



# IARA

Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture

## 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<sup>1</sup>, more than 40 million egg-laying hens<sup>2</sup>, and 1.9 million broiler chickens<sup>2</sup> that are predominately confined on over 9,000+ factory farms.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> There have been more than 800 documented manure spills since 1996,<sup>6</sup> and Iowa currently has 754 polluted waterways.<sup>7</sup>

Fish kills, algae blooms, and E.coli contamination all can occur because of manure pollution.<sup>8,9</sup>

### 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).<sup>10, 11</sup>

Studies also show that exposure to these toxins can deteriorate neurological functions (balance, grip strength, verbal recall).<sup>12</sup> Living and working near factory farms can be stressful and can lead to mood problems (depression, confusion, fatigue, tension).<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup>

### QUALITY OF LIFE

Factory farms can disrupt rural lifestyles, increase economic disparity, and deny democratic rights of rural people because regulations are so lax.<sup>15,16</sup>

Odor and flies from factory farms means neighbors can lose the ability to enjoy their homes or freely move around outdoors.<sup>16</sup>

Property values can decrease near factory farms, and communities can pick up the tab for damages caused by increased truck traffic.<sup>16, 17</sup>

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Factory farms are often offered preferential tax assessments, tax credits, and other economic incentives, even though studies show they diminish economic vitality.<sup>16-20</sup> Counties with more factory farms trend toward lower income growth, fewer business, and less commercial activity.<sup>16</sup>

### 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%.

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Iowa Pork Facts, Iowa Pork Producers Association.
- <sup>2</sup> USDA 2012 Agricultural Census.
- <sup>3</sup> 2016 Annual Report for Work Plan Agreement Between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- <sup>4</sup> "Timing, nutrients, environment factor into fertilizing decisions." *Iowa Farmer Today*, November 25, 2015.
- <sup>5</sup> "DNR report shows Iowa's water pollution rising." KCCI Des Moines, May 15, 2015.
- <sup>6</sup> Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- <sup>7</sup> Iowa Department of Natural Resources Final EPA-approved 2014 303(d) list of impaired waters.
- <sup>8</sup> What Environmental and Human Health Impacts Are Potentially Caused by CAFOs? US Environmental Protection Agency.
- <sup>9</sup> Pathogens in Manure and Contamination of Indiana's Waters and Rural Population. Hoosier Environmental Council, January 19, 2011.
- <sup>10</sup> Air Pollution and Odor in Communities Near Industrial Swine Operations. Steve Wing, Rachel Avery Horton and Stephen W. Marshall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Kendall Thu, University of Northern Illinois; Mansoureh Tajik, University of Massachusetts, Lowell; Leah Schinasi, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Susan S. Schiffman, Duke University, 2008.
- <sup>11</sup> Intensive livestock operations, health, and quality of life among eastern North Carolina residents. Steve Wing and S. Wolf, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2000.
- <sup>12</sup> Human Impairment from Living near Confined Animal (Hog) Feeding Operations. Kaye H. Kilburn. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, 2012.
- <sup>13</sup> Malodor as a Trigger of Stress and Negative Mood in Neighbors of Industrial Hog Operations. Rachel Avery Horton, PhD, Steve Wing, PhD, Stephen W. Marshall, PhD, and Kimberly A. Brownley, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Public Health, 2009.
- <sup>14</sup> Antibiotic Resistance 101, Food and Water Watch, 2015.
- <sup>15</sup> The Economic Cost of Food Monopolies. Food and Water Watch, 2012
- <sup>16</sup> Industrialized Farming and Its Relationship to Community Well-Being: An Update of a 2000 Report by Linda Labao. Office of the Attorney General, State of North Dakota, 2006.
- <sup>17</sup> Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Afford. U.S. Government Accountability Office study.
- <sup>18</sup> The Evidence for Property Devaluation Due to the Proximity to CAFOs. Dr. William J. Weida, Department of Economics, The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. 2002.
- <sup>19</sup> Iowa Code 567-11. Tax Certification of Pollution Control or Recycling Property.
- <sup>20</sup> Environmental Quality Incentives Program, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Iowa