

- Have at least one person from your group attend all local political and public events, including town meetings and forums. These types of meetings usually have question and answer periods, so ask your public officials about the CAFO issue. Bring fliers and material to hand out to people in attendance.
- Get involved with local county committees. Get yourself elected or appointed to county committees, the zoning commission, or become a member of your public health department.
- Become a member of the Farm Bureau and/or Farmer's Union. Attend their meetings and have your voice heard. If you don't like what they're doing, or you feel they are not representing you properly, resign and make your feelings public.
- Join one of the many groups drafting rules for federal legislation and enforcement.
- Send lots of letters: letters to the editor, to officials of your county or township, and to local politicians. Get others who are opposed to the CAFO to do the same. Make sure to keep copies of all your letters!
- Research the subsidies taxpayers will give to the facility and include this in your appeal against the CAFO.
- Circulate the phone numbers of all elected officials and encourage people to call them to voice their concerns.

6. Confronting the CAFO

- Request a private meeting with the proposed operator to discuss your community concerns. Remember to tape (at least audio) every conversation, but make sure you get the operator's permission to do so. If the operator won't allow this, it may be a warning sign that s/he has something to hide. Bring along your list of signatures in opposition to the facility.
- Send a formal letter to investors - including local banks and businesses that are financing the CAFO - and remind them that their ability to thrive in the community also depends on community support. One group did this and also published the investors' names in the paper, along with their community's concerns.
- Arrange a peaceful picket in front of the investor's place of business. Always operate within the boundaries of the law.
- Never go alone to any meetings with industry or government - make sure you have a witness.

Campaign and Strategy Resources

Grassroots Organizing Training Manual

Sierra Club, 1999. Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco CA 94105. (415) 977-5500.
www.sierraclub.org

Organizing for Social Change

Kim Bobo, Jackie Kendall, and Steve Max. Seven Locks Press, © 1991 Midwest Academy

If you read one thing on developing a campaign, make sure it is this book. You can order a copy for \$19.95 (plus \$4.00 shipping and handling on the first book, \$1.00 each additional book) from Seven Locks Press, PO Box 25689, Santa Ana CA 92799. Phone: 800-354-5348.

Step 5: When the Going Gets Tough

You might encounter a few bumps in the road as you confront your local factory farm. Some groups have concluded that legal action was their best recourse, while others have had the misfortune of having legal action taken against them.

Please note that although we provide some general information on litigation here, the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project does not get involved with lawsuits. We are including this information as an option for your group to consider.

Make sure you consider the pros and cons before you proceed – lawsuits can be very rewarding if you win, but they can also be very expensive, take a lot of time, cause much stress to your family and community, and can be hard to win. However, when properly executed, lawsuits can be very effective, and many groups have used them to their benefit.

1. Nuisance Suits

Nuisance suits are probably the most common type of lawsuit brought against a CAFO, though there are many different types of litigation you can pursue. You need to consult with an environmental lawyer in your area to determine exactly which route to take. Try to find a lawyer who will work on a contingency basis or who will provide you with "pro bono" work (free of charge); otherwise, your case may become very expensive. One advantage of consulting with this type of lawyer first is that s/he will take a very hard look at the case and will only proceed if you have a good chance of winning. Filing a lawsuit lets everyone – the agencies, politicians, and the CAFO owner or grower – know you mean business. You can file a suit under the "citizens suit" provisions of the federal Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Legal fees are recoverable, which is how an attorney who agrees to work on contingency will get paid.

Nuisance suits have been brought against CAFOs for a variety of concerns, including:

- Odors
- General illness
- Breathing difficulties
- Loss of appetite or upset stomach
- Nausea
- Surface water contamination
- Burning or watering of the eyes
- Burning sensations in the nostrils (nose bleeds)
- Excessive phlegm production
- Sleeping disorders or difficulties
- Nervous system problems
- Headaches
- Sore throats
- Fish kills
- Rats, flies or vultures

- Noise
- Dust, particulate matter
- Property devaluation

Litigation Resources

Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF)

ALDF has offered pro bono help with confronting factory farms. The organization has private lawyers from all over the country, including Canada, who volunteer their services. Email Steve Ann Chambers - sachambers@aldf.org or Jason Chen - jchen@aldf.org to check for an ALDF lawyer near you.

Bar Associations

Local bar associations often have a lawyer referral service and may be able to tell you which firms handle pro bono and/or low-cost legal services. The State Bar of California web site has a good article on finding lawyers at <http://www.calbar.org/2con/find.htm>.

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) Grassroots Litigation Support Program

Based in Pennsylvania, but has information relevant to all states. Includes a listing of pro bono or low cost legal services.

Organization for Competitive Markets Litigation Clearinghouse

Information for farmers and their attorneys to use in litigation against agribusinesses that take advantage of the disparity in the bargaining power between farmers and the big corporations.

Suing Polluters in Small Claims Court

Article on filing a nuisance suit from Rachel's Environment & Health News

Waterkeeper Alliance

An umbrella organization made up of over 100 local, community-centered watershed organizations nationwide. Waterkeeper Alliance and its member programs provide a network of legal resources and contacts for citizens across the country to protect watersheds through education, advocacy, and legal action. In communities where Waterkeepers are located, the local program may take legal action to solve pollution problems. For more information about Waterkeeper programs in your area, visit Waterkeeper.org (then click on the Waterkeepers button) or call 914-674-0622.

Western Environmental Law Center

Offers pro bono legal help to groups fighting CAFOs in the Southwest, especially citizens who are interested in prosecuting Clean Water Act violators. <http://www.westernlaw.org/>

Northwest Office: 541.485.2471 eugene@westernlaw.org

Southwest Office: 505.751.0351 taos@westernlaw.org

Rocky Mountains Office: 970.385.6941 durango@westernlaw.org

2. SLAPP Suits – When Legal Action Is Taken Against You

A **Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation**, or SLAPP suit, is a lawsuit filed against an individual who is fighting a corporation or speaking out against a business. These suits are an attempt by a company to silence people who are critical of that company's operations or who are trying to hold the corporation accountable for some wrongdoing. The Sierra Legal Defense Fund identifies the following characteristics of a SLAPP suit:

1. The plaintiff is usually a mid to large-sized company.

2. The suit claims enormous damages and generally seeks an injunction.
3. The defendant has been speaking out with some success in an attempt to influence government policy or public perception, and the issue is one of public interest or concern.

SLAPP suits can be very effective - many individuals fear the threat of a lawsuit and will not speak up against a company, even if the company is violating the law. One of the most famous SLAPP suits in recent times was the Cattlemen's Association lawsuit against Oprah Winfrey over her statements about beef (Ms. Winfrey won).

