



# 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.**

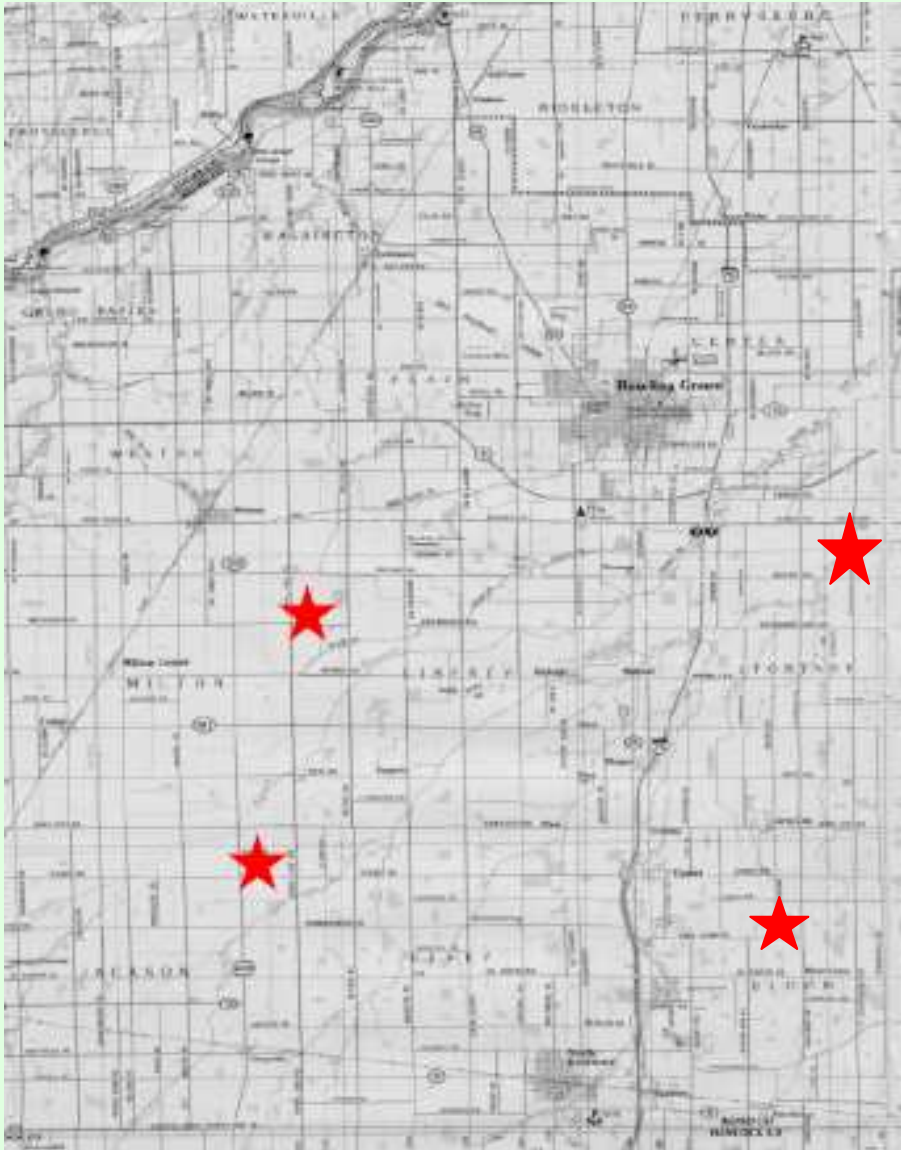


Photo: USDA

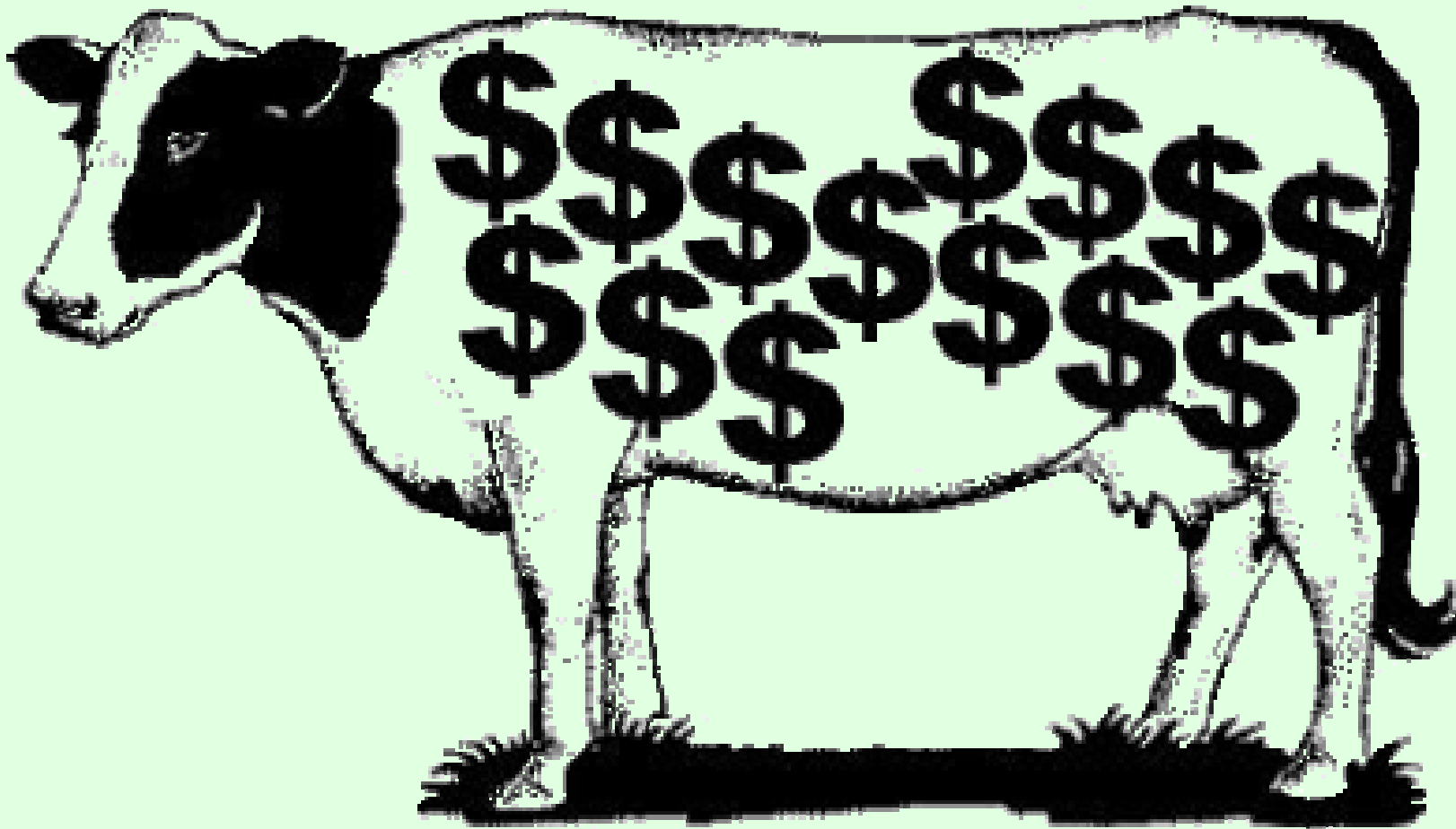
# Why care?

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**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.**

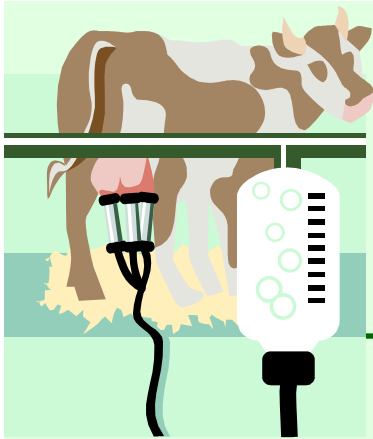
**Pathogens of concern for human health, including e-coli, ARE surviving in liquid manure.**

# Antibiotics

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**Approximately  
70% of all  
antibiotics  
used in the  
U.S. are fed to  
healthy  
animals**



