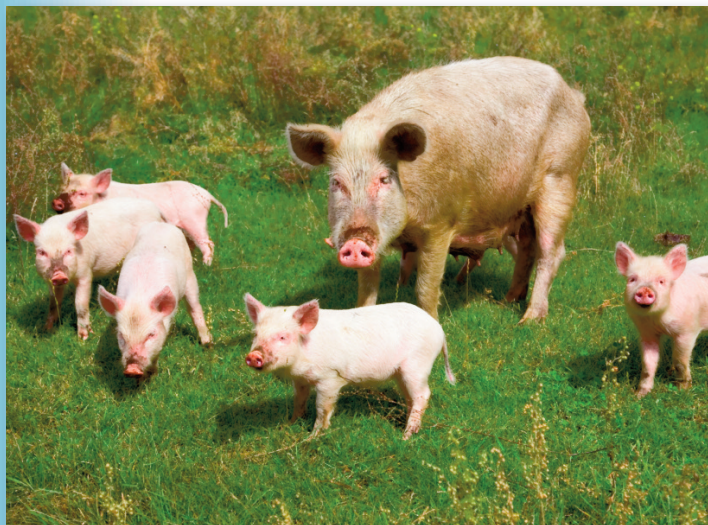




REAL FARMS ARE NOT...FACTORY FARMS



Photos: Aleksandr Hunta/Shutterstock.com (left); rtem/Shutterstock.com (right)

By Dr. John Ikerd
Professor Emeritus
University of Missouri at Columbia

Real farming is a way of life, not just a way to make a living. Real farms provide multiple benefits to communities, consumers, and society in general, not just profits for farmers and corporate investors. Real farms are diverse, individualistic, and interdependent, not specialized, standardized, and corporately controlled. Real farms are managed as dynamic living ecosystems, not as inanimate factories or mechanisms. Real farms require minimal regulations because they are guided by a culture of social responsibility, not economic expediency. Real farmers have supported and been supported by cultures of the past and deserve the support of cultures of the future.

Thomas Jefferson, for example, believed strongly that the "yeoman farmer" best exemplified the kind of "independence and virtue" essential for democracy. He did not believe financiers, bankers, or industrialists could be trusted to be responsible citizens. Adam Smith, an icon of

capitalism, observed that farmers ranked among the highest social classes in China and India and suggested it would be the same everywhere if the "corporate spirit" did not prevent it. Smith never trusted businessmen, particularly corporate businessmen. Confucius ranked farmers second only to the academics or scholars in Chinese social standing and the businessmen at the bottom.

Americans today are being bombarded by an ongoing multimillion-dollar corporately-funded propaganda campaign designed to convince us that today's "factory farms" deserve the same high esteem historically reserved for traditional "family farms." The industrial agricultural establishment has hired some of the nation's top public relations firms to craft their deceptive message that today's factory farm businesses are "real farms," simply because they are owned or operated by families. Nothing could be further from the truth. In truth, the family operated factory farm businesses of today share far more characteristics with the businessmen, financiers, and corporate

REAL FARMS continued on p. 8

SUPERVISORS PASS HILL VIEW MATRIX AGAINST JFAN'S RECOMMENDATION

By Diane Rosenberg
Executive Director

Jacob and Tom Adam submitted an application in April to expand Jacob Adam's 1800-head CAFO on Salina Road, renaming the site Hill View LLC and doubling its size to 3600 hogs. The application included a construction permit and Master Matrix since the CAFO numbered over 2500 hogs.

The Master Matrix came in with 535 points, more than are usually taken, with many points in the separation distance category. JFAN conducted a complete analysis of the Master Matrix and contested 115 points, which would have brought the score down to 420. Since the Master Matrix requires a minimum of 440 points to pass (a 50% score or better), we recommended the supervisors fail the application.

