



ECONOMIC FALLACIES OF INDUSTRIAL HOG PRODUCTION

US BILL WOULD BAN NONTHERAPEUTIC ANTIBIOTICS IN LIVESTOCK



A bill introduced by US Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) would change the way antibiotics are used on factory farms. The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act 2009 (PAMTA) would require the FDA to withdraw the use of seven classes of antibiotics on factory farms unless animals or herds of animals are sick. To date, forty representatives have co-authored the bill.

Banning the nontherapeutic use of antimicrobials was the number one recommendation of the Pew Commission report on Industrial Farm Animal Production, released over a year ago. Antimicrobials are substances that kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria, fungi, protozoans, and viruses.

“Human antibiotics are routinely misused on factory farms to promote faster animal growth and compensate for

PAMTA continued on p. 7

BY DR. JOHN IKERD

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

The following is an excerpt from Dr. John Ikerd’s full presentation to the Sustainable Hog Farming Summit on January 2001. JFAN will reprint additional excerpts in subsequent newsletters.

Expansion of large-scale, industrial hog operations during the decade of the 1990s has fundamentally transformed the basic nature of the hog-pork sector of the US agricultural economy. Virtually all of the positive claims put forth by the advocates of large-scale confinement feeding operations are economic in nature. Thus, society in general will benefit from the economic industrialization of US hog pro-

duction – so claim the advocates.

There are elements of truth in these claims. On balance, however, the claims are more fallacy than fact.

Fallacy: Rural communities in agricultural areas will benefit from large-scale corporate hog operations.

The advocates claim that large-scale corporate hog operations are a logical economic development strategy for rural communities in agricultural areas. These operations will help keep local families employed on their farms, and if enough operations become large enough, they will create badly needed local jobs in pork slaughter and processing and in supplying feed and other services. Corporate hog production can also add significantly

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JFAN Annual Meeting • Wednesday, October 7 • Fairfield Arts & Convention Center • 7:30 - 9:30 pm

THE ECONOMICS, POLITICS, AND FUTURE OF CAFOS

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JFAN NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC

Volume 5 ~ FALL/WINTER 2009

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*All articles are reported by JFAN
unless attributed otherwise.*

This newsletter is published
semi-annually by the
Board of Directors
of Jefferson County Farmers
and Neighbors, Inc. (JFAN),
which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
tax-exempt educational foundation.

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NATURALLY, HOGS DON'T STINK

BY FRANCIS THICKE
CO-OWNER AND CO-OPERATOR
RADIANCE DAIRY, FAIRFIELD, IA

Recently I attended a meeting organized to rally folks against the rapid proliferation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) here in Iowa. A woman spoke out about her frustration – being sick of the stench of hog lots and tired of the battle against the Iowa legislature that would not allow local governments control over hog lots. She then said “If only they didn’t smell it wouldn’t be a problem.”

I had to object. The smell of industrialized hog production goes much deeper than the nose can detect. Just ridding hog production of odor will not rid it of the deep rot that has set into the hog industry.

Industrialized, confinement hog production is a relatively new phenomenon, and in spite of what proponents say, there are better ways to raise hogs than crowding them together on concrete and concentrating their manure.

Recently I picked up a 1923 edition of the classic textbook *Feeds and Feeding* by W.A. Henry and F.B. Morrison. It was interesting to read that the authors considered it ideal to raise hogs on pasture. In their words, “[for hogs on pasture] good results will be secured without the addition of any mineral supplement except common salt.” They talked at length about the various feed supplements needed for hogs that were not on good pasture forage. And, that when hogs are kept in a building, “abundant exercise should be enforced at all times.”

Pasture, exercise, for a hog? That certainly doesn’t sound like Iowa industrial hog production. Well, having raised hogs in my youth, I can tell you there is nothing happier and healthier than a hog running on pasture.

What would happen if we turned Iowa’s confinement hogs out to pasture? We could stop feeding them antibiotics, be-

cause they wouldn’t need them. The hogs would have a healthier and more diverse diet. Their manure would become fertilizer for the pasture, and the hogs would spread the fertilizer for free. So, there would be no manure lagoons to pollute our creeks and lakes. And, guess what? Hog farms would not stink!

Why do CAFOs stink? Industrial hog-lot manure accumulates in a liquid form, so it becomes anaerobic and putrid. Over 300 volatile organic compounds – many of them toxic – are formed in a liquid ma-



nure lagoon. When hogs are on pasture, their manure is dispersed on the soil and is aerobically decomposed, so putrid compounds do not form.

Hogs are clean animals by nature. Sure, they like a roll in

a mud puddle on a hot day, but when it comes to “bathroom” habits, hogs are among the most fastidious of domestic animals. In a natural environment, hogs will not defecate in their own nesting area; they reserve designated areas to relieve themselves. Of course, when they are crowded together on concrete, they cannot fulfill that instinct. What they gain in its place is tail biting and other aggressive behaviors associated with overcrowded conditions. How would you feel and behave if stuck interminably on a crowded elevator?

Industrial, confinement hog production lends itself well to corporate control. Hog production is rapidly going the route of the poultry industry – which has turned farmers into serfs of corporate agribusiness. The hogs and feed are provided by corporations; the “farmers” are responsible for the liabilities of the buildings and manure.

Today four corporations control over 65 percent of the hog market. Just a few years ago, hog production by independent farmers was the backbone of Iowa’s agriculture. Hogs were considered to be the mortgage-lifter for Iowa farmers. Today it is becoming difficult for independent hog producers to even find a market.

Are there alternatives to industrial, con-

finement hogs? You bet! In Iowa there is a small, but growing, number of farmers raising hogs outdoors. One company – Niman Ranch – pays farmers a premium for pasture-raised, antibiotic-free pork and has a network of over 650 family farmers raising hogs and other animals for them. Pork labeled “certified organic” is also antibiotic-free and raised with access to the outdoors.

Every time you buy food you make a contribution to a social, economic and environmental system of agriculture. If you buy industrial pork, you are contributing to turning farmers into hog-house janitors and crowding hogs together on concrete (remember the life sentence in the crowded elevator with no bathroom).

There are sources of pork raised outdoors under humane conditions that do not degrade the environment. Look for them. Both you and the farmer you support will be glad you did.

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Francis Thicke and his wife, Susan Noll, are owners and operators of an organic, grass-based dairy near Fairfield. Dr. Thicke is also a soil scientist and has served as

the National Program Leader for soil science for the USDA Extension Service.

H1N1 INFLUENZA HITS FARMS IN CANADA

Several hog farms in Manitoba, Canada’s top pig producing province, were hit with the H1N1 virus in June, according to an article in Reuters.com. The province’s chief Veterinary officer, Dr. Wayne Lees, said he expected more hogs to become infected this fall. All the hogs have recovered and some were subsequently sent to slaughter. After the initial detection, Lees said that human contact most likely spread the virus to the hogs. Australia and Argentina have also reported herds that tested positive for H1N1.

Source: Reuters.com

STATE HOUSE PASSES BILL LIMITING WINTER MANURE APPLICATIONS

After much lobbying from environmental groups, the Iowa House passed new legislation during the last legislative session limiting the spread of liquid manure during the winter months. An improved SF 432 makes it illegal to spread liquid manure on snow-covered crop fields between December 21 and April 1 and on frozen ground between February 1 and April 1, according to an article by Radiolowa.com and a press release from Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

For the past year, the Environmental Protection Commission worked on a rule-making process to restrict applying manure to frozen ground to protect Iowa’s waterways. In the process, they took extensive input from environmental and agricultural commodity groups, as well as community members and farmers, to fine-tune their rule.

Lawmakers felt an elected body rather than an appointed commission should make the regulation change, however, and crafted their own version.

An early version of SF 432 was originally passed in March, but the bill undercut and greatly weakened the EPC’s draft. A companion bill in the House provided loopholes that would have enabled manure to be spread in “emergency situations.”

Thousands of Iowans put pressure on House members to improve the legislation. The final bill, signed by Governor Culver, extended the period of the ban, closed major loopholes, and also provided guidelines for dry manure. It also says the DNR must provide progress reports on the state of Iowa’s water quality to various legislative committees.

Source: Radiolowa.com and BlogforIowa.com

JFAN’S GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

www.jfaniowa.org/GoodNeighbor-Guidelines.htm

MRSA FOUND IN RAW MEAT SAMPLES

A recent Louisiana State University study found 5% of the raw pork it examined to be contaminated with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and 45.6% was contaminated with *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*).

MRSA is an antibiotic-resistant bacterium that now kills more people each year than HIV/AIDS. *S. aureus* is the most common cause of staph infections.

The researchers examined 120 retail meat samples (90 pork and 30 beef) from 30 grocery stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana over a six-week period. Sev-



enty-three percent of the grocery stores had *S. aureus* contaminated meats and 10% sold human epidemic MRSA-positive meats.

MRSA was also found in one beef sample and *S. aureus* was discovered in 20% of the beef.

According to the researchers, the high prevalence of MRSA and *S. aureus* in retail meats raises public health concerns. The presence of MRSA may pose a threat of infecting people who handle the raw meat.

European studies have documented the transmission of MRSA from pigs to pig farmers, and a recent University of Iowa study found the bacterium in Midwest hogs and CAFO operators. Recent studies in The Netherlands and Canada have shown that 20-40% of pigs harbor MRSA.

The study, the first to examine retail meats, concludes that MRSA’s presence in the US food chain is likely due to human contamination. It recommends further research to better assess the risk to meat handlers and consumers.

Source: Pub Med Central, www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2612222

OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

JFAN WORKING HARD FOR YOU

Pleasant Plain Trial Date Set for Next March

Another trial delay has pushed back the Pleasant Plain Property Owners Association vs. James Kaska and JL Pork lawsuit to March 30, 2010. The location of the trial has not yet been determined.

Mr. Kaska constructed and operates a 1250-head hog confinement located within one to 1-1/2 miles of 25 neighbors who make up the Association. The group sued Mr. Kaska after repeated attempts to resolve the situation failed.

The lawsuit states that the confinement harms the health, safety and quality of life of the plaintiffs as well as the public and the environment. It asserts that the CAFO proposes a significant risk of groundwater contamination and has the potential to seep into the Jefferson County aquifer, which supplies Fairfield's water.

The plaintiffs contend that their property values have declined because of the confinement. The Association is suing to have the CAFO shut down as well as for financial damages.

Diane Rosenberg Named Executive Director/VP

In June, Diane Rosenberg was named Executive Director/Vice President of JFAN. Ms. Rosenberg has been a member of the JFAN Board since January 2007, and for the past year and a half, has served as Treasurer.

A writing/design/marketing professional, Ms. Rosenberg produces JFAN's newsletters, booklets, articles, and has just finished updating the website of which she will serve as webmaster. In her expanded role, Ms. Rosenberg retains administrative oversight of the organization as well as continues with her duties as Treasurer.

Prior to joining JFAN, Ms. Rosenberg was Editor-in-Chief of *The Heartland Spirit*, the former weekly newspaper that helped bring Jefferson County's CAFO issue to the public's attention.

Jim Rubis continues to serve as President of JFAN.

No Change on Adrian CAFO

JFAN continues to monitor the Adrian CAFO, a 2400-head hog confinement that was proposed for northern Jefferson County. Three sites were being considered for the facility, and a group of neighbors organized to oppose construction. According to one of the affected neighbors, no further action has been taken at this point to move ahead with the hog operation, which was to be built in partnership with Tri-Oaks. JFAN will continue to monitor the situation and keep the community informed on any developments.

EXPANDED, UPDATED, IMPROVED

Our overhauled website - WWW.JFANIOWA.ORG - now provides you with more information and the latest news. Check it out!

- Recent JFAN news
- Latest on local area CAFOs
- Reports on violations
- Sustainable alternatives
- Expanded resources
- Links to other CAFO-fighting organizations
- National news articles
- Regular updates and breaking stories
- And more!

WWW.JFANIOWA.ORG

A Brief History of JFAN

SEED IDEAS STRONG ROOTS

A PROTECTIVE CANOPY

In the summer of 2005, a large group of Jefferson County farmers, home owners, and business owners grew concerned about the increasing number of confined animal feeding operations in Jefferson County.

They formed an alliance named Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit, educational organization, to pool their resources, talents, and energies to keep the county safe from CAFOs.

With community education as a cornerstone, one of JFAN's first efforts was a large public meeting at the Best Western Hotel in September 2005 that drew 500 people to hear respected speakers discuss how hog confinements could adversely affect Jefferson County.

A major fundraising effort ensued, and in addition to education, JFAN also began a program of financial assistance grants to help those affected by CAFOs handle the legal costs involved in protecting their homes and businesses.

