

## Huisman, John

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**From:** Shirley Cates [shirley@cherryrealtync.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2010 2:48 PM  
**To:** Huisman, John  
**Subject:** Proposal Fall Lake Watershed

John Huisman  
NCDWQ  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

I am writing regarding some serious concerns that I have regarding the proposed rules for the Falls Lake Watershed. I own what you are calling a "hobby farm". I own 10 acres of land and also own an adjoining track of land for almost an additional 3 acres. My husband and I have horses that we ride for pleasure. It is not a business. We have one small hand dug pond on our property.

Your proposed rules state that they would apply to anyone owning 5 or more horses, then 20 or more cows and on to the 3500 chickens. Who in the world pulled these numbers out of the sky and with no consideration for lot size only that they are in the Falls Lake watershed. The environmental impact on the land is not designated equal in any way what so ever. If I own 4 horses and my neighbor 19 cows do you not think that those cows don't produce manure all day long, stand in ponds and crap which by the way horses do not wander out into a pond and stand all day and urinate and crap. Your current rules would allow my next door neighbor on a 2 acre lot to have 3499 chickens and not have to be registered. That is totally absurd! There needs to be some consideration to these numbers not to mention in order to not have to fall under these strict guidelines a family with 3 children would have to have one family member no even have a horse for pleasure. But good old neighbor is sitting there with 19 cattle and possibly 140 swine in a feedlot and God knows we don't even want to think about over 3000 chickens- pooping everywhere none stop. To target the equine owners and population is unfair and unjustified. I think you need to reconsider the numbers for these proposals and also take into consideration the size of the lot and property that is being impacted by the number of animals on it.

I do not feel that I should have to go through the hassle and inspections and registration to own my horses as a hobby and feel that keeping under 5 horses in order to not register when I own a large tract of land (all pasture by the way) is targeting a particular group of landowners and certainly not fair. I have older horses (of which two are) - there is not a market to sell them, they are like family members and have carried family members many miles and earned their keep to be out to pasture in their retirement years. Your new proposed regulations would cause me to have to either not replace them and not enjoy my hobby or put a family member to sleep to not have to deal with all the rules and regulations.

I also am concerned that the new regulations on the new septic systems will cause some homeowner whose systems fail to have to go into foreclosure due to the expense involved with the new systems. We already have a market full of foreclosed homes and no one will benefit from homes sitting with failed systems and no one able to buy due to the expense involved in the strict requirements for this system you want to require.

I know that this is only one letter but there are a lot of homeowners in my area that find themselves in this same situation. I will be happy to discuss any of the above issues. I can be reached at the number listed below at any time.

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Granville County  
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