Your best protection against SLAPP suits is to be careful to always get the facts before you issue a statement. In addition, stay away from personal attacks and media sound bites that include statements you can't support. Finally, realize that SLAPP suits are meant to keep you quiet - those who file such a suit don't do it for the purpose of winning in court, they do it with the hope that the strain and expense of defending against it will deter you from speaking.

If you have to contend with a SLAPP suit, there is help available. For extensive information on what to do, read the Survival Guide for SLAPP Victims at <http://www.casp.net/survival.html>.

SLAPP Suit Resources

SLAPP Resource Center

A research and public education arm of the University of Denver College of Law and Department of Sociology; Professors George W. (Rock) Pring and Penelope Canan have conducted a 15-year-long, nationwide study of SLAPP suits.

Slapp Resource Center

1675 Broadway Suite 2300
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-296-9412
Fax: 303-293-8705
Email: info@slapps.org
Web: <http://www.slapps.org/>

First Amendment Project

FAP is a non-profit public interest law firm active in two main areas of First Amendment law: anti-SLAPP and open government. FAP provides legal representation to individuals and organizations to defend against SLAPPs. FAP also helps individuals, citizen groups, and the media gain access to government records and meetings through enforcement of local, state, and federal laws on public records, freedom of information, and open meetings.

The First Amendment Project

1736 Franklin Street, 9th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510.208.7744
Fax: 510.208.4562
email: fap@thefirstamendment.org
Web: <http://thefirstamendment.org/>

Step 6: Press and Media

Press is vitally important to any campaign or strategy. The press you get - or don't get - can determine your success or failure. Use the resources listed below and devote some time educating yourself about public relations and how to get effective press - it will save a lot of time and headaches in the long run.

To limit confusion and keep your message on target, just the selected spokesperson or spokespeople from your group should speak directly with reporters and journalists. Make sure your spokesperson is comfortable in front of a camera, remains calm under pressure and has the ability to articulate complex matters in simple terms.

Many books have been written on generating press and dealing with the media. Try your local library or bookstore for more in-depth information on the subject. **Appendix F** contains some selected material, and following are some online suggestions.

Press Resources

Benton Foundation

<http://www.benton.org/?q=publibrary>

Tips on strategic communications, including how to design and fund an effective communications strategy and putting the strategy to work. (Benton Communications' Capacity Building Program)

Land Rights Association

[Contact information](#)

How to organize effective demonstrations, letters to the editor, letters to Capitol Hill, grassroots lobbying and press releases.

MediaNet Online Tutorial

<http://www.internetnewsbureau.com/medianet/>

An online media tutorial created by the Internet News Bureau, Tracy Schmidt Consulting and CompassPoint Nonprofit Services. Covers how to use the Internet to conduct research, how to write, pitch and distribute press releases, tools to help you find media coverage, ways to cater to journalists, and more.

Press Release Writing (PRW)

<http://www.press-release-writing.com/>

A web site devoted to press releases. Includes sample press releases, tips, formatting suggestions, resources, etc.

The Strategic Press Information Network (SPIN)

<http://spinproject.org/>

A collection of tutorials on effective media strategies and tactics. Has basic tips for successful media work. Includes information on putting together a strategic media plan, cultivating news hooks, building relationships with reporters, making news with your reports and studies, Internet public relations, and media events.

1. Using the Press to Your Advantage

- Every time your group does something public, you should alert the press. If you're holding a public meeting, invite the press. If you're having a fundraiser, invite the press. If a local official does something you don't agree with, alert the press.
- Develop talking points that are simple, concise and factual. Repeating these points through the press and at public events will help make your group's stance understood.
- Put your group's name and logo on a sign or banner and always display it at press conferences and rallies. Place it where it will be seen in photos and on television: right behind the speaker, on the front of the speaker's podium.
- Unroll some butcher paper and have community members write their thoughts on the issue with big, bold markers. These can be rolled into a tube and displayed later at a courthouse, statehouse or at a rally or press event. One group had over 110 feet of messages to the governor that they unrolled at the state capitol.
- Have a press conference centered on "Community Concerns." Put these concerns on a large board and display them for the local media. Also print your concerns on handouts and provide copies so the press can use them for their final reports. You are less likely to be misquoted if you supply your facts on paper.
- Take out an ad in your local paper with a list of the public concerns. Include the contact information and phone numbers of elected officials. Remember to take the ad out more than once; repetition is key to getting your message across.
- Write letters to the editor and participate in radio call-in shows. Keep your message short and concise. Avoid emotion or anger. Send at least one letter to the editor every week written by different people in your group. Each person can focus on a particular area. For example, one week may be water impacts, the next week health, etc. This also allows people to be more knowledgeable in one area so everyone doesn't have the burden of being an expert in all areas. However, your spokespeople need to be well versed in all areas.
- Find out if any local universities or colleges have newspapers and/or radio stations. If so, develop a relationship with the people there and try to get them involved in the issue. Make sure to send all press releases to them. Try to interest journalism students in writing articles about the CAFO and getting them published in the paper. College students can be a great resource.
- Create a web site, such as <http://www.farmweb.org/>. Many groups have publicized their website to the media, and have used the opportunity to gain press for their cause.
- Gather a few individuals from your group and schedule a visit to editorial boards of your local newspapers. Sit down with the boards and explain why this is an important issue and why the paper should support your position in its editorials. Make sure to bring informational packets to leave behind with the editors.

- Use people of all ages from your group to represent you. The younger and older, the better. Recently, 11 and 12-year-old youngsters made a trip to the Canadian ministry of Agriculture to express their concerns. This resulted in extensive media coverage.
- Avoid personal verbal attacks on public officials or the owner/operator of the proposed facility. Do not raise your voice or show anger in public.
- Just as you need to prepare information booklets or packets of material for elected officials to educate them on the issue, you need to do the same for reporters. Don't assume that anyone understands the CAFO problem the way you do. Use the information from SRAP to educate others by speaking with and distributing information to them. Make sure your county administrator/commissioner has copies so information can be put on file for public access.
- It is very important to clip and save all news stories about the CAFO. File month by month. This can be useful in verifying promises made and promises broken. Do not throw the clippings away.
- Follow up all press releases with phone calls to help you develop a relationship with the media. Please make sure to read information on working with the press to familiarize yourself with this arena.

2. How to Find Press

The best press outlets to target are prominent newspapers, television stations and radio programs in your area. The following resources will help you find media outlets locally and nationally.

Media Outlets

[Alternative Press Index](#)

A leading guide to alternative press in the United States and around the world. Don't overlook alternative press - oftentimes, they are much more open to your issues than mainstream outlets. And many mainstream media look to alternative press for story ideas.

Building Media Relationships

Excerpt from Nebraska Rural Action newsletter (August, 2000).