In October 2005, the Dick Simmons family was given a grant to protect their home from a newly constructed 1200-head hog confinement adjacent to their properties. Subsequently, the case went to court and a satisfactory settlement was reached.

That same month, JFAN also provided a financial assistance grant to a group of Batavia farmers and homeowners to protect their interests from a proposed 5900-head sow operation that would have created six million gallons of toxic manure each year. To date, the facility has been permanently stalled.

Since then, JFAN has been helping many other groups by providing information and support when faced with potential CAFOs. For example:

- A proposed CAFO across from the Cambridge Investment Research building on Pleasant Plain Road was scrapped after lengthy discussions between parties. JFAN provided information and guidance during the process.

- A major 4300-head hog/sow facility in Farson, just across the line from the northwest Jefferson County border, was denied by the DNR as a result of information provided by local residents and JFAN. To the best of our knowledge, this

was one of the very few CAFOs the DNR ever denied.

- A lawsuit by the Pleasant Plain residents against James Kaska and JL Pork is currently underway. JFAN is aiding the 25-member group through education and an ongoing financial assistance grant.

JFAN provided valuable community information that subsequently resulted in the institution of a new DNR water protection rule in 2006. And during a one-week period in January 2006, JFAN gathered over 2200 petition signatures supporting a statewide confinement moratorium. The petition was personally presented to then Governor Tom Vilsack and DNR Director Jeff Vonk, as well as to the Fairfield City Council, Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and the county's state representatives.

In 2006, a group of local livestock farmers approached JFAN and requested guidelines for building acceptable livestock confinements within the county. As a result, JFAN developed the *Jefferson County Good Neighbor Guidelines* subsequently used by farmers and neighbors.

JFAN also began to provide financial assistance grants to help farmers move towards sustainable livestock operations and to organizations to conduct related environmental research. The Sierra Club Leopold Group recently received a financial assistance grant to conduct a water study of Walnut Creek.

In 2007, JFAN's semi-annual newsletter debuted in conjunction with its second annual meeting, and a more elaborate public education phase ensued. Over the past two years, JFAN has published several more highly informative newsletters plus two booklets, *How to Protect Your Family and Farm from Factory Farms* and *Secondary Liability: Could You Be Implicated in a CAFO Lawsuit?*

Since late 2007, JFAN has published periodic columns in the *Fairfield Weekly Reader* and Letters to the Editor in the *Fairfield Ledger* and *Ottumwa Courier*. Just this month we completely overhauled and updated our website. Our new platform will allow us to publish timely announcements and news stories as well as provide increasing amounts of pertinent information.

As JFAN begins its fifth year, we have plans to expand our public education efforts and, of course, we will continue to provide informational and financial support to those that are facing a CAFO in their neighborhood. We thank all our supporters for helping to make it possible to do all that we have in the past four years.

MORE GOVERNMENT MONEY FOR PORK INDUSTRY

In September, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack approved an additional \$30 million to bail out the financially distressed pork industry after initially denying a \$50 million request from Governor Chet Culver and eight other governors.

This is the fourth time government funds were allotted to the ailing industry, bringing the total to \$147 million since the spring. In March, the USDA purchased \$25 million of pork, followed by a \$50 million purchase in April, and 775,000 pounds of ham was purchased in July, reports Radiolowa.com.

Secretary Vilsack initially denied the \$50 million request because of financial demands made by the dairy industry and other commodity industries this past year. He indicated that additional funds might be available at the beginning of the new fiscal year in October.

However the USDA located \$30 million for purchases through the federal food and nutrition assistance programs, such as the free and reduced school lunch program, food banks, and programs for the elderly.

Senators Chuck Grassley, Tom Harkin, and Representative Leonard Boswell have all lauded the government's deci-

sion to purchase the pork.

With pork prices declining over the past two years, the pork industry has lost \$4.5 billion to date. Pork producers, who are currently losing over \$30 per hog, are expected to see that loss climb to \$54 per head this fall.

The industry was hit hard by the outbreak of the H1N1 flu, also known as Swine Flu, which hurt public confidence in pork's safety and led China and other countries to ban the import of US pork. High feed costs have also affected profitability.

Agricultural economists have warned for months that the pork industry should stabilize prices by cost cutting and herd reduction, but the industry has been reluctant to reduce herd size, continuing to increase the pork supply even when facing a dwindling demand.

In August three pork producer marketing groups have recommended a \$200 million government program that would buy out sows, reducing the country's overall herd size by one half million.