JFAN met with the supervisors three times as they scored the Master Matrix, and we also called and discussed our findings with them. We cited six questions that we felt should be denied points. Four of the questions required design, operation and maintenance plans that we felt were

MATRIX continued on p. 5

IN THIS ISSUE

Reframing Good Neighbor	2
TPP Boon to Pork Industry	3
Iowa Polluted Waterways Grow	3
Our Activities at a Glance	4
Our Activities at a Glance.....	5
News Briefs	6
Local Control Revisted.....	7

JFAN NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC

Volume 16 ~ SPRING/SUMMER 2015

President

David E. Sykes

Executive Director

Diane Rosenberg

Editor-in-Chief and Art Director

Diane Rosenberg

Contributing Writers

Dr. John Ikerd
Arianne Pfoutz

Distribution

Chihlan Chiu

Legal Counsel

David Sykes
Fairfield, Iowa

Accounting

Fairfield Accounting and
Brooks, Lodden, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa

**All articles are written and 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.

JFAN

P.O. Box 811 • Fairfield, IA 52556

(641) 209-6600

www.jfaniowa.org • jfan@lisco.com



www.facebook.com/jfaniowa

JFAN is a not for profit tax exempt organization. Donations are tax exempt to the full extent of the law as authorized by the IRS. Articles written by guest authors may not reflect the opinions of JFAN. Information contained in the newsletter is intended to be educational and informational and is not intended to give legal advice. If you have specific legal questions regarding issues addressed in this publication, please seek the advice of an attorney.

JFAN Editorial

REMEMBERING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

By Diane Rosenberg
Executive Director

Here's a scenario I see unfold time and time again. A CAFO is proposed for a community, and neighbors are distressed. Someone contacts JFAN, we advise on how to organize, and the neighbor takes steps to gather community members to fight the CAFO. But the organizing frequently goes nowhere, and one more CAFO is added to the growing hog tally in Jefferson County, now numbering nearly 139,000 hogs.

It's unfortunate to see organizing efforts flounder and resignation creep in – even though neighbors are adamantly opposed to an unwanted factory farm. JFAN provides information, organizational support, and options to address a CAFO, but ultimately it's up to the community to rise up and take action if they want to try to stop a confinement.

In working with communities, I see several mind sets emerge that paralyze neighbors:

1. "This is agriculture, and Iowa is a farming state."
2. "Our laws are weak. I am powerless."
3. Mostly, though, "I want to be a **Good Neighbor.**"

Before we focus on the subject of Good Neighbors, let me be very clear about the first two points.

1. **CAFOs are NOT farms.** They are industrial agricultural operations that are allowed to inflict enormous environmental, quality of life, and public health damage because they are exempt from meaningful regulations. Agricultural exemptions were initially instituted and accepted to protect small, independent farms that, until fairly recently, produced our nation's food.

But small, diversified farms don't pollute the way large, industrial operations do.

Traditional, independent farms foster responsible husbandry and environmental practices and historically contributed to the rich social fabric that nourished rural Iowa. Opposing CAFOs is not opposing agriculture. It's opposing an unregulated industry that pollutes our water and air, frequently sickens people, and unravels

rural relationships. CAFOs destroy communities, and they destroy lives.

2. Yes, Iowa laws are weak, and there isn't much to work with when trying to address a CAFO. Regardless, until laws are strengthened, there are other options to deal with infringing hog confinements

well worth exploring. **Weak laws are not a dead end, and communities are not powerless.**

3. Good Neighbors: However, in my experience, and far too frequently, neighbors allow CAFOs to be built without a fight because they want to be Good Neighbors.

To Iowa's credit, being a good neighbor is an important and integral part of being an Iowan. Rural relationships run deep and long, in many cases over generations, and include extended family members. Iowans have a long tradition of supporting and caring for each other.

Most Iowans know that being a good neighbor is essential to living harmoniously, respectfully, and responsibly. It's what people do when they care for the well being of their communities. But constructing an unwanted CAFO is anything but acting in a harmonious, respectful, or responsible manner to one's neighbors.

To be fair, CAFO owners hear many supportive claims from the corporate livestock industry and even government agencies or agricultural universities. Some may honestly believe that they are not causing harm or that the detrimental effects are only "opinions." Others may feel this is the only way they



Photo: iriksavrasik/Shutterstock.com

can continue to “farm.”

However if one were to open one's mind and review even a small fraction of all the studies conducted over the last 50 years on the destructive health, environmental, economic, and quality of life impacts of CAFOs, it would be impossible to deny the harm CAFOs cause, regardless of what the corporate livestock industry claims or current regulations allow.

Neighbors often reluctantly accept a proposed confinement because they feel they should be a good neighbor to the CAFO owner. This is understandable because of personal or professional bonds that may exist. A family member or long-time friend may be building the confinement, and deep ties are challenged. Others may be hesitant to oppose a factory farm because they, too, work in agriculture, even though they may not raise livestock. The CAFO owner might be a well-liked, respected community member.

