

**New York
Farm Bureau®**

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Talking Points Manure spill in Lowville, NY

As you probably know, there has been a situation on a farm in Lowville where roughly three million gallons of manure ran into the Black River from a manure lagoon. The fish kill is in the hundreds of thousands and the City of Watertown temporarily shut its drinking water intake from the river. This is a bad situation.

We ask that you refer ALL press calls to New York Farm Bureau's spokesman, Peter Gregg, at 518-724-0867. If you absolutely must talk to the press (or anyone else that has questions regarding our stance) these are some preliminary talking points.

- 1) This is an unfortunate and rare occurrence.
- 2) New York's dairy farmers are one of the most regulated industries in the nation and that we have a strong environmental record of compliance with strict water quality regulations (CAFO regulations). This situation is a very unfortunate, but isolated matter.
- 3) Farms of all sizes and types in New York are committed to environmental protection, conservation and food quality and safety.
- 4) Manure lagoons are required to be constructed to strict and specific engineering standards
- 5) We do not know the exact details of how/why this lagoon failed
- 6) New York Farm Bureau stands ready to assist DEC, Ag. and Markets, and the Department of Health in any way in this situation



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