The Gale Directory

The Gale Directory is very expensive to purchase, but many libraries carry it in their reference section. It lists every media outlet in the country by state, from local radio to national newspapers. The entries are listed by city and state, so this is a good source for local press.

How to Hold a Press Conference

Tips on publicizing your issue.

[OnlineNewspapers.com](#)

A web site with a database of thousands of newspapers around the world. When looking in the United States, use the pull-down menu to highlight "All States" for a listing of newspapers by state.

[National Media Guide](#)

Created by Capitol Advantage, this guide covers press in all 50 states. You can check which newspapers, radio and television outlets you'd like to contact, compose one message, and email them directly from this site.

[National Media Contact List](#)

Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting's (FAIR) press list for national press outlets.

Many groups find that using a faxing service to send many press releases simultaneously can be well worth the money.

Faxing Services

Metro Fax

<http://www.metrofax.net/>

Free faxing to Washington, DC from your computer.

jBlast Broadcast Fax Service

<http://jblast.jfax.com/>

This site charges 6 cents a page for faxing, so you can fax 100 people a one-page press release from your computer for \$6.

Step 7: Fundraising

You need money to execute your campaign effectively, but the amount needed can vary greatly from group to group. A full-page ad in your state or county newspaper will cost a great deal more than the same ad in your local paper.

Estimate how much money you'll need for your campaign, but be realistic about your budget and how much money you think you can raise. However, don't let lack of funds stop you. A little bit of cash and a lot of manpower can go a long way.

Some groups apply to foundations for grants; others have hosted dinners, held raffles, had bake sales, or sold items such as t-shirts, pins, and coffee mugs. One Canadian group recorded songs about factory farms and had a song go to number one on the music charts in their area!

There are many books on the subject of fundraising. If you do not have access to the Internet, try your library or local bookstore.

1. Sources of Funding

Research or contact the foundations below for grant proposal submission requirements before you send anything. Most foundations with web sites explain submission guidelines online. Most of this information came from ***The Price We Pay for Corporate Hogs*** (<http://www.iatp.org/hogreport/xappendix-d.html>) from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Animal Welfare Trust
<http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/awt/>
Funding guidelines are at
<http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/awt/prog.html>

Holeri Faruolo, Grants Manager
Beldon Fund
99 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(p) (212) 616-5600
info@beldon.org

Ann Krumboltz, Executive Director
Brainerd Foundation
1601 Second Avenue, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101-1541
(p) (206) 448-0676
(f) (206) 448-7222
annk@brainerd.org
<http://www.brainerd.org/grants/inquiry.php>

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
3211 4th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017
(p) (202) 541-3210
(f) (202) 541-3329
www.nccbuscc.org/cchd

Mary Stake Hawker, Director
Deer Creek Foundation
720 Olive St., Suite 1975
St. Louis, MO 63101
(p) (314) 241-3228

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
163 Madison Avenue, P.O. Box 1239
Morristown, New Jersey 07962-1239
(p) (973) 540-8442
(f) (973) 540-1211
info@grdodge.org
www.grdodge.org

Educational Foundation of America
35 Church Lane
Westport, Connecticut 06880-3504
(p) (203) 226-6498
(f) (203) 227-0424
loi@efaw.org
<http://www.efaw.org/Inquiry%20Guidelines.htm>

Farm Aid
11 Ward Street
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143
(p) (617) 354-2922
(f) (617) 354-6992
farmerhelp@farmaid.org
www.farmaid.org

Jerry Mander
Foundation for Deep Ecology
Building 1062
Fort Cronkhite
Sausalito, CA 94965
(p) (415) 229-9339
(f) (415) 229-9340
info@deepecology.org

Kolu Zigbi
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
6 E 39th Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(p) (212) 684-6577 ext. 16
(f) (212) 689-6549
kolu@jgc.org
www.noyes.org

W.K. Kellogg Foundation
One Michigan Avenue East
Battle Creek, MI 49017-4012
(p) (269) 968-1611
(f) (269) 968-0413
<http://www.wkcf.org>

McKnight Foundation
710 South Second Street
Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(p) (612) 333-4220
(f) (612) 332-3833
<http://www.mcknight.org/>

Lois DeBacker
C.S. Mott Foundation
Mott Foundation Building
503 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 1200
Flint, MI 48502-1851
(p) (810) 238-5651
(f) (810) 766-1753
info@mott.org
LDeBacker@mott.org
www.mott.org
Primarily funds Clean Water Act
issues in the Great Lakes and
Southeastern US regions.

National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation
1120 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
(p) (202) 857-0166
(f) (202) 857-0162
info@nfwf.org

Mary Sobbecki, Grants Manager
Needmor Fund
42 South St. Clair Street
Toledo, OH 43602
(p) (419) 255-5560
msobbecki@needmorefund.org

Karl Stauber, President
Northwest Area Foundation
60 Plato Blvd. East, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55106
(p) (651) 224-9635
(f) (651) 225-3881
kns@nwaf.org
www.nwaf.org

John Kostishack, Executive Director
Otto Bremer Foundation
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2250
St. Paul, MN 55101

Funding Exchange
666 Broadway #500
New York, NY 10012
(p) (212) 529-5300
(f) (212) 982-9272
info@fex.org
www.fex.org

Donna Pease, Grants Administrator
The William and Charlotte Parks
Foundation for Animal Welfare
700 Professional Drive
Bethesda, MD 20879
(f) (301) 548-7726
info@parksfoundation.org

Ilysia Shattuck
Environmental Grants Manager
Patagonia, Inc.
PO Box 150
Ventura, CA 93002
<http://www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>
(p) (805) 643-8616
(f) (805) 653-6355
ilysiashattuck@patagonia.com

Pew Charitable Trusts
2005 Market St. #1700
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077
(p) (215) 575-9050
(f) (215) 575-4939

Jean Douglas
Wallace Genetic Foundation
4910 Massachusetts Ave. NW,
Suite 221
Washington, DC 20016
(p) (202) 966-2932
(f) (202) 966-3370 President@WallaceGenetic.org

Victor Quintana
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
48 Shelter Rock Road
Manhasset, NY 11030
(p) (516) 627-6576
(f) (516) 627-6596
victor@veatch.org

(p) (651) 227-8036
(f) (651) 312-3665
john@ottobremer.org

Thomas W. Ross
Executive Director
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
147 S. Cherry St., Suite 200
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-5287
(p) 336-725-7541 or 800-443-8319
(f) 336-725-6069
Jill Ray jillr@zsr.org

Deborah Leff, President
Public Welfare Foundation
1200 U Street NW,
Washington, DC 20009
(p) (202) 265-8851
(f) (202) 625-1348

Maureen McCarthy
Rockefeller Family Fund
437 Madison Ave., 37th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7001
(p) (212) 812-4252
(f) (212) 812-4299
mmccarthy@rffund.org

Turner Foundation, Inc.
133 Luckie Street NW
2nd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: 404-681-9900
Fax: 404-681-0172
www.turnerfoundation.org

Fundraising Resources

[About.com's Nonprofit fundraising information](#)

Links to information about fundraising, including advice and tips on what to do and what not to do.