Regardless, these sticky situations don't negate the destructive impact the CAFO will have on the entire community, and it begs the question, “Is this person truly being a good friend/responsible neighbor/loving relative to me?” These are hard questions, but ones that the corporate livestock industry forces community members to face.

Given the detrimental impact of factory farms on families and communities all across Iowa, given the continued degradation of our precious air and water resources, is it even a valid consideration anymore to grudgingly accept a confinement in order to be a good neighbor to someone who is not being a good neighbor in return?

Times have changed with the advent of industrial agriculture, and it's time to change how the concept of Good Neighbor is applied. Now it's time to courageously be a Good Neighbor to all the other members of the community – the children, elderly, families, sick and infirm, men and women – who would be harmed by a factory farm.

It's time to be a Good Neighbor to all residents who will lose the freedom to open their windows and enjoy their yards or garden, or entertain outdoors. It's time to be a Good Neighbor to all the neighborhood children who will lose the ability to play outdoors in the fresh air and who will be more at risk for developing asthma from a nearby confinement.

GOOD NEIGHBOR *continued on p. 5*

In the News.....

TPP Would Be a Boon to Pork Industry

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), a controversial trade deal that would involve 12 nations and 40% of the world economy, would be a windfall for the Iowa pork industry if it passes, reports CNN.

A good TPP agreement would result in exponential growth in U.S. pork exports says Iowa State University's Dermot Hayes in a press release issued by the National Pork Producers Council.

Pork is the most consumed meat in the world. American consumption has leveled off with Iowa exporting 26% of its pork products. That could increase with the TPP.

Neil Dierks, CEO of the National Pork Producers Council, says that if the TPP passes, pork exports could grow by as much as 50% in 10 years.

Iowa currently has 21 million hogs, according to a USDA report released in June. With the TPP, that could jump to nearly 32 million hogs by 2026.

The TPP would open up trade agreements with new countries, such as Vietnam and Malaysia, and eventually remove tariffs for US products in several countries that already trade with the US, such as Japan. President Obama signed Fast Track legislation into law in June, setting the stage for an up and down vote on the TPP with no amendments. Provisions of the TPP are kept secret during the negotiation process.

While the pork industry is eager for the passage of the TPP, many Iowans have serious concerns about its impact. Independent corn farmer George Naylor says those supporting the TPP sell out fellow farmers.

“It would mean further loss of this country's sovereignty over its agricultural system, which means every farmer is at the mercy of an international market,” he says in the CNN article.

At 725: Water Impairments Continue to Grow



Photo: Melissa King/Shutterstock.com

With 725 impairments, the 2014 DNR list of impaired waterways reveals the highest number of impairments in Iowa history, reports an Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement press release. This is a 15% increase in polluted waters from the 2012 list that reported 630 impairments.

The 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report, required every two years by the EPA, listed the top three causes of river and stream impairments as (1) ‘indicator bacteria’ (E. coli, which is caused by fecal contamination), (2) ‘biological’ and (3) ‘fish kill’. The number one cause of fish kills is animal waste. “The fact that two of the leading causes of polluted waters come from toxic manure leads CCI members to believe that manure pollution is a much bigger problem than the Iowa DNR says it is,” says the CCI statement.

The top three causes of lake impairments

are algae, turbidity and indicator bacteria (E. coli). Turbidity refers to the clarity of the water. Algae blooms occur when there are large concentrations of nitrates and phosphorous. Factory farm manure and commercial fertilizer are both large sources of nitrogen and phosphorus.

In the report the DNR said, “Many impairments are related to nonpoint sources of pollution (NPS). Unless a state has authority and the means to reduce levels of nonpoint sources of pollution, the NPS-related impairments will likely continue to reside on the state's list of impaired waters.”

Nonpoint source pollution comes from many diverse sources, not a specific location, such as runoff from a chemical or coal plant, and is exempt from Clean Water Act regulations. Agricultural runoff is classified as nonpoint source pollution.

725 IMPAIRMENTS *continued on p. 6*

OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

JFAN Working Hard for You

JFAN Launches New Quarterly Ad Series

This March, JFAN instituted a new quarterly ad series to speak the truth about the destructive impacts of CAFOs, countering claims made by industrial agriculture's aggressive public relations campaign. Black and white ads run in the *Fairfield Ledger* and *Fairfield Town Crier* with color versions distributed through social media channels. Each ad focuses on a specific area of concern.

