

Faraway Fields

Name: _____

Once, Faraway Fields was a small agricultural community of 3,000 people. Faraway Fields is located 30 miles west of a large state capital. Because of its desirable setting and proximity to the state capital, Faraway Fields has more than doubled in size in the last ten years and is now home to 7,000 residents. A large chain grocery store has moved into the area, and a computer company has established a service center employing 200 people. The Faraway Fields community is slowly changing. Residents of Faraway Fields are going to vote on many important issues in the next election.

Proposition N

Since there has been an increase in the nitrates (a form of nitrogen) in waters of a local lake, all homeowners with septic tanks (approximately 50% of the homes) must pay a \$100 fee to have their septic tank area checked annually. They must correct detected septic tank problems within two years. If needed, repairs to septic tank systems will cost homeowners approximately \$2,500. This proposition was recommended by the city council to determine if the nitrates are coming from the human waste. A septic tank is a below-ground tank where sewage is decomposed and then leached into the surrounding soil.

Proposition F

Friendly Food Fertilizer Company has purchased 35 acres of land $\frac{1}{2}$ mile outside of the town limits to mix and prepare fertilizers for local farmers. Passage of this proposition will allow the Friendly Food Fertilizer Company to continue operation. A yes vote means that you approve of the mixing and preparing of fertilizers in this setting, including increased semi truck traffic in the area. A no vote means that the farmers will need to pay more for the fertilizers to cover transportation costs since the fertilizers will need to be trucked in from a fertilizer plant that is many miles away, thus you will pay more for your food.

Proposition 5

Beginning January 1st of next year, a license will be required for any person purchasing more than 10 lbs. of granulated fertilizer labeled 5-5-5 or higher at any one time of purchase. Licenses will be filed with the county and will show proof that the licensed person has taken a two-hour online course to learn about fertilizer storage and application. The course will cost \$25 and only needs to be taken one time. Licenses will need to be renewed annually and will cost \$25 per year.

Proposition Q

Since nitrates were found in the well water of a local home, the selling and use of nitrogen fertilizers by all people will be banned in Faraway Fields for one year beginning on January 1st.

Proposition Z

All people using fertilizers, organic or inorganic, must wear protective eye gear, dust masks, and disposable gloves. Any person seen by local police not wearing protective gear will be issued a \$100 fine. This is an attempt to reduce agricultural-related illnesses from fertilizers.