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Van Zee's Farms-Larry, Sherry, Jerry, Jessica, Matt, Laela, Rebekah and seven children.

Included is a picture of our new house that we built in Hiland Township one-mile south of our farm. Our son Jerry and his wife Jessica and four children just live to the north of us on our family farm. We raised five children on this farm and are presently planning to retire in this home. We purchased this home from Builders Cashway in Miller, moved it out just about three miles southwest of the proposed new pig barn. Since moving the house out to the country, we have added a garage, a machine shed, and a little utility shed which were purchased in Hand Co. We especially love looking to the North/East to the little lake that would be located South East of this proposed pig structure.

We are opposed to the building of this huge hog unit mainly, because it is not being built by a family that is planning on living on the land. The original owners Augenbaughs almost burned out our farm a few years back. Owning land and not living on it to take care of it is not good.

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The smell for this big unit would not be good and also that beautiful lake north of us would become contaminated by the hog manure that would be placed in the ground up there. We also do not appreciate the fact that these sows will be crammed into such close quarters. This is an inhumane. We used to raise pigs but they were able to run outside etc.

I know about pig smell because I, Sherry Van Zee, taught at MillerDale Colony for 9 years and smelled the confinement operation that they have. The Hutterites, however, live there and that is their income.

Matt Van Zee is concerned about the water supply at his farm, as he has a shallow well. Will the water supply at the facility with 5000 sows drain his well?



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We are against the  
construction of this hog  
farm in Pearl Township  
south of St. Lawrence.

Larry VanZee  
Sherry VanZee