Pulling DNR figures from manure management plans, the first ad revealed that 34 million gallons of untreated hog sewage will be spread in Jefferson County in 2015, equivalent to the amount of raw human sewage generated by a city the size of Des Moines. JFAN's recent June ad focused on how CAFOs generate antibiotic resistant bacteria, posing a public health threat.

With each ad, JFAN developed a new webpage that expanded on the message and a corresponding page on "What You Can Do." The color version of each ad is posted on the JFAN Facebook page, shared with approximately 30 other CAFO fighting organizations in Iowa for their distribution, and emailed to a list of JFAN supporters.

Both ads have gotten high online exposure well beyond Jefferson County through social media channels. Additional ads are planned for the rest of the year.

JFAN Revises Two-Mile Warning Letter

As a community service, JFAN mails warning letters to neighbors living within a two-mile radius of a proposed CAFO. The letters are often the only way a neighborhood finds out about a CAFO before construction begins.

This spring, JFAN overhauled and strengthened the warning letter with additional information to give residents a

clear picture of how the CAFO may affect them. The letter now includes how much untreated hog sewage will be generated and compares it to the number of people that would produce the same amount of raw sewage. We also provide information on how JFAN works with communities.

Also added are a map showing the location of the CAFO site and the fields receiving manure and a hand-out, *Why You Don't Want More CAFOs In Your County* outlining the impacts of factory farms on neighborhoods. We continue to enclose our two booklets, *How to Protect Your Family and Home from Factory Farms* and *Secondary Liability: Could You Be Implicated in a CAFO Lawsuit*.



Several New CAFOs Proposed

A number of new CAFOs are either proposed or being constructed in Jefferson County. Two are in Washington County, just over the Jefferson County line.

Hill View Swine – See page 1 for the full story.

Larry Angstead – Reeve Site is a 2400-head hog confinement proposed for Cedar Township, approximately seven miles southeast of Fairfield in a neighborhood of 58 families. The owner, **Larry Angstead**, originally considered a different location a few miles away, but the closest neighbor contacted JFAN immediately, and we were able to help resolve that situation. Two neighbors of the Reeve Site contacted JFAN, and we are currently providing informational guidance and support.

Mr. Angstead already owns a 5280-head hog confinement in Round Prairie Township. Manure from both CAFOs will be spread on the same land, and JFAN will be reviewing the Manure Management Plan to check for over application.

SEME & Sons – Seth Snyder is a Bonaparte resident moving ahead with SEME & Sons, a 2480-head CAFO in Round Prairie Township. Several residents from the area contacted JFAN to

oppose the confinement. SEME & Sons will be built ¼ mile west of popular Round Prairie Park. JFAN is concerned that the enjoyment of this public park will be adversely affected along with the well being of the 56 families in the neighborhood.

Mark Greiner CAFO – Several months ago, longtime county resident Mark Greiner spoke to several neighbors about his proposed plans to build a number of CAFOs on his Olive Avenue property in Penn Township, replacing the small building he now owns. At a minimum, these CAFOs would add 4,800 hogs to the neighborhood. Several of the neighbors were plaintiffs in the Pleasant Plain lawsuit several years ago, and many residents expressed dismay and concern about the confinement.

JFAN reached out to Mr. Greiner to discuss neighborhood concerns. A series of cordial meetings took place between Mr. Greiner, a family member, and a JFAN board member who lives near the proposed confinement. After listening to the concerns about how a confinement of this size would negatively impact the nearby community of approximately 80 residents living in close proximity, to his credit, Mr. Greiner agreed to reconsider the location.

The JFAN board member is working with Mr. Greiner to help him find another location far enough away from any neighbors who would object to a confinement. We will provide updates as we have them.

Grinding Gears and Shifting Gears – Doug and Spencer Adam are building two CAFOs side by side on Butternut Avenue in Polk Township in a neighborhood of 59 families. Grinding Gears and Shifting Gears will each hold 1200 hogs. Since the CAFOs are also in two different LLC names, no documentation is required except a storm water permit.

JFAN found out about the CAFOs from an individual who noticed construction taking place and was concerned about its proximity to a waterway. JFAN submitted a formal complaint to the DNR who investigated the site. The CAFO was found to be a sufficient distance from the waterway.