[Fundraising on the web](#)

Links to information about raising money online.

[FundsnetServices.com](#)

Provides nonprofit organizations with information on online funding opportunities.

[Online Fundraising Information](#)

Links to fundraising information and sources.

[The Management Assistance Program for Nonprofits](#)

A detailed section on fundraising and grant writing.

Step 8: The Next Steps

Once your campaign is underway, you need to look at the long-term solution to the factory farm problem. Even if your community is successful in stopping a CAFO, the operation will most likely move somewhere else and become someone else's problem. You also have no guarantee that the same CAFO, or another one like it, won't try to move back to your community in a year or two.

The solution to the factory farm problem is in consumer demand for food raised without the harmful industrial methods used by CAFOs. If you serve your family meat raised on a factory farm, you are contributing to the problem you are trying to solve. Here are some good ways to be a part of the solution:

- Buy sustainably raised food. The best way to fight factory farms is through your wallet; so don't buy meat raised on factory farms.
- Ask the manager of your local supermarket to sell locally grown meat and vegetables from independent family farmers. Because profit margins are so small, grocery stores will listen even if only a handful of people start asking for a certain product. A grocery store in Delaware began selling locally raised and produced milk after only one customer persisted in asking the store manager.
- In Minneapolis, 19 area supermarkets started selling sustainably raised meat after several local producers sat down with management of the chain and explained the benefits of selling their product. As long as you have an alternative you can supply consistently, many stores will stock what you ask.
- Research your local area and buy directly from farms or farmers markets where you know how your food was produced – it's better for you and the environment. You can locate farmers markets throughout the country through the USDA's web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/map.htm>.
- Join a CSA (community supported agriculture). CSAs are an innovative way to connect consumers directly with a farmer. Individuals purchase a "share" in the farmer's crop at the beginning of the growing season, thus providing the farmer with the necessary capital to cover costs associated with raising food. The consumer shares directly in the harvest, assuming the same benefits and risks as the farmer. The Alternative Farming System Information Center (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/index.html>) has a listing of CSAs around the country, as well as more information on CSAs. Most CSAs offer vegetables, but many are starting to offer meat, poultry and fish.

Guide to Confronting a Factory Farm

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B-3	Hometown Factory Farm Fighting An inspiring tale of rural Minnesotans who used local democracy to control factory farms - and how you can do the same.	
B-4	Bigger is Not Better A great economic overview of the factory farm issue.	
B-5	CAFOs: Health & Community Impacts A clear, concise overview of health problems caused by factory farms.	
B-6	CAFOs: A Threat to Our Health and Environment A great summary of environmental and health problems caused by chicken and hog CAFOs. Sure to spur your neighbors into action.	
B-7	Why Animal Waste Lagoons on Factory Farms Should Be Banned. This factsheet summarizes problems with manure lagoons and their impact on rural quality of life.	
B-8	Solutions to Health and Environmental Problems Caused by Factory Farms A list of steps that must be taken to fill in gaps in existing laws to control pollution from factory farms. (Sierra Club)	
B-9	Poster: When a Factory Farm Comes to Town Poster to print and display. Go to the Photo Gallery for many more photos that can be used to illustrate facts and data in this way. Great for meetings.	
B-10	Down on the Factory Farm A good accompaniment to the poster "When a Factory Farm Comes to Town." Although published for residents of Minnesota, this resource includes general CAFO information that's applicable to all areas of the US. (CWAFFFFP)	

	B-11	Environmental Degradation and Public Health Threats from Factory Farm Pollution How factory farms pollute our waters and damage the water supply (National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture)	
	B-12	Inspiration: Signs to Get Noticed These signs have been used in demonstrations against CAFOs in Illinois.	
	B-13	Factsheets and Brochures More great information to print and distribute.	
	B-14	Photographs Photos of confined animals, aerial shots of lagoon spills, and more. Excellent for use in meetings to visually demonstrate impact of CAFOs.	
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Appendix G: FUNDRAISING			
	G-1	Organizing a Successful Event	
	G-2	Online Fundraising Information	

CHECKLIST FOR CONFRONTING A CAFO

- ___ 1. Read the entire Guide to Confronting a Factory Farm.
- ___ 2. Read through the most appropriate reports and studies located in the *Educate Yourself and Others* section.
- ___ 3. Host a public informational meeting.
- ___ 4. Host an organizational meeting.
- ___ 5. Organize a group and finalize a name.
- ___ 6. Assign duties.
 - Spokesperson _____
 - Press and media liaison _____
 - Officers (Treasurer, Secretary, etc.) _____
 - Coordinators _____
 - Researchers _____
 - Facility Liaisons _____
- ___ 7. Communications and Outreach
 - Develop a petition
 - Build coalitions
 - Create a flier or brochure
 - Establish your own listserv
 - Create a web site
 - Set up meetings with local officials
 - Submit letters of concern to county officials
 - Collect testimonials
- ___ 8. Taking Care of Business
 - Determine a regular meeting time
 - Determine incorporation or nonprofit status
 - Set up a system to keep accurate records
 - Develop a system to handle finances and expenses
- ___ 9. Gather Information – Essential Steps
 - Have land appraised
 - Perform water quality tests
 - Send letter through an attorney to owner/operator
- ___ 10. Gather Information – Where to Look
 - County Recorder of Deeds
 - Local County Government/Township Zoning office, including Planning and Zoning Boards and Zoning Commissioners
 - Local, regional and/or state health departments
 - Department of Environmental Quality, or Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Economic Development (exemptions, tax credits, enterprise zones)
 - Regional Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - State Department of Agriculture

- Secretary of State
- State Constitution and Bill of Rights (statutes, classification of water and water rights)
- Regional United States Geological Service (USGS)
- Regional office of Army Corps of Engineers
- Regional office of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Check to see who has the delegated authority to implement the federal programs and permits, i.e., National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Usually, whatever agency is in charge of the NPDES permitting will be the agency you need to contact for much of the information you are seeking.
- National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Other

