

Information about those farms must, as well, be kept secret so residents can't know what's going on there. They can't find out just how their food is being produced.

And they sure don't want anyone to raise any questions or to make a federal case out the dirty waters.

It's time to make a federal case.

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Editorial: It's time to raise a stink

By Linda Gittleman, The Morning Sun

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Why must people in this country be forced to choose between food and water?

We can't have both?

The reality is that Washington doesn't even want us to have a choice.

Some legislators are determined to enact legislation that requires its citizens to accept the fact that mega farms rule and if the water becomes unfit to wash clothes in, let alone drink, it is simply the price we must pay for the food we eat.

Nobody wants this.

Agriculture is an important and welcome industry in Gratiot County.

Most local farmers go out of their way to make sure that they are good stewards of the land and that the farm they pass to the next generation is in good shape.

These farmers cross every T and dot every I when it comes to all the required ag rules and regulations - and there are many.

The last thing they want to do is destroy their land or their wells.

Yet in countless spots throughout the country, rivers, lakes, streams and well water is being contaminated and cannot be used to drink or continue as a source of recreation.

In the decades past, manure from farms wasn't a problem. Farms were smaller and manageable.

Today, with the huge concentrated animal feeding operations and the big dairy farms, the regulations suitable then aren't enough now.

Gratiot County has more cows than people. It also has more pigs than people.

And a dairy cow on average, eats about 100 pounds of food a day.

Very simply, there are sewer systems for humans but none for the animals.

Where does all that waste go?

Instead of helping farmers find better ways to take care of all that manure, federal and state legislators want to decrease regulations.