

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) threaten property values, public health, and the environment

More than half of Indiana's counties are home to at least one large-scale concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). CAFOs contain at least: 700 dairy cows, 1,000 cattle, 2,500 swine, or 125,000 broiler chickens. CAFOs are also referred to as "factory farms" because they resemble the inside of a factory more than a traditional farm. CAFO animals live in extremely close conditions, with limited access to grass, sunlight, and fresh air.



State law currently fails to protect the neighbors of industrial farms. Instead, Indiana policies protect these industrial operations and jeopardize our natural resources, public health, property values, and quality of life.

Studies Show that CAFOs Reduce Property Values

- A University of Missouri study found that proximity to CAFOs can reduce the value of a home by as much as 88%.
- An article published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics reported that only landfills have a worse impact on adjacent property values than CAFOs.

CAFOs Put Profits before Human Health

Worker health:

- 30-70% of factory farm workers suffer from respiratory illness.
- The high levels of particulate matter and ammonia in CAFOs harm worker health.
- Hydrogen sulfide, a byproduct of manure lagoons, is a potent neurotoxin that can cause irreversible brain damage and death.

Resident health:

- Residents living near hog CAFOs report more confusion and depression than other citizens.
- A study found that children who attend school within ½ mile of a CAFO have higher rates of asthma.
- When CAFO manure structures leak or overflow, the untreated waste contaminates resident well-water.

Resident health (continued):

- Nitrates from agriculture chemicals & livestock are the most widespread agricultural contaminant in drinking water wells and elevated amounts can cause nitrate poisoning.

CAFOs Impair the Environment

- The release of waste from animal feedlots to surface water, groundwater, soil, and air is associated contributes to the degradation of the nation's surface waters.
- The EPA 2000 National Water Quality Inventory identified agriculture (including livestock) as the leading contributor to water quality impairments in rivers and lakes.
- Phosphorus from CAFO manure causes toxic algae blooms that create massive fish kills.
- In Indiana, livestock produce fourteen times the amount of waste created by Indiana citizens and this waste flows untreated into water sources.
- Untreated livestock manure contains high levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, pathogens, nitrates, and e-coli.
- 81% of Indiana's stream miles are contaminated with unsafe levels of pathogens.



Take Action: Let your lawmakers know how you feel about factory farming!

Contact your state legislators! Tell them:

- You support stronger CAFO regulations in Indiana.
- You oppose CAFO practices that threaten the public health & environment.
- To author or sponsor legislation that supports sustainable farming in Indiana and increases safeguards against CAFO pollution.

Use your Purchasing Power!

Buy sustainable, local products at the grocery store, patronize local farmer's markets, or sign up for a produce delivery program.

To look up and/or
e-mail your legislators, visit:
<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

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