The DNR told JFAN that the practice of putting CAFOs in different LLC names, particularly confinements under 1250 head, is "rampant" and that it completely disregards the presence of regulations.

Washington County: Lake Darling Area Sees Four New CAFOs

Four CAFOs will bring 10,000 hogs to just south of Lake Darling.

Day Site – Ryan Robertson, owner of several CAFOs in Jefferson County, is planning Day Site, a 2480-head confinement in Washington County, just ½ mile over the Jefferson County border. This area is home to 60 families. The CAFO would be in the Lake Darling watershed and sited only 300' from Honey Creek that feeds into the lake.

Dale's Site - Dale Robertson, father of Ryan Robertson, is also proposing a 2480-head CAFO right next to Day Site and is 418' away from Honey Creek.

The separation distance between a confinement and a waterway is 500'. However, if a secondary containment barrier is constructed with the confinement, as will be the case with the Day and Dale Sites, a CAFO may be placed closer. A secondary containment barrier retains accidental manure overflow from a CAFO.

The 302-acre Lake Darling suffered from poor water quality for many years due to poor conservation practices. The park was closed for renovation in 2008 after the dam began to leak. The park went through a two-year renovation period that cost \$12 million dollars raised from private donors and state funds according to the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. Holding ponds constructed around the lake catch agricultural pollution from nearby fields and reduce sediment and pollutants running off into the lake.

The two CAFOs would be located only 1.25 miles south of Lake Darling State Park.

Lewis Brothers Site and BBLR Pork – Two other CAFOs totaling nearly 5000 hogs will also be sited less than two miles south of Lake Darling in Washington County. Lewis Brothers Site and BBLR Pork, LLC, each containing 2480 hogs, will be built next to each other on Jefferson-Washington County Road, just across the street from Jefferson County. Fifty-eight families will be affected, some of whom also live near Day Site.

Lewis Brothers Site is owned by Daniel Horras, a Jefferson County CAFO owner who also has a 2480-head confinement immediately next to a factory farm owned by his brother David Horras. Both CAFOs, located right outside Pleasant Plain, were involved in a manure runoff violation in November 2014. BBLR Pork LLC appears to be owned by Nicholas Beinhart, an Agricultural Loan Officer for Libertyville Savings Bank in Keota.

MATRIX *continued from p. 1*

scanty or that we noted were missing.

Supervisor Dick Reed joined the DNR during the site visit to the property and said he came away impressed with how clean the facility looked. At the second supervisor meeting, Reed commented that “a picture says a thousand words”, and that he was satisfied with the level of documentation provided.

JFAN pointed out that during previous Master Matrix evaluations of several KK Finisher applications, the same set of supervisors found that CAFO's documentation was insufficient and they failed the Master Matrix each time, even though the KK Finisher documents provided more detail than Hill View's. The DNR agreed with the supervisors' assessment in each of those cases.

JFAN even went so far as to obtain and provide to the supervisors copies of Master Matrix applications that did pass the DNR's review, demonstrating the level of documentation that was considered acceptable.

A public hearing was held on Monday, May 18 that drew a standing room only crowd where the supervisors did a final scoring of the Master Matrix. The supervisors took comments for 30 minutes allowing 2 minutes per person. All but two comments, those from Jacob and Tom Adam and another Adam supporter, spoke out against the CAFOs.

In the end, the supervisors passed the Master Matrix. Becky Schmitz said that while she originally had the same concerns as JFAN regarding the adequacy of the plans, she went through it point by point with owner Tom Adam that morning and found it contained the same information contained in the longer descriptions of the “model” Master Matrixes. We deeply disagree with Schmitz's assessment.

We were not aware this meeting took place and are disappointed we weren't notified so we could have contributed to a more informed discussion.

JFAN followed up with a DNR representative to address additional aspects of the construction permit, but they were not enough to stop the confinement's approval.

We don't understand why the supervisors didn't hold Hill View's Master Matrix up to the same standards as the previous Master Matrixes. We feel that the supervisors have lowered the bar for what is

GOOD NEIGHBOR *continued from p. 3*

It's time to be a Good Neighbor to those who will now be at risk for developing respiratory ailments, experience nausea, headaches, and confusion, or contract an antibiotic resistant infection. It's time to be a Good Neighbor to the aged, sick and infirm residents whose precarious health may be further damaged.