___ 11. What to Look For – Logistical and General Information

- Proposed Developer
- Type of facility (hog, dairy, poultry, etc.)
- Number of animals proposed at facility
- County and state facility is proposed in
- Structure of the local government
- Nearest city/town and current population
- Location of nearest freeway
- Location of nearest railroad
- Location of nearest grain elevator
- Location of Nearest hospital
- Investigate and list nearby entities that will be affected by the CAFO including all home residences, established businesses, nearby schools, day care centers, nursing homes, churches, and tourism sites including parks, recreational areas, swimming and fishing refuges, etc.
- Type of waste storage system to be utilized (lagoon pits or holding ponds)
- Geology of ground and soil type (including tributaries, streams and rivers, other water bodies and underground water sources)
- Determine how dead animals will be handled, i.e., incinerated, composted, or stockpiled and hauled away
- Economic development promises
 - Is the proposed operator promising that the CAFO will bring economic benefits to the area?
 - What kind of benefits?
 - Is the proposed operator promising that the CAFO will buy local feed, goods, and services?
- Crops
 - What types of crops are grown in the area?
 - Will the facility grow crops?
 - How many pounds of nitrogen will be applied to land for their crops?
- Other

___ 12. What to Look For – Corporate CAFO Information

- Corporation Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) loans or liens
- Corporation filings
- Loans or funding
- Other

- ___ 13. What to Look For – Local and/or State Regulations
 - State statutes and regulations
 - Local or township resolutions
 - Local ordinances and restrictions
 - Zoning ordinances and restrictions
 - Minimum distance requirements
 - Zoning commission
 - Other land use bylaws
 - Propose legislation
 - Health ordinances
 - Other

- ___ 14. What to Look For – Construction Plans and Permit Applications
 - Record search
 - Land surveys of proposed facility by NRCS or USGS
 - Applications or approvals for land disturbance permits
 - Letters of Approval (LOA)
 - Any general permits or operating permits (including NPDES)
 - Discretionary or permitted use
 - Other

- ___ 15. What to Look For – Nutrient (Manure) Management Plans
 - Operator certification for waste management
 - Structure of lagoons
 - Land available for spreading of manure
 - Is the application for a certain number of animal units?
 - Land location of manure application or stockpile areas
 - Manure-spreading contracts or agreements – duration and who is responsible
 - Are lands suitable for manure application?
 - How will manure be applied?
 - How will manure be transported?
 - How often will manure be applied to the land and at what rate?
 - Are there any designated wetlands nearby?
 - Are there any abandoned/uncapped wells, sinkholes, or mining sites?
 - Other

- ___ 16. What to Look For – Water Permits
 - Information regarding aquifer and sensitive areas
 - Identify all surface waters near manure application sites
 - Proposed water usage from your water supply
 - Where will the facility obtain water
 - A water license (if required)
 - Other

- ___ 17. What to Look For – Clean Water Act
 - NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Program
 - Water quality
 - Impaired water bodies
 - Citizen suits
 - Other

- ___ 18. What to Look For – Clean Air Act
 - Federal Clean Air Act
 - Local/state clean air regulations
 - State Implementation Plan
 - National permit
 - Hydrogen sulfide
 - Other

- ___ 19. When the Going Gets Tough
 - Pros and cons of lawsuits
 - Researching nuisance suits
 - SLAPP suits

- ___ 20. Press and Media
 - Educate yourself about press and media

- ___ 21. Fundraising
 - Determine types of fundraising to undertake
 - Submit proposals for grants

- ___ 22. Next Steps
 - Educate yourself and your community about sustainable alternatives to factory farming

**TOP TEN REASONS
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT LARGE-SCALE
CORPORATE HOG OPERATIONS**

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I was recently asked by a rural advocacy group in Missouri to “list some logical reasons why county commissioners and other rural community leaders should be concerned about effects of livestock factories?” I considered it to be a reasonable request and thus developed a list of reasons why I think rural residents should question whether or not they want large-scale, corporate hog farms to locate in their communities.

As I indicate in my response to the request, there is no scientific consensus on this issue. Thus, there is no set of scientific “facts” to either “prove or disprove” the validity of these concerns. There is research to support many of the concerns on my list, even though they cannot be proven. Published proceedings from “An Interdisciplinary Scientific Workshop: Understanding the Impacts of Large-scale Swine Production,” edited by Kendall Thu, University of Iowa, is a good starting point in reviewing supporting literature. However, most of the concerns on the list are based primarily on logical reasoning and common sense. Some may dismiss these “logical” concerns as illogical, uninformed, or inconsequential. But, such assessments simply represent different “beliefs,” not proven facts or some unique knowledge of reality. The people of rural communities have a right and responsibility to weigh the evidence and logic on both sides of this issue and to make their own decisions.

Admittedly, there are reasonable arguments in favor of locating large-scale corporate hog operations in specific rural communities. They include: (a) we need the jobs, (b) we need the tax base, (c) we don’t want to lose our agricultural base, (d) other communities will do it if we don’t, (e) we can’t stand in the way of progress, (f) consumers want uniform quality that only big operations can supply, (g) big operations can better afford modern pollution prevention technologies, and (h) the opposition is just another case of “not in my backyard,” selfish thinking. There are logical responses to each of these arguments. However, rather than argue these points, I have chosen to provide a logical list of reasons why rural communities might be concerned about the location of large-scale corporate hog operations in their areas.

A “top ten list” wasn’t chosen just to be cute or catchy. Ten is enough to get the point across, but not so many as to overdo discussion of the issue. Also, I wanted to start at the bottom of my list and work my way to the top.

Concern #10. Hogs stink.

Odor is at the top of the list for many opponents of large-scale hog farms. The most vocal opponents tend to be those affected most directly – those who wake up to the smell of hog manure most every morning. To a hog producer, hog manure may “smell like money,” but to the neighbors, it just “smells like hog manure.” There are legitimate human health concerns associated with air quality surrounding large hog operations. Thus, the odor problem goes beyond the very real nuisance of living with stench in the air. Odors associated with giant hog farms affect the lives of people for “miles around,” not just those on adjoining farms. No one likes living in a community that smells like a cesspool. Few would be willing to stay in, or move into, such a community for any

reason other than employment. Odor ranks only 10 on my list because something could possibly be done to mitigate its impacts, such as using odor reducing technologies, compensating those most affected, and restricting location to minimize impacts of the greater community.

Concern #9. The work is not good for people.

A large confinement hog facility is not a pleasant place to work. Known health risks are associated with continuously breathing the air that arises from manure pits in confinement hog facilities. Health problems cost money in lost wages and health care costs. But more important, an unhealthy workplace can destroy peoples' lives. History has proven that people will choose to work in dangerous work environments when they are desperate for jobs. Health risks can be life threatening, so I rank worker safety above odor problems. But as in the case of odor, health problems can be mitigated by protecting workers from the noxious fumes, by limiting exposure, and by keeping people with other health problems out of confinement facilities.

Concern #8. Piling up too much "stuff" in one place causes problems.

