

IDEM meeting addresses CAFO concerns

Comet staff report

Staff from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) addressed last Wednesday ground water and other concerns at a public meeting on a proposed CAFO dairy operation near Cutler. Over 100 people attended the meeting at the 4-H Community Building in Flora, and submitted written questions to an IDEM panel.

IDEM is currently reviewing an individual permit application from Boerman Carroll Dairy, LLC, for approval to build and operate a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) for 4,100 dairy cows near the intersection of SR 75 and CR 600 South.

Dennis Lassiter, a technical review specialist for IDEM, explained that in 2003, Indiana adopted all of the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency. "Some of our rules are even more stringent than EPA rules," he said.

He explained that these rules are to prevent regulated farms from polluting surface and ground water by regulating manure storage, land application, storm water runoff, and soil erosion.

Lassiter said that CAFOs are not allowed to treat wastewater and there is a zero discharge limitation imposed on them.

He also explained that nutrient management programs that are part of the permit process place limitations on manure applications. Carroll County is currently only using nine percent of its tillable acreage for manure application, he said.

Plans for the Boerman Carroll Dairy include one large lagoon and two smaller lagoons.

If a spill occurs, the operator has two hours to report the spill and the dairy will be liable for all costs of its cleanup, said IDEM officials.

A CAFO of this size will have two compliance inspections during its first year of operation.

Questions about wetlands and groundwater were addressed by Hamid Masgood of IDEM's geology department. Wetlands are considered waters of the state. Masgood said they have reviewed the site and there are no wetlands within 300 feet of the proposed facility. He also said they have tested wells within a one to two mile radius of the site and found that it is a fairly deep, protected aquifer. He said it was unlikely that wells would go dry.

A question was posed as to how many submitted permits to IDEM have been denied. Lassiter said that in recent years he could only think of one and that applicant refused to address deficiencies in his application. Applicants are given the chance to correct deficiencies in their application and resubmit them for approval, as many times as it

takes to get the permit correct. Once the applicant has satisfied all regulatory requirements, IDEM will issue a permit to construct and operate the facility.

He also said applicants must meet appropriate local zoning and land use requirements.

The draft permit and application materials for the dairy can be viewed at the Flora-Monroe Public Library, 109 N. Center St., Flora, or electronic versions can be copied at <http://www.IN.gov/idem/permits/land/notices/index.html>.

A 30-day comment period on the project began Jan. 31. Written comments can be mailed to the Permits Branch, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Land Quality, 100 N. Senate Ave., MC 65-45, IGCN, 1101, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251.

Editor's Note: *United States Army Lieutenant Colonel John H. Gingrich VI is a 1984 graduate of Delphi Community High School and is the son of John and Linda Gingrich of Delphi. He resides with his wife and daughters in Heidelberg, Germany.*



Gingrich

Gingrich writes... January 2007 marked my 18-year anniversary in the United States Army. It also marked the end of a year long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I am currently at my home station in Heidelberg, Germany and work on the V Corps staff as the officer-in-charge of Information Assurance (a.k.a. computer security).

Even though my family and I moved to Germany just five months before the start

of my deployment, we made the most of it. During that time, we enjoyed traveling and visiting various castles spread throughout Germany.

The highlight of our adventures, however, was a visit to Disneyland...Paris! We enjoy being in Europe and look forward to additional sightseeing trips this upcoming year.

While this travel is enjoyable, there is nothing like returning home. Even with the many moves we have made these past 18 years, the Army still considers Delphi as my home-of-record.

I do miss being home and it is mostly the simple things I miss. I miss spending time with my parents and my sister and her family. I miss hearing the Oracle fight song. I

miss Camp Tecumseh.

Most of all, I miss the care-free atmosphere that embodies many small Midwestern towns. It is that atmosphere that will bring me home to the Midwest when I retire from the Army.

The Comet thanks Lt. Col. Gingrich for his e-mail to the community.

If you or someone you know from Carroll County is serving our country and who would like to say a few words to those of us here at home, please ask them to send e-mail to dlowe@carrollcountycomet.com. Staying Connected is a continuing feature in the Carroll County Comet.



