

**P-04-536 Stop Factory Dairy Farming in Wales – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 14.10.14.**

Dear Petition Committee,

Please find enclosed our response to the letter (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September) sent to us by email on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 from the Minister for Natural Resources in the Welsh Assembly Government.

We disagree with the Minister's view that it is inappropriate to disregard the findings and conclusion of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production (PCIFAP) simply because of different regulatory environments in the United States and Wales. The key point is the intensive dairy systems that **are** being adopted in Wales will operate using similar models of production.

In terms of economics we would ask on what evidence and analysis the Minister makes his assertion that it is not 'considered' that large farms put small farms out of business. In Denmark the dairy industry went from 85% of farms that undertook grazing in 2001 to an estimate of around 35% in 2010 (Van den Pol-Van Dasselaaar 2011).

We would point out that the adoption of modern techniques and practices can also be adopted by farmers that graze their cattle, including the ability to use computerised technology. The TEASGAC in Ireland is investing large sums in developing such technology in support of a dairy industry that will remain based on grazing cattle outside.

On welfare and stockmanship we contest the Minister's assertion that larger herds of zero grazed, housed cows will benefit from increased monitoring by stockmen. The stockman will have more cows to monitor.

On the issue of slurry it is obvious that a similar volume of slurry will be produced by a single cow. We contest that larger farms 'generally' have better facilities for managing and spreading slurry, by pipeline instead of by tanker. This is certainly

not the case from evidence provided to us by local residents near one of the largest intensive indoor dairy farms near Carmarthen.

Despite the Minister's assurances about the planning system, it is evident that there remains an issue around retrospective planning permission that needs to be assessed. World Animal Protection also continues to believe there needs to be an urgent review of how planning policy and guidance on factory dairy farms can ensure the people of Wales are not failed by the planning system.

This is vital to ensure that local people are provided with a democratic opportunity to express their concerns through the planning process, so they can avoid or ameliorate the impacts these types of farms will have on their local environment, their quality of their life and enjoyment of their homes.

We remain grateful to the committee for its continuing consideration of this petition.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Woodhurst

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