

Euler, Gordon



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 8 26 AM
To: Euler, Gordon
Cc: Cook, Christine
Subject: FW: Ag District

FYI

From: Dianne Kocer [<mailto:diannekxm@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Ag District

As the county considers possible uses for conversion of a long-standing dairy in Brush Prairie it is important to consider highest and best use of large tracts of land close to the urban center of the county.

This property is zoned for agriculture and has been used in this way for decades primarily for grazing dairy cattle. It has been regularly fertilized naturally with the manure scattered by the animals. It has not been ravished by chemical fertilizers. It has not been paved. It has not been polluted by petrochemicals. In short, it is still in a pristine condition making it ideal for food production.

It is already important to produce food close to where it is used. As the fossil fuel era winds down and the weather/water cycles become less dependable it will be vital to be able to produce food close to home. This property's highest and best use is clearly agriculture.

Many young people are becoming more interested in small scale agriculture, despite all the drawbacks in the form of long hours and low financial returns. It is incumbent upon us as a community to ensure our food supply by supporting those efforts. Innovative and creative thinking could turn this property into an agriculture center almost completely devoted to raising food that would provide a primary source for Clark County residents. This could be a combination/mix of hydroponic and aquaponic greenhouse production and some open field. A public/private partnership could go a long way towards food security for Clark County.

Light industrial areas are apparently needed for Clark County, and should be carved out, but they should be placed on land that is not ideal for agriculture. We need to plan for the future and there is nothing that will be needed more than nutrient dense food and clean water.

Thank you.

Dianne Kocer
Brush Prairie

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power” Abe Lincoln