It's time to be a Good Neighbor to those who may lose a lifetime of hard-earned equity in their homes, often their retirement nest egg, battle fly or mice infestations, or wear out cars from driving on rutted roads that become damaged from heavy truck traffic.

It's time to ask, “Who really needs me to be their Good Neighbor?”

If a CAFO owner is violating your basic rights to the peaceful enjoyment of your home, property, and neighborhood, you have the right and responsibility to yourself, your family, and to all those in your community to stand up and take legitimate action to protect your family and neighbors.

That's who needs you to be a “Good Neighbor.”

A Good Neighbor:

- Recognizes the threat a CAFO poses to the neighborhood.
- Refuses to accept industrial livestock production as “farming.”
- Protects one's family and community by taking a stand against the CAFO.
- Takes the time to reach out and work with other community members to develop a strategy to deal with the CAFO threat.
- Courageously meets with the CAFO owner to discuss neighborhood concerns.
- Explores all legitimate options to stop the CAFO.
- Follows through on all available options until the situation is resolved.

now acceptable Master Matrix documentation. It's our opinion that their decision gave the business plans of two CAFO owners priority over the wellbeing of an entire neighborhood and the environment.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM IOWA, THE US AND BEYOND

Dairies Forced to Handle Waste, Clean Up Water

A federal ruling responding to a complaint in central Washington may impact dairy farmers across the country by defining cow manure and urine as “solid waste” rather than “nutrients” reports KING5 News.



Photo: John Kasawa/Shutterstock.com

Helen Reddout, a 79-year old grandmother, has worked for 26 years to prove that her drinking water in Outlook, Washington was contaminated by liquid manure from nearby dairy farm Cow Palace.

Her suspicion throughout years of feeling sick because cow waste was leeching nitrates into groundwater was confirmed.

Cow Palace and three other dairies must now purchase bottled water and reverse osmosis machines for nearly 600 affected homes, as well as clean up their lagoons and soil – expensive, long-term projects.

“They’ve ignored the back end, literally, of the problem,” said attorney Charlie Tebbutt. “It’s the first decision of its kind in the country and it should transform the industry.”

North Carolina Passes “Ag-Gag” Law, Overriding Veto

The meat production industry in North Carolina encompasses 50,000 factory farms, housing 8.6 million hogs and nearly 800 million broiler chickens.

North Carolina is the latest state to pass an Ag Gag law reports *Salon*. It allows pursuit of civil charges against anyone who gathers incriminating evidence – holding them responsible for any damages, including a \$5,000 per day fine.

Governor Pat McCrory had vetoed the

bill, saying it “does not adequately protect or give clear guidance to honest employees who uncover criminal activity. I am concerned that subjecting these employees to potential civil penalties will create an environment that discourages them from reporting illegal activities.”

The bill’s reach extends to nursing homes, hospitals, day care centers, and others. AARP and the Domestic Violence Commission have spoken out against the bill’s dangers.

Avian Flu Kills Half of Iowa’s Poultry Population

Over 48 million birds have been euthanized due to the spread of Avian Flu – 31 million in Iowa alone – causing many to question the unsanitary, confined conditions in which the birds live according to a KCRG.com article.

“[The outbreaks] are a manifestation of the unsustainability of the system,” said Suzanne McMillan of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Wild birds, backyard birds and factory birds can all get avian flu. But sunshine and warm temperatures kill the virus, while factory farms are “designed like a disease incubator,” noted Humane Society’s Michael Greger. In addition, factory farm birds exhibit less genetic diversity, and their resource-focused breeding (increasing breast meat on birds for example) suppresses their immunity.

The USDA considers the outbreak “a wake-up call on biosecurity.” A summit on the Avian Flu was held on July 28-29 in Ames. The meeting was closed to the press and public.

EPA Faces Lawsuits Over Pollution from Factory Farms

A coalition of groups has filed two lawsuits to force the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the toxic emissions generated by animal confinement operations reports the *Des Moines Register*. The Sierra Club, Humane Society of the United States, and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement are among the coalition members.

