FACTORY FARM MORATORIUM NOW!

Mission Statement

The Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture seeks to educate Iowans about the destructive impacts of industrial livestock production, advocate for a statewide factory farm moratorium, and promote traditional and humane livestock production.

Why does Iowa need a factory farm moratorium?

At any given time, the state of Iowa has over 20 million pigs, more than 40 million egg-laying hens, and 1.9 million broiler chickens that are predominately confined on over 9,000+ factory farms.

Factory farms can have many impacts on air, water, and public health. The state is incapable of adequately regulating the factory farms we currently have. We don’t need more!

It’s time to reclaim the rich agricultural heritage of our state, and recognize that factory farms are industrial facilities, not agricultural ones. Therefore, the Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture calls for a statewide moratorium on new or expanding factory farms until Iowa has fewer than 100 polluted waterways.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Iowa has over 9,000 factory farms that produce 22 billion gallons of manure annually. It is spread over fields and can run off into Iowa’s water.

Manure is a leading cause of impaired waterways in Iowa rivers and lakes. There have been more than 800 documented manure spills since 1996, and Iowa currently has 754 polluted waterways.

Fish kills, algae blooms, and E.coli contamination all can occur because of manure pollution.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

Factory farms can emit toxins that cause host of illnesses for neighbors and workers (asthma, headaches, nausea, diarrhea, burning eyes, other respiratory problems).

Studies also show that exposure to these toxins can deteriorate neurological functions (balance, grip strength, verbal recall). Living and working near factory farms can be stressful and can lead to mood problems (depression, confusion, fatigue, tension).

Many of the same antibiotics used to treat humans are also given to confined animals in low doses to avoid disease. The overuse of these antibiotics causes drug-resistant bacteria, which is a danger to people.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Factory farms can disrupt rural lifestyles, increase economic disparity, and deny democratic rights of rural people because regulations are so lax.

Odor and flies from factory farms means neighbors can lose the ability to enjoy their homes or freely move around outdoors.

Property values can decrease near factory farms, and communities can pick up the tab for damages caused by increased truck traffic.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Factory farms are often offered preferential tax assessments, tax credits, and other economic incentives, even though studies show they diminish economic vitality. Counties with more factory farms trend toward lower income growth, fewer business, and less commercial activity.

TRADITIONAL FARMS VS. FAMILY FARMS

Factory farms employ fewer people than the number of family farmers they displace. From 1980 and 2008, as larger-scale industrial operations grew, USDA statistics show that the number of beef cattle operations fell by 41%, hog farms fell by 90%, and dairy farms fell by 80%.
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