Sources: *IowaPolitics.com*; *Radiolowa.com*; *Wallace Farmer, Farm and Dairy*



EPC DENIES CAFO PROPOSAL IN VAN BUREN CO.

The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) voted 6-2 in July to deny a 4800-head hog factory in southwest Van Buren after the DNR gave an initial approval to the CAFO, according to *IowaPolitics.com*

The Van Buren County Board of Supervisors originally recommended against the CAFO in April, based on their review of the Master Matrix. Their assessment found problems in six areas with out-of-state owner Steve Robinson's application.

However, when the DNR reviewed the application in June, the DNR disagreed with the Board of Supervisors on four of the areas and scored the Cargill-backed CAFO high enough to approve the facility reports the *Fairfield Ledger*.

One area of disagreement was over the legal separation distance to a nearby residence. The Supervisors determined that a trailer in close proximity to the proposed

CAFO qualified as a residence since the owner lived there two days a week to look after his livestock. Since there wasn't an approved septic system for the trailer, the DNR disqualified that consideration.

The Board of Supervisors demanded a hearing with the EPC, and in July, the EPC handed down a ruling denying the facility, located near the town of Cantril.

IowaPolitics.com reports that Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI) worked with the county to oppose the hog farm and find weaknesses in the Master Matrix. This was the third time in less than a year that ICCI, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, stopped the site from moving ahead.

Source: *Iowa Politics.com* and June 12, 2009 *Fairfield Ledger*, June 12.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM IOWA, THE US AND BEYOND

Did Swine Flu Come from a CAFO?

There has been much speculation that Swine Flu, renamed Influenza A (H1N1), is linked to a Smithfield Foods CAFO operating in Perote, Mexico. The illness, a mix of swine, avian and human flu, first manifested in Perote in late March, affecting 28% of the population reports Grist.org.

Perote villagers had complained for months about the enormous amounts of manure and the putrid smell coming from the Smithfield plant.

Smithfield protested the flu originated in its Mexican facility, which raises 950,000 hogs each year. The company says that tests conducted at the Perote operation found no evidence that the pigs were infected, but it's not clear what tests were used. According to a Grist.org article, the livestock giant controlled which hogs it tested.



Texas resident Steven Trunnell is suing Smithfield Foods for \$1 billion for the wrongful death of his pregnant wife, Judy Trunnell who, in May, was the first US victim to die of the H1N1 virus, according to *Time* magazine. The suit says that while the company may not have purposely bred the disease, the poor condition of its plant allowed H1N1 to be introduced to the world. He disputes the validity of the Mexican tests and wants a team of his own experts to examine the Perote hogs.

Trunnell said if the case moves ahead, he would be open to including other H1N1 victims in a class action lawsuit.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that as of September 11, there have been over 277,607 cases of Swine Flu resulting in 3205 deaths worldwide. Since countries are no longer required to report cases, the actual numbers are most likely higher.

Though the pork industry says you can't catch Swine Flu from eating pork, the WHO says you can catch it from handling raw meat.

Sources: *Grist.org*; *Time.com*; *WHO.int*

Groups to EPA: Reclassify H2S as Hazardous Pollutant

A coalition of community, public health, and environmental organizations has formally requested the Environmental Protection Agency list hydrogen sulfide (H2S) as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act.

Hydrogen sulfide is a byproduct of CAFO manure as well as oil and gas drilling wells and refineries.

Well known to be rapidly lethal at higher concentrations, recent medical research has shown that remarkably low levels can cause genetic damage and serious permanent central nervous system damage.

Over 25 local and national organizations and individuals have asked the EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, to add H2S to a list of 188 chemicals termed Hazardous Air Pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act.

These organizations include the Sierra Club, Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, Community In-Powerment and Development Association, and Citizens for Environmental Justice.

Source: *Sierra Club*

DNR Lays Off Livestock Enforcement Field Officers

One third of the DNR's animal confinement enforcement field officers have been laid off because of state budget cuts to the agency, reports Radiolowa.com. The six officers were responsible for monitoring livestock confinements.

Wayne Gieselmann, head of the DNR's environmental services division, said the 15% agency budget reduction amounts to a \$1.2 million loss. Programs that drew federal matching funds were given first priority and everything else was reduced.