If you spread out the hogs and let hog manure lay where it falls in a pasture, it doesn't bother anyone very much. But if you start collecting it, flushing it, spreading and spraying it around – all normal practices in confinement hog operations – it becomes air pollution. Water pollution also is a symptom of the same basic problem – too much manure in one place. The difference between the lagoon spills in Missouri and North Carolina and the normal runoff from a hog pasture is a simple matter of concentration. When you put a lot of hogs in the same place, you have to collect and store the waste. If it gets into the ground water or gets flushed into streams, it kills fish, clogs streams.

In addition, manure on diversified hog farms normally is spread back onto cropland where the feed grain was grown. Most of the nutrients used to grow the crops are returned to the soil. But, when feed grains from specialized crop farms are shipped to distant hog-factories, the nation's future productive capacity is being stacked up and flushed out into places where crops can't grow. We can treat the symptoms – air pollution and water pollution – but the basic problem of piling up too much stuff is inherent within the system of large-scale, concentrated production.

Concern #7. Consumers have little if anything to gain.

Large-scale, corporate hog production is frequently justified to the general public as a more efficient, lower cost, means of producing higher quality pork. The facts of the situation simply do not support such a claim. The average consumer spends just over 10 percent, a dime out of each dollar, of their disposable income for food. About 10 percent, a penny out of the dime, is spent for pork. The costs of live hogs make up only about 35 percent of that penny. The rest goes for processing, packaging, advertising, transportation, and other marketing costs.

Farm record data have shown that costs of large-scale hog operations are only slightly lower than costs of "average" commercial hog producers. Even if production costs were five percent less, about \$2/cwt of live hog; the "maximum" savings to consumers would be less than two cents per dollar spent for pork at retail. At best, food costs would be two-tenths of one percent less and consumers on average would spend only "two-one-hundredths of one percent" less for food. Any savings would be lost in rounding error in consumer food cost statistics. With a handful of large hog producers and packers gaining control of the industry, it seems far more likely that pork prices would go up than down as a consequence of further industrialization.

The argument that factory pork would be higher in quality doesn't hold either. Pork would be more uniform because it would all come from the same basic genetic stock, as is currently the case with chickens. However, consumers have different tastes and preferences – different perceptions of quality. Making all pork "the same" would not necessarily please more consumers. Greater profits for producers and processors, not lower costs or higher quality, is the driving force behind the

current trend toward industrial hog production. The only ones who really need to shave another penny or two of cost of production costs are those who are trying to export more pork into highly competitive world markets. That doesn't include many hog farmers or port consumers. So, why should the general public support industrial hog production?

Concern #6. Continuing regulatory problems are inevitable.

Without regulations, big hog operations will impose costs on their neighbors – air pollution, water pollution, and others — that are not part of the historic costs of producing hogs. It will cost money for hog factories to deal with “externalities” such as air and water pollution. No “bottom-line” driven hog operation will incur those costs unless they are forced to do so by government regulations – federal, state, or local.

Family farmers are people with human feelings and values, and most feel some sense of responsibility to their communities and the environment. Family farmers at least have personal incentives to be stewards of the environment and good neighbors, regardless of how they choose to behave. Public corporations have no such incentives. They are not people. Corporations have no heart or soul. Stockholders often are so detached from their investments they don't know or care what stocks they own – just as long as they make money. Local managers and workers may be good people who really care about the community, but when it comes to keeping their job, they must put profits and growth ahead of community. Professed corporate support of local communities, by necessity, can be nothing more than another strategy for profit and growth. Thus, government regulation and continual conflict are an inherent fact of corporate life.

Concern #5. Hog factories destroy public confidence in agriculture.

Over the decades, family farmers have built up a vast treasure of public confidence and good will. Many people in the cities either grew up on farms or have parents or other close relatives who either are or were family farmers. The “farm family” conjured up images of people who are hard working, honest, dependable, trustworthy, caring, and responsible. These images have been a valuable source of wealth for farmers - although not widely recognized as such.

Farmers have been awarded special privileges, exemptions, and variances under a whole host of public policies — from taxation to environmental regulations — because they were trusted to behave in the public interest. Support of “family farms” has been an important part of the rhetoric of every farm bill that has passed congress. Farmers have also enjoyed a special status “as people,” apart from any monetary benefits. They have been respected and trusted. However, bad publicity surrounding large-scale, corporate hog production is using up the farmer's stock of public confidence and good will at an alarming rate. Negative stories have appeared on every major television net work over the past few years. When Ms. Magazine runs a feature article on the ills of corporate hog farming, as they did in a recent issue, we can conclude that the story has just about made the full circuit of public opinion shapers. Family farms will be paying for this loss of public trust for decades, if not forever.

Concern #4. Future of the community is turned over to outside interests.

Rural people need to take charge of their own destinies if they expect to sustain a desirable quality of community life for themselves, their children, and future generations of rural Americans. Quality of life is about much more than just creating more jobs and making more money. Quality of life is also about positive moral and social values and being responsible caretakers of the community as a place. Sure, people need jobs and need to make a decent living. But, jobs and high wages didn't save the cities from decline and decay and jobs won't save rural communities either. When an apparent solution to a problem comes from someone else, from outside, you can just about bet that the benefits will be going to someone else from outside as well.

Some rich and powerful outsiders have their own problems, and they have their eyes on rural communities as places to solve them. Sparse population, trusting people, and lack of jobs in rural areas are seen as ideal opportunities. They are looking for someplace to “dump stuff.” An Industrial society creates a lot of “trash,” whether in the form of garbage, toxic chemicals, or hog manure. Most “outsiders” promoting rural development schemes have something they need to “dump.” Jobs just aren’t enough compensation for turning a community into a “dump.” Rural people need to take control of their own destiny and build the kinds of communities in which their children and their children’s children will choose to live and grow. The solutions to the problems of rural Americans are in the hands, hearts, and minds of rural people themselves, not in outside investment and corporate control.

Concern #3. The decision making process can rip communities apart.

The process of decision making may be more important than the decision itself. Anyone who has been a part of a family has experienced this first hand. The memory of an act that triggered a family feud has long since faded, but the feud goes on. Feuds result from a loss of confidence and trust, regardless of the context within which the loss takes place. The large-scale, corporate hog farm issue is one of the most contentious issues to confront rural America in recent history.

The social fabric of rural communities has been ripped apart by controversy surrounding the introduction of large-scale, corporate hog operations. There seems to be no middle ground. Some people seem determined to bring in the big hog operations, by almost any means, and others seem just as committed to keep them out, by almost any means. Almost everyone eventually seems to feel obligated to take sides. The larger question in such communities is not whether the hog farms come in or stay out, but can the community ever heal the wound left by the fight? A healthy, unified community can deal with almost any problem, including a large-scale corporate hog farm on the outskirts of town. A sick, bitterly divided community is incapable of much more than survival, regardless of its other advantages and opportunities. The future of rural America depends on communities of people being able to work together for their common good. The divisiveness of the decision making process, presumably, could be avoided. But, the consequences of failing to do so are so destructive that it ranks near the top of my list.

Concern #2. Hog factories degrade the productive capacities of rural people.

Factories “use up” people. Assembly line work is “non-thinking” work. When you work on an assembly line, you simply do what you are told as fast as you can for as long as you can. I know. I have been there. Large-scale hog operations may not be assembly lines, but the principle is the same. Big hog operators do not want people who know anything about raising hogs. They want people who can be trained to do what they are told to do without thinking. An experienced hog farmer might start thinking, asking questions, and mess up the process. Hog factories, like other factories, are looking for people who are dependable, who know how to carry out orders, and will work hard for a little money.

On balance, large-scale, industrial hog operations destroy more jobs than they create. A driving force behind industrialization is to substitute capital and technology for labor and management – to make it possible for fewer people to produce more. Large-scale hog operations concentrate the jobs created in one place and call it economic development. The jobs lost elsewhere are ignored or denied. The numbers of independent hog farmers displaced elsewhere will be greater than the number of jobs created in new large scale hog operations. Hog factories replace more independent hog farmers with fewer assembly line workers.

Other kinds of factories have come to rural America in the past. When these factories have found people in other regions, or in other countries, who would work even harder for less, they moved on. Corporately owned factories have no roots. They leave behind a workforce that doesn’t know

how to do anything other than what they are told. Intelligent, thinking, capable, independent people are transformed into detached, non-thinking people who may be psychologically incapable of earning a living without depending on someone else to tell them what to do. Our cities currently are plagued with such people — people whose capacities have been degraded by factories long since gone. It just doesn't seem to make sense to do the same thing to rural people. When we replace independent, family hog farmers with hog factories we are degrading the most valuable resource rural areas have to support future development – rural people.

Concern #1. Tomorrow's problems are disguised as today's solution.

My number one concern regarding large-scale, corporate hog operations is that rural communities will see them as “the solution” to today's problems without seeing them as a potential “source” of problems for tomorrow. Maybe there are some communities so desperate for jobs that it makes sense to take the risks. Maybe they feel they have to do something today to give them a chance to do something better tomorrow. But, hog factories are a short-run solution, at best, that may create more long run problems than they solve today. Low-wage, assembly-line-like jobs should be viewed as a stop gap strategy suitable only for communities with no other options. Sooner or later non-thinking jobs will be done somewhere else on the globe, where people will work harder for less money and are accustomed to doing whatever they are told – by those who have no other options. In the longer run, all non-thinking jobs will be done using computers and robots – not by people anywhere.

The real opportunities for people to lead successful lives in the future will be in “thinking” work. The human mind is uniquely capable of complex thought. Almost anyone is “smarter” than a computer. But, people need to develop their unique human abilities to think. We need to accept the responsibility for thinking and for creating thinking jobs for ourselves and for others. As long as rural people think their problems are solved, or will be solved by someone else, they see no incentive to begin doing the things they need to do to ensure the future of their community.

The primary advantages for rural areas in the twenty-first century will be the unique qualities of life associated with open spaces, clean air, clean water, scenic landscapes, and communities of energetic, thinking, caring people. Communities that sacrifice these long run advantages for short run economic gains may have a difficult time surviving in the new century.

Thus, my number one concern is that large-scale, corporate hog operations are tomorrow's problem disguised as today's solution. They may keep rural people from doing the things that need to be done today to ensure the future of their communities. Large-scale, corporate hog operations will not create communities where our children and their children will choose to live and grow. Communities with a future must take positive actions today to ensure a desirable quality of life for themselves, their children, and rural children of future generations.

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**LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
FACT SHEET#6
HOMETOWN FACTORY FARM FIGHTING**

**LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
FACT SHEET #1
BIGGER IS NOT BETTER**

**CAFOS: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY IMPACTS
BROCHURE – UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS:
A THREAT TO OUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

WHY ANIMAL WASTE LAGOONS ON FACTORY FARMS SHOULD BE BANNED

Pollution from Giant Livestock Farms Threatens Public Health

Waste lagoons and manure sprayfields -- two widespread and environmentally hazardous technologies -- are poorly regulated.

Factory farms -- giant livestock farms also known as feedlots that house thousands of cows, chickens or pigs -- produce staggering amounts of animal wastes. The way these wastes are stored and used has profound effects on human health and the environment.

On most factory farms, animals are crowded into relatively small areas; their manure and urine are funneled into massive waste lagoons. These cesspools often break, leak, or overflow, sending dangerous microbes, nitrate pollution, and drug-resistant bacteria into water supplies. Factory farm lagoons also emit toxic gases such as ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and methane. What's more, the farms often spray the manure onto land, ostensibly as fertilizer -- these "sprayfields" bring still more of these harmful substances into our air and water.

Yet in spite of the huge amount of animal waste that factory farms produce, they have largely escaped pollution regulations; loopholes in the law and weak enforcement share the blame. NRDC has fought, and won, a number of courtroom battles over the years to force the federal government to deal with the problem of factory farms, and the U.S. EPA is now under court order to set tighter controls on release of pathogens into the environment by factory farms, exercise greater oversight on factory farms' pollution-reduction plans, and ensure that these plans are made available to the public.

Lagoons and Sprayfields

Some people hear the word "lagoon" and picture blue water, surrounded by palm trees, perhaps, or with mountains in the background. A visit to a factory farm would quickly erase this beautiful image from their minds.

At factory farms, "lagoon" means an open-air pit filled with urine and manure. *Lots* of urine and manure -- some lagoons are larger than seven acres and contain as much as 20 to 45 million gallons of wastewater. The waste is collected with scrapers, flushing systems, or gravity flow gutters, and then stored in lagoons. Opportunities for disaster abound. The lagoons can leak or rupture, for instance, or they can be filled too high. But even if none of these problems occur, the lagoons still release gases. Their horrible stench and toxic chemicals harm workers and nearby residents.

Sprayfields are yet another threat. Manure is periodically pumped out of lagoons and sprayed on fields. Although manure can be an excellent fertilizer when it is applied at rates that crops can absorb, it must be safely -- and sensibly -- applied. But factory farms produce far more manure than their land requires, and they often over-apply it to fields, causing it to run off the fields and into rivers and streams. Farmers may also spray when it is rainy or windy, or with little regard for adjacent property. In addition, the act of spraying wastes increases evaporation and vaporization of pollutants.

Threats to Human Health

People who live near or work at factory farms breathe in hundreds of gases, which are formed as manure decomposes. The stench can be unbearable, but worse still, the gases contain many harmful chemicals. For instance, one gas released by the lagoons, hydrogen sulfide, is dangerous even at low levels. Its effects -- which are irreversible -- range from sore throat to seizures, comas and even death. Other health effects associated with the gases from factory farms include headaches, shortness of breath, wheezing, excessive coughing and diarrhea.

