

Press Release Monday August 2, 2010

For Immediate Release

RE: Protesting Dittmer CAFO expansion request

Davenport, Iowa: Tuesday, August 3rd from 7:30-8:00am area citizens will stand at the Scott County Administrative Center at 600 West Fourth Street, Davenport to voice their opposition to the proposed expansion to a Scott County confined animal feeding operation (CAFO). That morning on the 8am agenda of the County Board of Supervisors' Committee of the Whole meeting is a discuss the upcoming Public Hearing on the Construction Permit Application of Thomas Dittmer, dba Grandview Farms, Inc for the expansion of a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) located 3-miles west of Eldridge in Scott County.

The Hearing for public comments regarding this CAFO expansion is set for this Thursday, August 5th at 5:30 pm at the Scott County Administrative Center.

On Tuesday morning Tim Huey, Director of Scott County Planning & Development will present information to the Scott County Board of Supervisors about a site visit to the proposed confined animal feeding operation expansion. They will discuss whether the master Matrix has been satisfied. Further a discussion about the manure management plan will take place. Documents submitted by Dittmer list that the estimated annual animal production at the CAFO will be 75,000 animals per year. They also show that the proposed expansion of the CAFO will add over 7 million gallons of hog waste (raw feces and urine) per year to the site. The plan to dispose of the CAFO waste is to spread it on farmland in Scott County at the rate of 5500 gallons of manure per acre. CAFO manure has been known to contain dangerously high levels of pathogens and carcinogens. History has shown that run-off of CAFO manure can contaminate creeks and streams, aquifers and wells.

Concerned citizens will gather outside the building to protest the CAFO expansion permit request in hopes that the Scott County Board of Supervisors will recommend to the Iowa DNR that the permit be denied. "Scott County already has too many factory farms and too much manure. We don't want anymore CAFOs in our communities. They threaten our air, water, quality of life, reduce our property values, and are unsustainable. The Scott County Board of Supervisors should do the right thing and recommend that the DNR deny the construction permit for this factory farm expansion," states Sister Cathleen Real Member of the QC Progressive Action for the Common Good (PACG) Environmental forum, "This is an economic, environmental and moral issue, I pray the wellbeing of our community will be their top priority."

"Do we really need more CAFO pig meat for market? Does Dittmer own these pigs? Will they be eaten locally or in the USA or in Japan? Why are we destroying our countryside for cheap pork to be shipped overseas?" asks Caroline Vernon of PACG."

For years both the Iowa and US Pork industry have requested numerous tax-payer funded bail-outs from the government to buy up over-produced pork. According to the USDA official website, in 2009 the USDA purchased over \$151 million in pork products to "assist pork producers who are currently struggling due to depressed market conditions," stated US Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"Does Dittmer plan to process these pigs at the proposed East Moline Triumph Foods hog slaughterhouse? Is Dittmer just a producer taking hogs to market or does he have a financial stake in Triumph," asks Molly Regan, facilitator of the PACG Environmental Forum. "Vertical integration is a concern for anti-trust reasons; I hope this is being examined closely in the Dittmer case."

The proposed East Moline Triumph Slaughterhouse has not broken ground yet. According to the Illinois EPA website, Triumph has not yet applied for any necessary permits from the Illinois EPA. Triumph has requested a loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build the slaughterhouse. "If Triumph gets the USDA loan

guarantee, Dittmer's request to expand his CAFO will just be the beginning of a CAFO explosion in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois," states Regan.

The Public may sit in on the Tuesday morning 'Committee of the Whole' meeting to hear Huey, Dittmer or his representatives and Scott County Supervisors, but may not comment at this time. The actual Hearing for public comments regarding this CAFO expansion is set for this Thursday, August 5th at 5:30 pm at the Scott County Administrative Center.

For more information or to schedule an interview contact:

Caroline Vernon, PACG

563-676-7580

carolina1961@gmail.com