

Stash's bio-solids testimony

Our intentional community called Tolstoy Farm started in 1963. Organic sales of vegetables started in the early 1980's. We grew on what is now Morton's land and on land just past the North 80. Then in 1993, we moved to where we are now, 3 acres on the South 180. We have been certified organic since the 1980's. The name has changed. Originally it was called "Eden Gardens" by Tom Weinert. Tom had land just past the North 80 where we grew for several years until 1993.

Our customers are mostly in Spokane, although we have several customers in the Davenport area. Besides selling vegetables directly at the market, we sell boxes of vegetables to be paid in advance, the C.S.A's. C.S.A. means Community Supported Agriculture. And we sell to stores who sell organic vegetables.

On certification, it started out we were certified by a private organization and then it switched to State and then to **Federal** with the state administering the program. We are inspected once a year. The inspector walks around and asks a lot of questions and fills out forms. The fee for inspection is high. For a long time, we were subsidized by a government program, but we might be paying the full fee now.

Concerns of contamination:

We don't want sewage sludge anywhere near us. It cannot be proven safe. There is always the possibility that the sludge was not tested properly before being applied. Of all the places to put sludge, next to a canyon is one of the worst. HEL Highly Erodible Land.

That sludge is very likely to leave the HEL through water or the wind. The wind comes from that direction, depositing potential sludge on our planting area or on an area that water may bring to the planting area later.

We have been growing delicious and healthy organic vegetables for over 30 years. We have worked hard to improve the soil and keep it free of contamination.

We get terrible floods sometimes that brings soil from miles and miles away. See the video of our terrible flood in the spring of 2014.

If the contamination does not come from water bringing the sludge down directly, it can come from the wind and then from the water bringing it down further.

It is just not safe to deposit sewage sludge on HEL, highly erodible land. Please do not put our organic business or our health at risk!

Summary written by me, Stash Jackowski.

I have lived at Tolstoy Farm since March, 1965.

phone: 509-725-0635