# Growth Hormones

**Growth hormones are also used on these cows in order to promote faster growth and increased milk production.**





# Environmental Risks

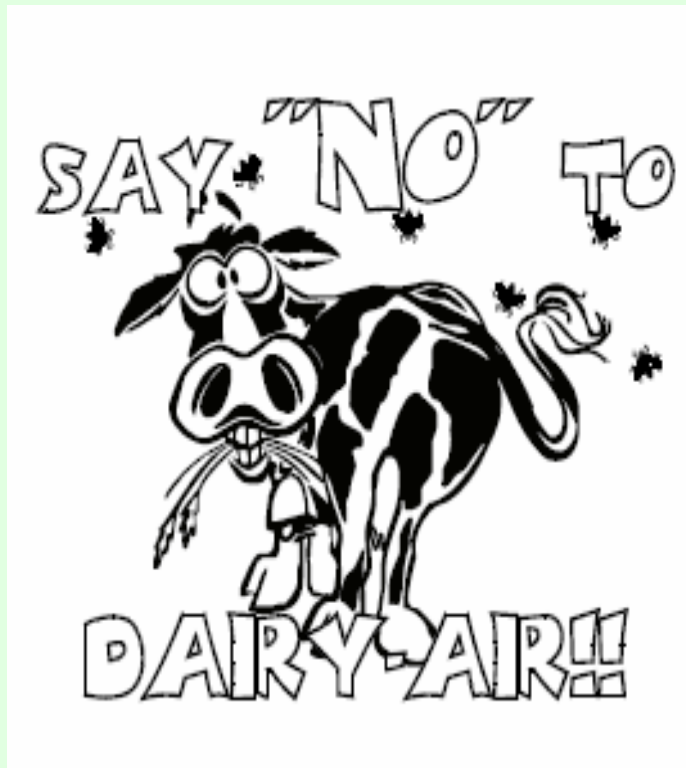
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**According to the EPA, agriculture is the leading source of water pollution in Ohio and animal waste is the leading contributor.**

# Air Pollution

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**Factory farms give off toxic gasses such as hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and ammonia.**

# Water Pollution

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**Phosphorous and  
nitrogen from  
manure are serious  
water pollutants.  
At high levels,  
phosphorous is  
acutely toxic to fish.**



# Water Contamination

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**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.**

