

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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CORPORATE P.R. BLITZ CAN'T HIDE STINKING TRUTH ABOUT WISCONSIN
“DAIRIES” OPERATING IN MICHIGAN

TOLEDO – A public relations blitz sponsored by Milk Source Corp., a Wisconsin-based company operating milk factories in southern Michigan just over the Ohio line, is attempting to whitewash a record of environmental damage, according to a group dedicated to cleaning up Lake Erie.

Advocates for Clean Lake Erie said that a three-hour media tour yesterday, conducted by the Milk Source Corp.'s. public relations director, tried to portray the factories' operations as better than the violation-plagued, bankrupt record of the previous owner, Vreba-Hoff Corp. In 2013, Milk Source Corp. purchased the Hudson, Medina and Camden milk plants from the bank that took over Vreba-Hoff's operations.

But records show that Milk Source Corp.'s operations since it bought the bankrupt Michigan plants, as well as its operations in Wisconsin, continue to be a real concern.

Mike Ferner, a coordinator of the Advocates group, said, “Our drinking water is threatened with toxic algae every summer from these so-called dairies that are factories in every sense of the word. No amount of PR money can change the fact that Milk Source Corp.'s Hudson and Medina plants annually generate an amount of feces and urine equal to the combined sewage output of Lansing, Michigan and two cities the size of Defiance, Ohio and we can bet more are on the way. The excess Phosphorus, not to mention disease pathogens and the antibiotics fed to the cows, is dumped on fields draining into Lake Erie and we wonder why we have problems?”

Information compiled by [Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Southern and Central Michigan](#) (ECCSCM) showed that since Milk Source Corp. took over the Michigan plants, environmental problems have continued

- 2014: see entries for Dec. 19, Dec. 7, Nov. 28, Oct. 12 and more [here](#).
- Oct. 12, 2015 Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) violation issued to Medina Dairy based on this [Inspection Letter](#)
- June 18, 2014 MDEQ Violation Notice to [Hudson Dairy](#)

(MORE)

In addition to the above incidents specific to Milk Source Corp.'s factories, this list of "[Stench Alerts](#)" based on dangerously high levels of Hydrogen Sulfide, show some of the problems residents near such facilities experience on a regular basis.

Re: Milk Source Corporation's Wisconsin operations

Details from databases of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which oversees CAFO enforcement (see full listings in [WI Manure Spills 1-1-07 to 11-22-13](#) and [WI Enforcement Tables 2000-2013](#)):

- Tidy View Dairy - Jan 6, 2007 - "Liquid manure was pouring out of broken drain tile line into tributary of Apple Creek - Drain tile was traced back to dairy."
- Tidy View Dairy - Sept 14, 2009 - "Truck hauling manure for Tidy View Dairy lost control & went into south side ditch causing the truck to spill ~6,000 gal of manure..."
- Tidy View Dairy - Sept 15, 2010 - Notice of Noncompliance, unapproved land application sites.
- Rosendale Dairy - Nov 12, 2008 - Notice of Violation, construction without permit.
- Rosendale Dairy - July 29, 2009 - Notice of Noncompliance, landspreading noncompliance.
- Rosendale Dairy - Nov 13, 2009 - "During manure application, manure line broke, spilling manure into road ditch. Manure line was run through culvert... & broke on east side of the road."
- Also: [redacted] Milk Source Dairy - Feb, 2004 - FDA Violation - "On February 11 and 25, 2004, an investigator from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted an investigation into two illegal tissue residues in dairy cows sold for slaughter as human food by [redacted]. That investigation included a review of your firm's involvement with the aforementioned residues. The investigation revealed serious deviations from the regulations for Extralabel Drug Use in Animals, Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations." ([FDA letter](#) to James Ostrom, Pres, Milk Source)

And more from Wisconsin:

"In our business model, it is essential to grow" - Jim Ostrom, Milk Source ([AgWeb, Jan. 8, 2014](#))

Milk Source - Animal totals: 60,300

Tidy View Dairy, Kaukauna, WI – **6,800**

Omro Dairy, Omro, WI - **2,700**

*Rosendale Dairy, Pickett, WI - **8,400**

New Chester Dairy, Grand Marsh, WI - **8,400**

Richfield Dairy, under construction - (4,300 to start)

Calf Source, De Pere, WI - **9,000**

Heifer Source Feedlot, Liberal, KS - **25,000**

*At Rosendale, more than five miles of pipe is being laid to pump manure to distant fields
(all numbers from [AgWeb article](#) about Milk Source, named "Innovative Dairy Farmers")

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie continues to press for a U.S. EPA "impaired watershed" designation for Western Lake Erie to force an inventory of all polluters and enforceable timelines to bring Lake Erie back to health.

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