According to Representative Mark Kuhn, chairman of the subcommittee that drafts the agency's budget, the DNR had discretion to explore several ways to make the numbers work and said the state legislature will review the DNR's decisions.

He also expressed concerns that the DNR may not have enough personnel to enforce the new law forbidding the appli-

cation of liquid manure on frozen farmland.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement member Sonia Skidmore reports that prior to the layoffs, the DNR already had difficulties in meeting their all enforcement needs, such as responding to manure application problems or dead hogs in waterways.

Source: *Radiolowa.com*

DNR: Iowa Gets a "Poor" Grade for Water Quality

Iowa received a C- for water quality in the DNR's 2009 Environmental Report Card. The state monitors 72 sites on major Iowa rivers for factors that affect fish and aquatic life, drinking water, recreation and aesthetics. This information provides data that gives an overall picture of the health of Iowa's waterways.

The report looks at a total of eight areas. The state's lakes received a B with little more than half of the state's publicly owned lakes providing clear water.

To see the report, visit: <http://tiny.cc/pbyvQ>.

More Added to Iowa's Impaired Waterways List

The US Environmental Protection Agency approved Iowa's state list of impaired waters, which added 105 water bodies to the DNR's list of impaired waters in 2006. Fifty-one have also been removed from the list. The process is done every two years and is currently getting underway for 2008.

The list may be viewed on the DNR website <http://tiny.cc/K9tjz>.

Source: *Radiolowa.com*

Runoff Fouls Stream after Field Application

Manure runoff polluted an unnamed tributary of Stump Creek near Batavia in May according to a Iowa DNR press release. James Boller with B.J. Hauling of Kalona injected the liquid manure into cropland owned by Shawn and Jeff Adam. Manure pooled in low spots, and approximately 200 gallons ran off the field and into the stream.

The DNR required remedial action, including diking up low areas and pumping up excess manure to prevent more from leaving the field.

The manure came from a hog confinement owned by Nick Adam.

There was no evidence of a fish kill although the DNR staff found evidence of manure one-quarter mile downstream.

The manure application was in compliance with state laws, however runoff still polluted the creek.

Editors's Note: It's JFAN's opinion that this is a prime example of why stricter laws are necessary to protect the environment.

PAMTA continued from p. 1

crowded, stressful and unsanitary conditions," said Robert Martin, a senior officer with the Pew Environment Group. "Medical experts agree that this practice directly contributes to a dramatic rise in antibiotic-resistant infections in people. We must reduce the use of antibiotics today to help preserve their effectiveness tomorrow."

While the bill only addresses antibiotics, Martin says that is a step in the right direction.

The House Rules Committee held a hearing on the bill in July in which Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., principal deputy commission for the FDA, testified that the use of antimicrobials should be phased out for nontherapeutic purposes in livestock production. Using antibiotics for disease control and containment would not compromise food safety, he said.

Antibiotics are routinely used for growth

enhancement, feed efficiency, and disease prevention. Seventy percent of all the antibiotics used in the United States are fed to livestock, according to a Union of Concerned Scientists report.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, pathogens and pharmaceutically active compounds in livestock manure can be transmitted to other animals and humans through the food and water. The production of fresh fruit and vegetables using manure or irrigating with wastewater could be mechanisms of pathogen transfer.

With human antibiotics being used in enormous quantities on the farm, they are becoming less effective in people. At the same time, few new antibiotics are entering the market to take the place of ineffective ones. The Food and Drug Administration last approved a new antibiotic for humans in 2003.

The seven classes of antibiotics that would be revoked from routine use include



penicillins, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins, aminoglycosides, sulfonamides and any other drug used to treat bacterial illness in people.

A coalition of 20 livestock organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), is opposing the bill, which they say will cause increased animal disease and death.

AVMA has also questioned the scientific validity of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production report. A letter by AMVA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, to the House and Senate accuses the Pew Commission of being biased and not inclusive of a significant number of academicians.

The Pew report was authored by 15 commission members, including eight academicians, a former Secretary of Agriculture, and a retired Assistant Surgeon General.

Over 350 organizations have endorsed PAMTA, including, 115 health organizations, 140 environmental organizations, and nearly 100 religious, sustainable living, and animal protections organizations.

