

The Real Co\$t of CAFO Meat – Part One



Supermarket meat produced in factory farms is touted as an affordable source of protein. But is cheap meat really cheap? Check out these additional costs:

Water Costs:

- Industrial agriculture is a significant contributor to Iowa's poor water quality including pollution from manure application, runoff and spills. The DNR reports over 787 manure violations since 2000.¹
- 75% of Iowa's tested waterways are impaired.²
- Clean-up costs are estimated at \$1.2 - \$4 billion.³

Rural Economy Costs:

- People leaving CAFO communities can decrease population. Businesses may move out or shut down, reducing county property and sales tax revenues.⁵
- Meanwhile, counties must repair road damage from tractor-trailers transporting feed and livestock.⁶ Public services may be curtailed or taxes increased to cover costs.

Quality of Life Costs:

- Many neighbors living close to CAFOs report noxious odors or fly and rodent infestations can prevent the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and property.
- Outdoor activities may be curtailed and stress levels can increase.⁷

Who pays for these costs? YOU do through increased taxes, lost home equity, reduced county services, and a stressful, impaired quality of life.

Many of these costs aren't experienced in dollars and cents, yet are no less important.

**Is cheap meat really worth the price for you and your children?
Isn't it time for a factory farm moratorium now?**

Learn more: www.jfaniowa.org/cheap_meat.aspx

1. Iowa Department of Natural Resources Hazardous Material Release database.
2. "Can Iowa Improve It's Water Quality If It Can't Agree How to Measure Success." *Des Moines Register*, November 19, 2016 and 2012 DNR EPA-approved 303(d) list of impaired waters.
3. Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
4. Weida, Dr. William J. "The CAFO and Depopulation of Rural Agricultural Areas: Implications for Rural Economies in Canada and the US." The Colorado College and GRACE Factory Farm Project, 2002.
5. "Industrialized Farming and Its Relationship to Community Well-Being: An Update of a 2000 Report by Linda Lobao." University of North Dakota. September, 2006.
6. "Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Afford." U.S. Government Accountability Office study.
7. "Malodor as a Trigger of Stress and Negative Mood in Neighbors of Industrial Hog Operations." *American Journal of Public Health*. November 2009.

Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc.