

**Concerned Citizens Against Hog Factories**  
**Press Release**  
December 17, 2004

Concerned Citizens Against Hog Factories announced today the Bill and Glenda Kaecker and their daughter, Amy, of Amboy IL, and Don and Joyce Kaecker of Dixon, IL, have decided to join the plaintiffs in the pending lawsuit against Precision Pork, LLC and Bethany Swine Management, LLC. They had initially decided not to join the lawsuit because of representations by the hog factory owners that the facility would not interfere with the enjoyment of their farm located adjacent to the facility.

The decision to join the lawsuit was made after the Kaeckers experienced first-hand the incredibly offensive stench emanating from the hog factory. As Bill Kaecker put it, "I have raised hogs, and I know hogs smell, but the odors coming from the Schelkopf's factory do not smell like hogs. It's more of a sewer gas smell that forces everyone indoors. Almost every night this fall, the smell has caused us to close windows and stay inside. I tried to contact Schelkopfs. When Mike Schelkopf returned my call, he acted as if he could not believe the smell was so bad."

"The stench is real," Don Kaecker, who owns the family farm commented. "Who would ever want to live there or consider buying the farm with the outrageous smell?"

Neighbors noted that on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving they saw John Ryan on a tractor pulling a knifing apparatus connected to a large hose coming from the hog factory. Apparently, the owners and Ryan decided to spread hog manure. A strong north wind blew an odor so thick that it was as if a mist of sewer gas was floating south. The manure application was done right up to the edge of the nearby creek.

On Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Amy Kaecker called for help. The rancid smell was now inside her house so strong she was forced to leave. She called the EPA as well as the hog factory owners. In response, she was told they would not be applying manure on Thanksgiving.

By December 13, 2004, John Ryan and the hog factory owners decided to start applying manure again. The odor was so strong that neighbors complained to the County Health Dept., the EPA, Attorney General, States' Attorney, Sheriff and the hog factory owner. No relief. All those called claimed they had not authority or power to do anything to stop the odor.

The CCAHF welcomes the Kaeckers to the lawsuit and believes their recent experience is a sure indication of what's to come if the hog factory continues to operate. The Kaeckers are looking forward to testifying.

As everyone prepares for the holidays, perhaps the hog factory can stop giving the neighbors their stink. Glenda Kaecker is nervous about having family over for Christmas because of the smell. As Carl Gann, another neighbor, notes, "Misery loves company, and the neighbors are miserable, but they can't have company. That conundrum is real for the neighbors thanks to the purported "good neighbor", the Schelkopf hog factory."

Proceedings in the lawsuit are primarily focused on discovery matters. A recent deposition of William Knoll, Road Commissioner for Marion Township, revealed the special treatment being given Schelkopfs. Knoll testified that due to a "verbal agreement" that Schelkopfs would repair the road, he gave them permission to exceed load limits and load limits were exceeded. Counsel for CCAHF believes Knoll's action exceeded his authority and will be referring the matter to the Township Board. Also, according to Jim Schielein, Illinois Farm Bureau has agreed to provide the Schelkopfs with as much as \$35,000 to defend the lawsuit. Interestingly, IL EPA shared with Schielein a Freedom of Information Request regarding Schelkopfs from a Chicago Tribune reporter, Andrew Martin, before responding. Terry Feldmann, an engineer for the hog factory, admitted tests of the air for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia were made during August, 2004, but results have not been disclosed. John Ryan, who sold the land to the hog factory, is refusing to comply with a subpoena for documents, and as a result, his deposition has been postponed pending a resolution. Ryan's attempt to quash the subpoena was denied last week.

The most interesting development has been the discovery that there are at least 30 owners or investors in the hog factory and approximately 1216 of the estimated 2500 sows are directly or indirectly owned by individuals from Nebraska. James Scheilein revealed that he was provided with names but refuses to disclose the identities due to terms of a confidentiality agreement with Schelkopf.

Plaintiffs are hopeful that a trial can be had in 2005.