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Full House For Rosendale Dairy Review Wisconsin Farm Report Exclusive

The Who's Who in the dairy industry in Wisconsin converged on Royal Ridges in Ripon, on Thursday evening for the DNR Hearing for comment on Rosendale Dairy's Environmental Impact Statement and their proposed Wastewater (WPDES) Permit.

Almost 1000 people packed the facility most in favor of the approval including Mitch Breunig, a dairy producer from southwestern Wisconsin. In an exclusive with the WI Farm Report he expressed the need for jobs in Wisconsin along with the importance of encouraging cheese processors to expand their facilities in Wisconsin not out of state. Money invested in the dairy industry creates a market for cattle and Breunig asked the DNR to stop changing the rules as they go along.

Other people in favor of the approval included a City of Oshkosh resident who told Rae Nell Halbur they felt manure is the ultimate in recycling. There were also dairy equipment handlers, employees from their other two dairies, Omro Dairy and Tidy View and people directly impacted through the dairy industry that testified.

Everyone coming into Royal Ridges was offered a royal blue t-shirt and baseball cap with Rosendale Dairy printed across the front. Although the room looked like a sea of blue, not everyone was in favor. Some of those speaking against approval included several Ripon College students who are involved in environmental issues and also neighbors of the dairy. Wildlife refuge was one of the many issues brought up for discussion. "You can control the well-being of the cows, including the feed and their surroundings but you cannot control where that manure is going after it is put on the land said Mary Jane Bumby, monitor for Big Green Lake.

Jim Ostrom, business manager and part owner for Rosendale Dairy told Rae Nell Halbur in a WI Farm Report interview that he was humbled at the positive response to the hearing. He said that they pride themselves in being good neighbors. He said, "Talk does not get the job done when it comes to local approval; we are anxious to get these permits approved and show the community we are just what we say we are good neighbors."

Written comments on the Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted immediately to James Pardee, Wisconsin DNR, SS/7, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or james.pardee@wisconsin.gov

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