New YMCA weight equipment

Carroll County YMCA has a new four-in-one weight bench for its fitness room. The unit's features are incline, decline, flat bench, and military press. Pictured trying it out is Gordon McCain. Spotters are YMCA interim director Russ Siler (left) and YMCA board member Dave Mann. The bench, along with a weight stand and mirror, were donated by Carroll County Pork Producers, Mann Chevrolet-Buick, Esserman Tire Service, Zinn Kitchens, Abbott Funeral Home, Lafayette Bank and Trust/Flora, McCammack-Quirk Investments, Helena Chemical Company, D. J. Harmon/optometrist, Baker Funeral Home, Stephan's IGA, Sue Mann Hitchcock, Payne's Pharmacy, and Burlington Kiwanis. YMCA members can use the fitness room for free. It is also open to the public for a fee. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Carroll County Young Farmer program earns award

Comet staff report

Carroll County's Young Farmer program was one of two runners-up for the most outstanding county Young Farmer program.

The announcement was made at the recently held Indiana Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leadership Conference.

The Franklin County Farm Bureau Young Farmer program was recognized as both the most outstanding and the most improved

county Young Farmer program.

The outstanding county award is based on a point system that rewards counties for member participation in a number of Young Farmer activities and development of new programs.

The most improved county award goes to the county that has increased participation in Young Farmer activities the most over the past three years.

The other runners-up county was Jasper.

Canal Association in worldwide magazine

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

The Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association has received local, state, and national recognition, and is now getting some worldwide publicity.

The January issue of World Wide Waterways carried almost a whole page on the local association, the Canal Conference and Interpretive Center in Delphi, and the national award the association received last fall. Two photos and an aerial view of the restored canal ran with the story.

The magazine is a publication of Inland Waterways International (IWI), which brings together people and organizations who support the conservation, use, development, and proper

management of inland waterways worldwide. It also promotes restoration, where appropriate, of waterways which have become derelict. Its membership covers 15 countries from around the world.

The IWI and its magazine learned about the canal association in Carroll County through the association's president, Dan McCain. He gave a report and had a booth at the World Canals Conference last September in Pennsylvania. The conference alternates between North America and Europe.

McCain is a director with the American Canal Society, which had its own board meeting at the world conference.

McCain is also on the board of

directors for the Canal Society of Indiana, which will have its 25th anniversary annual meeting and tour in Delphi in May.

McCain said the local canal center will attract even more visitors after its latest project is completed. The project will include an 1850s-style canal boat, a replica warehouse built over the water, and a functioning dock.

"Costs for the complete project are estimated at about \$750,000," McCain said. "Significant grants and donated

money have been received, and the project is now in the design stage."

McCain said the canal boat will be 9 feet wide by 54 feet long and will hold up to 35 people at a time.

"Some of the boat's amenities will include an onboard restroom and a retractable canopy to protect from direct sun and rain," he said.

McCain expects completion of the whole project to be in the spring of 2009.

Two Carroll County homes suffer fires

Comet staff report

Tri-Township Volunteer Fire Department responded to two home fires in rural Carroll County last week.

Retired fire chief Bill Schock, on the scene during both blazes, said the department was there to offer mutual aid to neighboring counties' responders.

"We hauled water and assisted however we could," said Schock.

One home, belonging to Joyce Shaw, burned last Thursday in Owasco.

Schock said the fire was difficult to contain, but firefighters were able to keep it from spreading outside the home. He said the outer walls and part of the roof were saved, but most inside contents were probably destroyed.

There were no human fatalities, but the family dog, Sugar, died in the blaze.

"Nobody got killed in it, that's the good thing," family member Estelle Shaw said.

A second home, located near Oakdale Dam, burned Saturday and was a total loss according to Schock.

He said the fire had a good

start before crews arrived and not much could be done to save the home.

Jennifer Cummins and her three children occupied the home when the fire began. The four escaped without injury.

ADOPT-A-PET

Two puppies are featured this week. One is a nine-week-old male Black Lab mix, black with a bit of white. The second, a Retriever/Chow mix, is three months old. Both are sweet and love to cuddle. They are very playful and good with people. For more information, call the Delphi Veterinary Clinic at (765) 564-2606.

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Horse knows the way... Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

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