



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU IN 2015 A JFAN POSITION STATEMENT

With the expansion of hog Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Southeast Iowa, JFAN is recommitting its efforts to let CAFO owners and their corporate suppliers know that the problems CAFOs inevitably create, will not be tolerated in Jefferson County.

We will work to ensure that every member of our county understands the adverse effects of factory farms. **No one** should be forced to tolerate a CAFO against his or her will. We believe CAFOs should NOT infringe on our fundamental American right to use and enjoy our homes and land. CAFOs should NOT have the right to ruin their neighbors' quality of life.

JFAN's community education and organizing efforts for 2015 will support these following JFAN positions:

1. Large scale animal feeding operations are not farms. **Period.** They are industrial operations that produce toxic, untreated animal waste products and should be regulated as such.
2. Untreated animal sewage from CAFOs poses an unacceptable and scientifically proven health threat. It must be treated as rigorously as human sewage.
3. Raising livestock in close confinement is inherently inhumane. CAFO meat can be contaminated with MRSA, E. coli, salmonella, and other dangerous bacteria. JFAN supports sustainably raised, pasture-based animal husbandry methods.
4. JFAN's community education will tell the **truth** about farming. We will address the corporate livestock industry's aggressive and misleading public relations campaign that equates factory farms with traditional, independent farms. They are **not** the same.
5. JFAN will actively support changes to laws and regulations to better protect people and the environment from the harmful impacts of CAFOs. We support local control.
6. JFAN will continue to provide extensive informational support and guidance to neighbors working to stop a confinement.

7. JFAN will continue to recommend nuisance and quality of life lawsuits if an infringing CAFO can't be stopped. **CAFO owners should understand that if they build a confinement against their neighbors' wishes, there is a good chance they may find themselves in a costly lawsuit.**

WHY FACTORY FARMS ARE HARMFUL: A FEW EXAMPLES

- Children living near CAFOs can be at a greater risk for developing asthma. A University of Iowa study found Iowa children attending school near a CAFO had a 25% asthma rate compared to 12% for the control group.¹
- Children living on CAFO sites had a 44% asthma rate and those living on CAFO sites that use subtherapeutic drugs had a 56% asthma rate in a University of Iowa study.²
- Neighbors living within one mile of a large CAFO (2500+ hogs) had almost three times the risk of carrying the potentially deadly antibiotic-resistant bacteria MRSA in a University of Iowa study.³

Our Commitment: Protecting You in 2015 **JFAN – Your Quality of Life Protection Policy**

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¹ Merchant et al, "Asthma and Farm Exposures in a Cohort of Rural Iowa Children." University of Iowa. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. December 7, 2004.

² Sigurdson and Kline, "School Proximity to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Prevalence of Asthma in Students." University of Iowa. *Chest: The Cardiopulmonary and Critical Care Journal*. June 17, 2006.

³ "Residential Proximity to Large Number of Swine in Feeding Operations Is Associated with Increased Risk of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Colonization at Time of Hospital Admission in Rural Iowa Veterans." University of Iowa, Iowa City Veterans Affairs, and Kent State University. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*. February 2014.