, field inspection that certain wells did not have valid water rights appurtenant to them.” This a socially correct way to call a person a thief. The dairy is stealing the public’s water.