If you support this measure, you can send a message to your representatives at <http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/PAMTA>

Sources: Pew Charitable Trust; Veterinary News; McAlester News; SaveAntibiotics.com, and KeepAntibioticsWorking.com

MAIL IN DONATION FORM

Please cut out this form and mail it with your tax-deductible donation to:

**JFAN, Inc.
P.O. Box 811
Fairfield, IA 52556**

Donation Amount: \$25.00
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Click on "What you can do" then click on "Make a Donation"
and follow the simple instructions.

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FALLACY *continued from p. 1*

to the local tax base, particularly if feed and meat processing facilities are located in the area. Many rural agricultural communities are losing both population and tax base. They need people to support local retail businesses, local schools, and local churches, and they need local tax dollars to support local government and other social services. Many rural communities have a history of relying on agriculture, and the local people are accustomed to working in agricultural operations. Corporations are looking for a hospitable place to locate their facilities. So corporate agriculture would seem to be a natural fit – a win-win situation for both rural communities and corporate agriculture. However, rural communities have better alternatives for economic development. Industrial hog production destroys the most valuable resources rural communities have for building a sustainable future.

Fact: Rural people must learn to rely on their own resources – their land, local investment, and local people – to sustain their communities over the long run.

The corporations who are investing in large-scale hog production are not in the business of community development. They are looking for someplace where they can do business as profitably as possible. They are looking for a cheap source of labor and somewhere to get rid of a huge quantity of smelly waste with the least hassle from local residents. They are looking for people who are desperate to stay on the farm – to be their contract producers. They are looking for people who are desperate for work of any kind – to work in feed mills and slaughter plants. However, they expect to bring in workers from other countries for the most intolerable jobs, regardless of where they locate. And they are looking for local town officials who want to bring jobs to their community now, regardless of the long-run consequences.

Hog production and processing are dirty businesses – they are inherently threatening to the natural environment. The basic problem in large-scale hog production is concentration – putting too many hogs in one place. When hogs are dispersed across the land, their waste is likewise dispersed and diluted. Hogs on pastures, or even small confinement operations on diversified farms, do not rep-

resent a significant environmental or health risk. Their waste goes back to the fields where the feed grains were grown to be recycled for future production. But when tens and hundreds of thousands are concentrated in one place, the waste has to be collected, processed, and carefully distributed to prevent serious environmental and health problems. More waste is concentrated in a given geographic area than nature can assimilate. Any disruption in the waste treatment process means potential serious contamination of surface or ground water and potentially serious risks to human health.



The corporate operations defend themselves against environmental accusations by promising to build and maintain the most effective waste disposal systems technically possible. However, such promises have been followed by a persistent pattern of repeated environmental catastrophes in states such as North Carolina, Missouri, and Iowa, where many of the largest corporate operations are located.

In addition, concentration of too many hogs in one place results in noxious odors that can sometimes be smelled for miles around. A growing body of scientific literature has documented that odor problems are more than just a nuisance to those living nearby. Hog odors also reduce surrounding property values, and most importantly, odors can represent serious health risks for people living within miles of some of these large hog factories. Some counties have passed local health ordinances to protect their people from exposure to large-scale confinement animal feeding operations.

The negative environmental impacts of large hog operations also tend to degrade the quality of civic life in the local communities. The people who are downwind or downstream from these large-scale operations tend to be determinedly opposed to the corporate operations while those who work for the operations are thankful for their jobs. Consequently, these operations

pit neighbor against neighbor, and in many cases have split communities apart, making it difficult for the community to come together around any common cause.

So large-scale corporate hog operations destroy the very resources that rural communities must depend on for their long run viability and prosperity. They trade potentially productive, entrepreneurial opportunities on independent farming operations for low-skilled, low-paying jobs, which tend to contribute relatively little to the local community or the local economy. They often bring in workers from outside the community who have no commitment to the local community and may well add more to the cost of social services than corporations add to the local tax base. They risk degrading the natural environment by polluting streams and groundwater and filling the air with noxious odors. And, they can tear the social fabric of a community apart.

When the corporations find some other place where people will work even harder for less money, and who care even less about their natural environment, the corporations will move on, leaving the communities with the mess to clean up. The most valuable assets that most rural communities have to ensure their long run survival and prosperity are open spaces, a clean environment, and a strong sense of community. Some communities have sacrificed all of these things for a few low-paying jobs in corporate hog factories. This just doesn't make common sense. The corporations benefit from large-scale hog production, not the local community.

To read the article in its entirety, visit <http://tiny.cc/vk7R3>



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