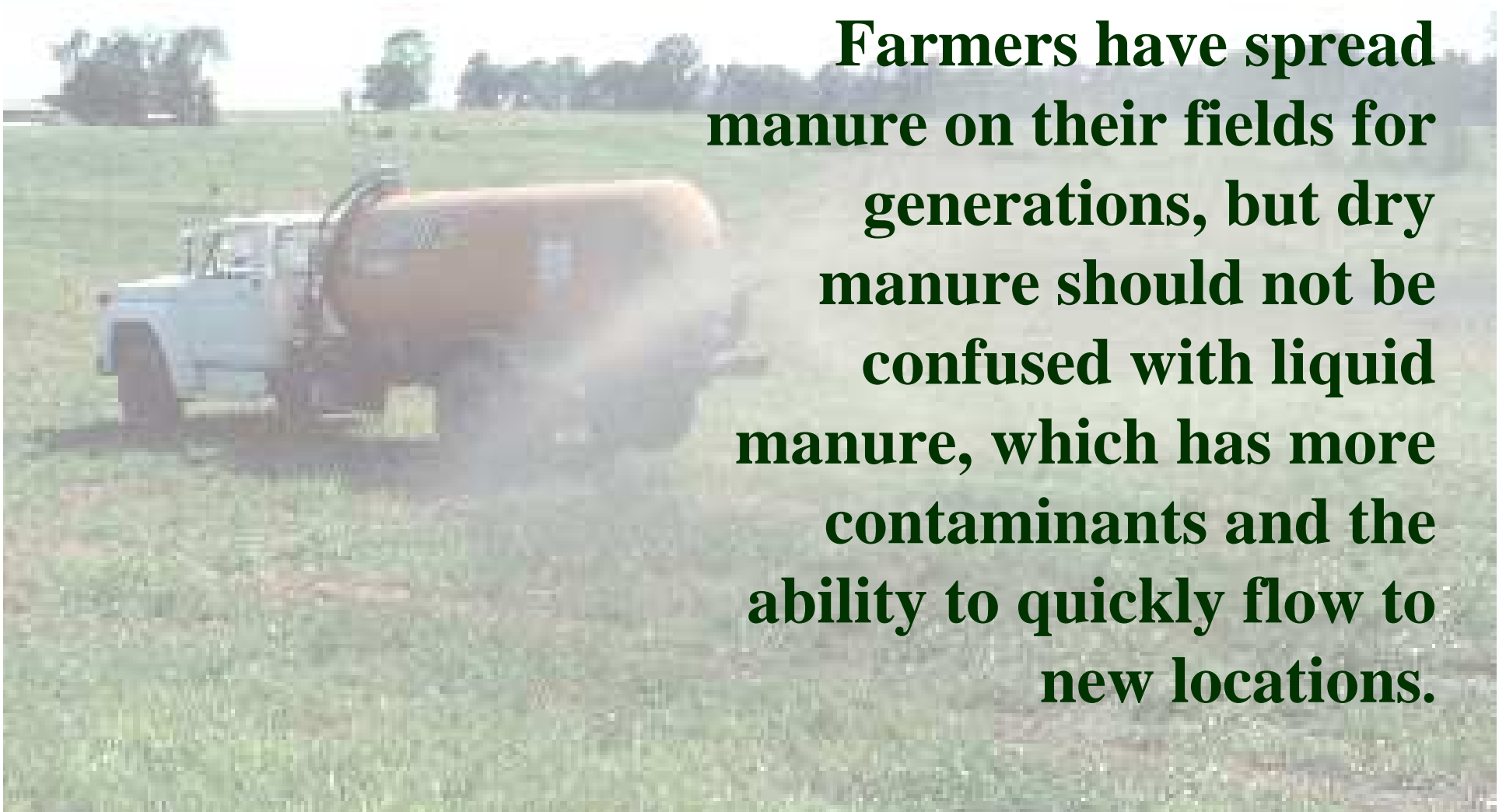
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Spring 1993**

**440,000 people fell ill and 105 died when manure reached the city's water supplies.**

# **Waste: Where does it go?**

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**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





*Fissure in soil near Reyskens Dairy, July 2005*

**“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.”**



**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 – Janaury 2005 – Portage Township



**January 2005 – State Route 281 at Solether Road**





## **Water Usage**

**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.**



**Protect our water, land & health**

**FAMILY FARMS**

***NOT***

**FACTORY FARMS**

**[www.wccoff.org](http://www.wccoff.org)**

**Wood County Citizens Opposed to  
Factory Farms**

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)











*As factory farms expand,  
America's family farms continue to die*

**SOLD**

Protect our water, land & health

**FAMILY FARMS**

***NOT***

**FACTORY FARMS**

[www.wccoff.org](http://www.wccoff.org)

**35 ACRES**



## **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

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

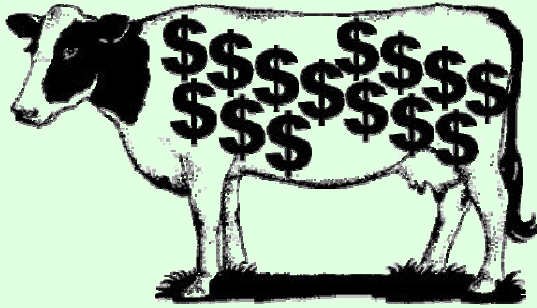
# Economic Implications



## 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.





## **Sustainable Farming**

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**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.**





## **Good Stewardship Animal Welfare**

**Across America and the  
world, millions of animals  
are confined in massive  
“industrial” farms.**

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*“This is a nightmare  
that occurs to rural  
American families one  
at a time.”*



# **Moratorium**

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**Wood County Citizens  
Opposed to Factory Farms  
are asking for a  
moratorium on new and  
expanded CAFOs.**



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**The American Public Health Association has issued a resolution urging federal, state, and local governments to issue a cautionary moratorium on all new CAFOs.**



# Ohio Farmers Union

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 9, 2004

Contact: Maria Miller Gordon, 614.221.9520

## **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?

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**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?

