

April 25, 2007

James R. Moyer,  
Sandusky County Engineer  
100 N. Park Avenue  
Fremont, OH 43420

In re: Proposed Mega-Dairies for Sandusky County

Dear Mr. Moyer,

As you may recall, I previously wrote you on behalf of Sandusky County Citizens Protecting Our Resources, LLC concerning our request that you request a consultation pursuant to the provisions of Section 901:10-1-02(A)(7) to address infrastructure needs and financing of that infrastructure in relation to the proposed CAFO operations. We recently came across some information relative to Vreba-Hoff's conduct in Michigan that has once again raised this concern among our group.

Enclosed is a newspaper article dated April 20, 2007 from the Daily Telegram in Adrian Michigan. While I understand this article addresses gravel roads and it relates to the laws of the State of Michigan, it none-the-less brings some concerns to mind that we hope you can address.

- (1) Does our County have a similar circumstance in that we cannot halt trucking operations because of an agricultural exemption to frost law weight limits?
- (2) Do agricultural haulers in our County remain financially responsible for any damage they cause?
- (3) If so, who would be responsible for enforcing this upon the agricultural haulers, obtaining the repair estimate and collecting the funds from the hauler(s) who cause the damage?
- (4) In the event that multiple agricultural haulers cause damage, can they collectively be held financially responsible for the repairs?
- (5) If agricultural haulers in our County are not financially responsible for such road repairs, who is?
- (6) Does our County require that agricultural haulers post a bond, and if so, in what amount?
- (7) What steps can be taken to ensure that if such road damage were to occur in our County as a result of the CAFO operations, that it would not be the financial burden of the taxpayers to pay for such repairs?

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Sharon Aldrich, Secretary  
Sandusky County Citizens Protecting Our Resources, LLC  
1562 Findlay Rd.  
Woodville, OH 43469

Enc.

cc: Terry Thatcher, President, Sandusky County Commissioners (w/enc.)

**Print This Story**

# The Daily Telegram

[Print Page](#)**WEDNESDAY APRIL 25, 2007** Last modified: *Friday, April 20, 2007 10:43 PM EDT***Vreba-Hoff asked to pay \$177,000 in road repairs**

Damage to Packard Road was caused from the dairy's trucking operations in March.

By Dennis Pelham

Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — The cost of repairing three miles of gravel roads that Vreba-Hoff Dairy used to haul manure to a lagoon on Packard Road during the spring thaw is expected to be more than three times the \$55,000 bond the dairy posted in January for a haul route permit.

“Our best estimate is \$177,000,” reported Orrin Gregg, Lenawee County Road Commission managing director, to the agency's board on Friday. He distributed a copy of e-mails exchanged with a Vreba-Hoff Dairy official about the road repairs.

Damage from trucking operations during the spring thaw in March stirred a storm of complaints from local residents to the road commission and state government officials. Gregg said at the time the road commission did not have the legal power to halt the trucking operation because of an agricultural exemption to frost law weight limits. Agricultural haulers, however, remain liable for any damage they cause.

An e-mail Gregg sent Tuesday to the dairy company said the \$177,000 repair estimate would cover the cost of removing contaminated material from Dillon Highway and Packard Road, adding 7 inches of crushed limestone and applying salt brine for compaction and dust control.

“The goal is to put the roads back to a condition which existed prior to the haul route permit being issued, nothing more,” Gregg stated. “This road work will not bring the condition of the roads to a standard which would support a haul route in future years should that become necessary again.”

Cecilia Conway of Vreba-Hoff Dairy said two weeks ago that alternative systems of manure management at dairy facilities on Dillon Highway and U.S. 127 are planned that she hoped would eliminate the need to repeat the trucking operation next year.

“We hope that a similar situation would never occur again,” she said.

A response she sent Gregg on Thursday said a detailed breakdown of the road repair cost estimate is being evaluated and she could not respond in time for Friday's road commission board meeting.

“We do desire to work positively with the county, but I am sure we will have questions prior to providing a response,” she said. “As you are aware,” Conway added, “our farm is also a taxpayer of the state of Michigan and Lenawee County, and thus we do contribute to infrastructure funding as well.”

Gregg stated in his e-mail that the road damage is a direct result of Vreba-Hoff operations and Lenawee County taxpayers should not bear the cost of repairs.

“To ensure this is not a burden on the taxpayers I cannot in fairness start the repairs until the funding has been secured for the repairs needed,” he said. He requested \$122,000 in addition to the posted bond be paid to the road commission so repairs can be made this year.

-- CLOSE WINDOW--