Animal waste also contaminates drinking water supplies. For example, nitrates often seep from lagoons and sprayfields into groundwater. Drinking water contaminated with nitrates can increase the risk of blue baby syndrome, which can cause deaths in infants. High levels of nitrates in drinking water near hog factories have also been linked to spontaneous abortions. Several disease outbreaks related to drinking water have been traced to bacteria and viruses from waste.

On top of this, the widespread use of antibiotics also poses dangers. Large-scale animal factories often give animals antibiotics to promote growth, or to compensate for illness resulting from crowded conditions. These antibiotics are entering the environment and the food chain, contributing to the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and making it harder to treat human diseases.

Threats to the Natural Environment

The natural environment also suffers in many ways from factory-farming practices. Sometimes the damage is sudden and catastrophic, as when a ruptured lagoon causes a massive fish kill. At other times, it is cumulative -- for example, when manure is repeatedly over-applied, it runs off the land and accumulates as nutrient pollution in waterways.

Either way, the effects are severe. For instance, water quality across the country is threatened by phosphorus and nitrogen, two nutrients present in animal wastes. In excessive amounts, nutrients often cause an explosion of algae that robs water of oxygen, killing aquatic life. One toxic microorganism, *Pfiesteria piscicida*, has been implicated in the death of more than one billion fish in coastal waters in North Carolina.

Manure can also contain traces of salt and heavy metals, which can end up in bodies of water and accumulate in the sediment, concentrating as they move up the food chain. And lagoons not only pollute groundwater; they also deplete it. Many factory farms use groundwater for cleaning, cooling and providing drinking water.

Better Alternatives Exist

Practical remedies to these problems do exist. But implementing them will require some important changes in factory farm practices and government oversight:

Regulation and accountability. Factory farms are industrial facilities and should be regulated accordingly. They must obtain permits, monitor water quality and pay for cleaning up and disposing of their wastes.

Public awareness and participation. Local governments and residents must have a say in whether to allow factory farms in their communities. The public is also entitled to review and

comment on the contents of pollution reduction plans and to enforce the terms, where a factory farm is in violation.

New technology. Factory-farm technology standards must be strengthened. The EPA must consider recent technology advances that significantly reduce pathogens.

Alternative farming practices. States and the federal government should promote methods of raising livestock that reduce the concentration of animals and use manure safely. Many alternative methods exist; they rely on keeping animal waste drier, which limits problems with spills, runoff and air pollution.

Pollution-reduction programs for small feedlots. Voluntary programs must be expanded to encourage smaller factory farms, which fall outside of the regulations for industrial facilities, to improve their management practices and take advantage of available technical assistance and other resources.

Consumer pressure. Individuals can help stop factory farm pollution by supporting livestock farms that use sustainable practices. In the grocery store, this means checking meat labels for "organic," "free range," "antibiotic-free," or similar wording, which indicates meat raised in a more sustainable manner. Many sustainable livestock farms also sell directly to consumers or through local farmers' markets.

Solutions to Health and Environmental Problems Caused by Factory Farms

Factory farms, called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), produce vast quantities of manure -- more than they can manage without polluting our air and water and threatening public health. Although a few states have dealt with factory farm pollution aggressively by enacting moratoria on new facilities while they develop adequate water and air protections, most states have not responded to the need to protect public health and the environment. Nor has the federal government solved CAFOs' pollution problems.

Protecting health and the environment from factory farms requires the following steps:

- **Place a moratorium on new and expanding factory farms until adequate public health and environmental standards are in place and existing facilities have effective permits.**

Current Clean Water Act standards for factory farms are hopelessly out of date for dealing with livestock operations on a scale that no one envisioned even a decade ago. EPA has acknowledged that they have never issued permits to thousands of factory farms that the Clean Water Act currently requires to have permits.

- **No new or expanded factory farms should be allowed until effective new air and water quality protection standards are in place and permitting systems have been established for these operations.**

A number of states, including North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Oklahoma, among others, have taken this step. Local governments may also enact a moratorium, as Frederick County, Maryland did.

- **Recognize citizens' rights to be involved in decisions about factory farms in their communities.**

Typically, states issue CAFOs "general" Clean Water Act permits. General permits fail to provide neighbors with prior notice when a factory farm proposes to move into the community, fail to provide on-site inspection before issuance of a permit, and fail to include site-specific conditions to ensure protection of local resources, such as drinking water wells or wetlands.

- **All factory farms should be required to obtain individual Clean Water Act permits, which will give neighbors notice of applications for CAFO permits, provide opportunity to comment on draft permits, and include site-specific environmental safeguards. In addition, local governments should have authority to regulate CAFOs.**
- **Ban open-air lagoons, aerial spraying of wastes, and unfiltered barn emissions.**

Air emissions, leaks, and spills from open-air manure lagoons and aerial spraying of wastes onto the land are major sources of pollution.

- **The lagoon/sprayfield technology should be banned and replaced with technologies that do not rely on open-air storage of vast amounts of liquid manure.**

In 1998 Colorado voters passed a ballot initiative requiring tough new controls to reduce odors from waste lagoons. Livestock operations in Europe and in the United States are successfully using livestock production methods that do not rely on these failed technologies.

- **Make corporations that own the livestock, not just individual livestock operators, take responsibility for environmental pollution.**

In an increasing number of livestock production systems, large corporations own the animals and contract with individual growers to raise them. These contracts typically relieve the corporations of responsibility for waste disposal and put the burden on the growers, who have fewer resources to address the problem. The large corporations must share responsibility for waste disposal problems at factory farms. Maryland has announced that it plans to require the animal owners to take responsibility.

- **Require nutrient management plans to prevent manure runoff.**

Animal waste is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus and can be a useful fertilizer when applied to crops at appropriate rates, but when over-applied to land these nutrients can enter groundwater, rivers and lakes, killing fish and other aquatic life and contaminating drinking water supplies. Although many states have some regulations dealing with manure application, few have standards for phosphorus, an important cause of water pollution.

CAFOs should be required to develop and implement plans that will ensure that the proper amount of nutrients are applied in a way that does not harm the environment or public health. These plans should include land application limits for phosphorus as well as nitrogen.

- **Ban the use of antibiotics to promote faster livestock growth.**

Use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth threatens human health by increasing resistance of bacteria to drugs that humans rely upon to protect public health. The World Health Organization called for a ban on using antibiotics for this purpose in 1997. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, and other health organizations have taken similar positions. The European Union heeded these concerns last year when it banned adding human-use antibiotics to animal feed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration should immediately ban the use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth when those antibiotics are used to treat humans.

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN A FACTORY FARM COMES TO TOWN
PHOTO AND CAPTIONS**