



IARA supports HF 203 and its Senate companion bill to enact a moratorium on new and expanding CAFOs and establish an interim study committee to assess factory farming.

- Iowa currently has 23.6 million hogs¹ and more than 69 million egg-laying hens that are predominantly confined on over 13,000+ factory farms.²
- CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) or factory farms produce 10 billion gallons of manure² each year that can run off into waterways from leaking confinement pits or lagoons; manure spills, over application or runoff; or via tile lines from fields receiving manure.
- 750 waterways in Iowa are polluted.³ The Iowa DNR attributes 92% of nitrogen and 80% of phosphorus pollution in waterways to agricultural sources.⁴
- The cost to clean up polluted waterways is estimated to cost \$4 billion. As the number of CAFOs continues to grow, averaging about 400 new confinements each year,⁵ so do the number of polluted waterways. This will further drive up our cost to clean up Iowa's waters.
- There have been more than 800 documented manure spills (1996 – 2012) and nearly 4.5 million fish killed as a result of those spills between 1995 – 2016.⁶
- The Master Matrix has failed. It was created to give local communities a say in permitting CAFO's, but CAFO proposals can pass the matrix with a score of 50% – an "F" by any other measure. In the 15 years the Matrix has been in place, only 2% of proposals failed.
- No one is better suited to make decisions about matters that affect local communities than the people who live there. But because local communities are unable to influence CAFO siting, confinements are being built in environmentally unsuitable locations such as karst terrain where they pose a danger to public and private drinking water, or in very close proximity to homes, businesses, and schools.
- County supervisors in 24 counties have called for significant improvements to the Master Matrix or for a moratorium on new and expanding factory farms.
- Iowa's independent farms are disappearing fast. The number of farms raising hogs has declined dramatically, even as the total number of hogs raised has skyrocketed. Between 1982 and 2007, the number of hogs in Iowa increased 10-fold. Yet over the same period, the number of hog farms fell by more than 80 percent, and the economic value of the state's hog production actually declined.⁷

The Solution:

An immediate moratorium on new or expanding factory farms in order to protect our water, public health, and communities. We need time to reduce the number of polluted waters and overhaul the Master Matrix.

Representative Dean Fisher (District 72) is currently refusing to assign the House version of the moratorium bill (HF 203) to a subcommittee so that it could be debated and possibly scheduled for a hearing. This is an issue of critical importance to people across Iowa. Rep. Fisher is singlehandedly holding up the bill by refusing to even allow a subcommittee to consider it. Rep. Fisher needs to hear from you: dean.fisher@legis.iowa.gov or (515) 281-3221.

Sources: 1. "USDA Hog and Pig Quarterly." USDA. December 22, 2017. 2. "Animal Feeding Operations in Iowa: Growth of an Industry and It's Impacts." Iowa DNR. 3. 2016 303d Impaired Waters List, Iowa DNR. 4. "Iowa's Nutrient Budget." Iowa DNR. 5. Yearly totals, 2006 – 2018. Iowa DNR 6. "Animal Feeding Operations in Iowa: Growth of an Industry and It's Impacts." Iowa DNR. 7. USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, 1982, 1984, 2012.