



# IARA

Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture

**IARA supports a moratorium on new or expanded CAFOs until Iowa has 100 or fewer impaired waterways and the Master Matrix is revised to adequately protect communities and the environment.**

## **We need a moratorium to improve our impaired waterways.**

- **750 Iowa waterways currently are classified as impaired.**<sup>1</sup> Agricultural land is a leading source of impairment, with 92% of nitrogen pollution and 80% of phosphorus pollution attributed to non-point sources.<sup>2</sup> Animal waste contributes to major water impairments such as *E. coli*, algal blooms, and fish kills.
- Iowa CAFOs produce 10 billion gallons of manure<sup>3</sup> each year that can reach waterways via leaking storage pits or lagoons, manure spills, surface runoff, or tile lines in fields where manure is applied.
- There were more than 800 documented manure spills from 1996 to 2012 and nearly 4.5 million fish killed in Iowa waterways from 1995 to 2016, with animal waste serving as the leading cause of fish kills.<sup>3</sup>
- The current cleanup cost for Iowa's impaired waterways is estimated at \$4 billion.
- In December 2017, Iowa reported a record inventory of 22.8 million hogs in approximately 13,000 facilities.<sup>4</sup> The number of CAFOs continues to grow, even as Iowa has lost more than 92 percent of its independent hog farms over the past five decades.<sup>5</sup>

## **We need a moratorium to allow time to repair the Master Matrix.**

- **The Master Matrix has failed our environment.** As new facilities compete for available space, CAFOs are being sited in more marginal and environmentally unsuitable locations such as karst terrain, posing a danger to public and private drinking water supplies.
- **The Master Matrix has failed our communities.** Industrial-scale CAFOs place an undue economic burden on local governments that must pay to maintain infrastructure<sup>6</sup> and respond to public health risks and quality of life concerns with no meaningful input into whether or where facilities are constructed.
- Over 20 counties have called for significant improvements to the Master Matrix, and communities across the state are demanding a return of local control. No one is better suited to make decisions about matters that affect local communities than the people who live there.

**THE SOLUTION: The Legislature should enact an immediate moratorium on new or expanded CAFOs and work to revise the Master Matrix to better protect our water, public health, and Iowa communities.**

### **Sources:**

1. 2016 303d Impaired Waters List, Iowa DNR. 2. "Iowa's Nutrient Budget," Iowa DNR. 3. "Animal Feeding Operations in Iowa: Growth of an Industry and Its Impacts," Iowa DNR. 4. "USDA Hog and Pig Quarterly," USDA (Dec. 22, 2017). 5. USDA Statistics. 6. "Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Afford," US Government Accountability Office.