Factory Farms

Why we should all be concerned
What is a Factory Farm?

A confined or concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) has hundreds to thousands of animals in an industrial environment.
Why care?

These four may only be the beginning . . .
Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development, LLC
Health Risks

CAFOs have been among the sources implicated in life-threatening outbreaks of listeria, cryptosporidium, toxic e-coli, and antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Pathogens of concern for human health, including e-coli, ARE surviving in liquid manure.
Antibiotics

Approximately 70% of all antibiotics used in the U.S. are fed to healthy animals.
Growth hormones are also used on these cows in order to promote faster growth and increased milk production.
Environmental Risks

According to the EPA, agriculture is the leading source of water pollution in Ohio and animal waste is the leading contributor.
Air Pollution

Factory farms give off toxic gasses such as hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and ammonia.
Phosphorous and nitrogen from manure are serious water pollutants. At high levels, phosphorous is acutely toxic to fish.
Water Contamination

Seepage from factory farms is a serious concern for neighboring communities that depend on wells for their water supply.
Water Contamination

Walkerton, Ontario - May 2000:
Manure spread on fields contaminated the town water supply. More than 2,300 persons fell ill and 7 died from e-coli.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Spring 1993
440,000 people fell ill and 105 died when manure reached the city’s water supplies.
Waste: Where does it go?

Farmers have spread manure on their fields for generations, but dry manure should not be confused with liquid manure, which has more contaminants and the ability to quickly flow to new locations.
Wood County is already #1 with impaired surface waters in the entire State of Ohio

Photo by John Cauley
“Northwest Ohio is particularly inappropriate for megadairies because the soil type, fractured glacial till, is unsuitable for lagoon storage systems and field applications of manure.”

Fissure in soil near Reyskens Dairy, July 2005
Wood County was part of the Great Black Swamp and has more than 3,000 miles of drainage ditches. It is extremely flat, flood prone, and has highly compacted clay soil – plus numerous abandoned oil wells.

Photo – January 2005 – Portage Township
January 2005 – State Route 281 at Solether Road
Dairy CAFOs draw huge amounts of water for cooling and watering the cows, for cleaning the cows and parlor, and for flushing waste from the confinement site into the lagoons.
Wood County Citizens Opposed to Factory Farms

Protect our water, land & health

FAMILY FARMS

NOT

FACTORY FARMS

www.wccoiff.org
Wood County Citizens Opposed to Factory Farms (WCCOFF) prepared this presentation to educate the citizens of Wood County about the dangers of Concentrated (or Confined) Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
Protect our water, land & health

FAMILY FARMS

NOT

FACTORY FARMS

www.wccoff.org

SOLD

35 ACRES
As factory farms expand, America’s family farms continue to die
The Threat to Family Farms

Each new factory farm puts 10 family farmers out of business.
Decreased Property Values

Diminished marketability and loss of use and enjoyment can result in property devaluation ranging from 50% to 90% of otherwise unimpaired value.
Fly Infestation

Flies can spread a range of viral and bacterial diseases that are harmful to humans.
Economic Implications

CAFOs operate at your expense:

• CAFOs are likely to be taxed at low, agricultural rates instead of at commercial or industrial tax rates.

• Some CAFOs have also received tax abatements.

• CAFOs receive more than their fair share of subsidies.
CAFOs emphasize high volume and profit . . .
Increased Traffic and Road Damage

Rural roads are not built to handle the anticipated number and weights of 24/7 dairy vehicles.

Taxpayers bear the burden of road repairs.
Across America and the world, millions of animals are confined in massive “industrial” farms.
“This is a nightmare that occurs to rural American families one at a time.”
Moratorium

Wood County Citizens Opposed to Factory Farms are asking for a moratorium on new and expanded CAFOs.
The American Public Health Association has issued a resolution urging federal, state, and local governments to issue a cautionary moratorium on all new CAFOs.
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OFU Questions CAFOs Impact to Future of Ohio Ag

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Farmers Union (OFU) today challenged government leadership in Ohio to aggressively confront the shortcomings in the concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) permitting system. OFU expressed concern for the lack of scientific, long-term studies of the impact large-scale livestock facilities have on surface and ground water, air quality emissions and surrounding communities.

In a Statehouse news conference calling for a moratorium on the further development of CAFOs, OFU President Joe Logan said: “We hope this call for a moratorium will prompt legislative, education and government agency leadership at the federal, state, and local level to work together to craft well-designed studies, implement policies to safeguard Ohio’s citizens and natural resources, and develop common sense solutions to the challenges posed by CAFOs.”
Moratorium

Other organizations asking for a moratorium include:

• Michigan State Medical Society,
• Canadian Medical Association,
• Catholic Rural Life Conference,
• Bowling Green and Perrysburg Leagues of Women Voters, and
• GRACE (the Global Resource Action Center for the Environment).
What Can You Do?

Join WCCOFF and put a sign in your yard stating your support of a moratorium.

Urge your local and state officials to support a moratorium on factory farms.
Why care?

Manders Dairy ★

Near Weston, in Liberty Township

699 cows

2,100 head permit has been requested
Why care?

Reyskens Dairy ★

Cygnet Road between Custar and Hoytville in Jackson Township

925 cows planned for start up

Permit requested to expand to 1,800 head
Why care?

Naomi Diary ⭐

On Solether Road near Jerry City in Portage Township

Well has been dug

1,765 head proposed
Why care?

Green Dairy ★

Portage Township at Bloomdale and Portage Roads ★

Well has been dug ★

2,200 head proposed