

Several residents have raised the question of whether or not horse manure endangers the aquifer from which we draw well water or the ground water within the village. As chairman of the Equestrian Commission I would like to address this question.

The answer, supported by information from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the water control agencies of Cook, Lake, McHenry and Kane counties is a categorical **NO**. Here are the facts:

1. The underlying theoretical issue with animal manure and water supply is ***nitrogen loading***, a concentration of manure that creates a high level of nitrogen in the water supply. The IEPA states that nitrogen loading is a concern when the concentration of animals is between 100 and 150 animals ***per acre***.

Barrington Hills doesn't even come close.

2. Our village covers an area of 19,000 acres. Our horse population numbers approximately 1,200. This is a concentration of a ***single horse per 15.8 acres***.
3. As recently as 20 years ago there were three working dairy farms within the village. The dairy farms along with the horse population were all depositing manure. At no time during this period of ***increased animal population*** was our water found to be affected by nitrogen loading.
4. Under the current ***reduced animal population***, neither the IEPA nor Cook, Lake, McHenry or Kane county water control have found increased levels of nitrogen or bacteria in either our aquifer or our ground water due to horses or livestock.
5. Our animal population is not increasing, but even if it were, it is unlikely to approach 100 to 150 per acre, the concentration required to spark nitrogen loading levels high enough to affect our water.
6. The USEPA has determined that properties that are not designated CAFOs (concentrated animal feedlots, with concentrations of 100 to 150 animals per acre) ***do not need to be regulated*** to protect the environment.

Finally, it is important to understand how most equestrians deal with manure. The majority of horses in Barrington Hills are kept on 5-acre parcels. Manure is picked from stables and pastures, daily or weekly, and deposited in dumpsters to be hauled away by waste management companies. Larger horse properties may spread their manure over their pastures.

Furthermore, current village ordinances concerning manure have proved effective as evidenced by the fact that our aquifer and ground water have consistently tested safe and potable.

While I understand their concerns, any worries village residents may have about horse manure's effect on water supplies are groundless. Therefore, I urge that before our village commissions, boards and committees spend any time and resources on this issue, we ask these residents to bring forward evidence that horse manure in Barrington Hills puts our water supplies in jeopardy. I also suggest that the village defer to the IEPA and relevant county agencies on this issue