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**Manders Dairy ★**

**Near Weston, in  
Liberty Township**

**699 cows**

**2,100 head permit  
has been requested**



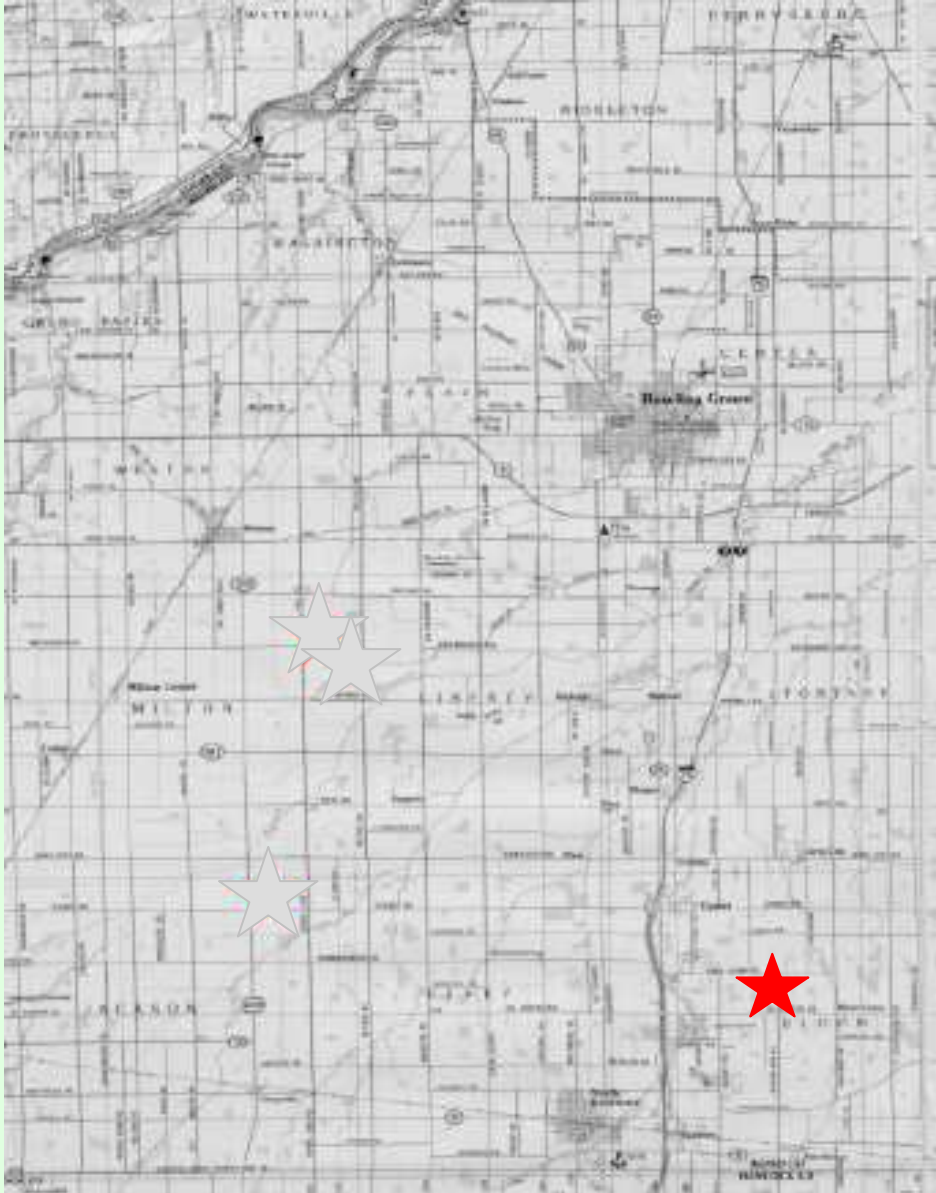
# Why care?

**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?

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**Green Dairy ★**

**Portage Township at  
Bloomdale and  
Portage Roads**

**Well has been dug**

**2,200 head proposed**