CAFOs housing pig, poultry and cattle produce more than 500 million tons of manure each year, generating hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and greenhouse gases. Tarah Heinzen, attorney for the plaintiff

JFAN Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 7



JOE MAXWELL

POLITICAL DIRECTOR
Humane Society of the United States Legislative Fund

**Find Out What
EVERYONE Can
Do to Stop CAFOs**

Environmental Integrity Project, said, “The EPA has failed to use its Clean Air Act authority to address factory emissions for 45 years.”

Nearby residents have endured respiratory symptoms, eye irritation, nausea and headaches from the ammonia exposure, which can also cause heart attacks and early death.

725 IMPAIRMENTS *continued from p. 3*

Suffering from high nitrate levels in their water supply, the Des Moines Waterworks is seeking to reclassify agricultural pollution as a point source via their lawsuit targeting county agricultural drainage districts. County drainage districts have oversight over a system of field tiles – underground pipes laid in agricultural fields that more quickly drain rainwater off fields and divert it to nearby waterways. Tiling allows more land to become suitable for crop cultivation, but contributes to water pollution.

Other notable parts of the DNR report say that 358 additional bodies of water need further investigation to determine if they are impaired and that urban runoff only accounts for one case of causing a fish kill.

Since 1998, the number of reported impairments has increased by 450%.

DICKINSON COUNTY CAFO THREAT SPURS LOCAL CONTROL SURVEY AND MORATORIUM CALL

By Diane Rosenberg
Executive Director

A Minnesota hog corporation threatened to place a 4400-head hog confinement in the Iowa Great Lakes region early this winter, generating a public outcry from residents and county supervisors.

New Fashion Pork's planned CAFO in Spirit Lake would have sat in the heart of the Okoboji area in Northwest Iowa. East Okoboji Lake, Spirit Lake, and West Okoboji Lake are Iowa's largest natural lakes and a vibrant tourist destination that fueled the local economy with \$264 million dollars in 2013.

Community residents contacted JFAN for assistance and were referred to the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project for support.

The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors had no qualms about failing the Master Matrix, stating several questions were answered insufficiently.

In a scathing five-page letter to the DNR that cited health studies, soil and water quality issues, separation distances, and CAFO density, among others, the supervisors denied the Master Matrix. They also addressed the inade-

quacy of the Matrix, saying, "...we do not believe the Master Matrix takes into account the safety of our citizens."

The supervisors took it a step further, writing:

"The Dickinson County Board of Supervisors believes the Department of Natural Resources has the right and the duty to impose a moratorium on the construction of additional confined feeding operations (CFO's) until the following matters can be reviewed more thoroughly and appropriate action taken to amend the application process: 1) Limitation of animal density per watershed. 2) More stringent process for issuing permits developed. 3) Enhanced local control. 4) Mandatory environmental impact statements and 5) Study and technical update on the physiological toxicity effects of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) on residents in the vicinity of CFO's and manure application, particularly regarding long-term exposure."

Facing a failing application and growing media attention around the state, New Fashion Pork withdrew their application. They are currently constructing a 4400-head CAFO in Emmet County, Dickinson County's eastern neighbor.

Disturbed by the lack of local control in

the state, the Dickinson supervisors generated a survey sent to all Iowa county supervisors asking them to respond to the following question: "...should the existing Master Matrix system be repaired to include more local control for counties to preserve and protect the environmental resources within their county?"

Sixty-four of 99 Iowa counties, representing 57% of Iowa's population, responded to the survey. 23 counties voted 'in favor of', 19 counties voted 'opposed to' and 22 counties voted 'no opinion' to the survey.

"Before the Supervisors of Dickinson County began preparations to do a Supervisors Survey they were forewarned that there would be great reluctance of other county supervisors to participate. They were also advised they would be lucky to get a 20% survey response. The actual rate of survey responses received was 65% from Iowa's 99 counties. This high response rate demonstrates there is significant interest (both pro & con) on this issue statewide," said Lonnie Saunders, Dickinson County Assistant Attorney.

Many county boards of supervisors were reluctant to participate, and some did so only with pressure from their constituents. JFAN contacted the Jefferson County supervisors urging them to address this question, published a letter to the editor in

LOCAL CONTROL *continued on p. 8*

Support JFAN During Our 2015 Fundraising Drive

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 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500
☐ \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Checks payable to: Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc.

Donate Online

To make a credit card donation using PayPal, go to www.jfaniowa.org

Click on "Donate Today."

Monthly donation option now available!

Make a Donation!

Please support JFAN with your generous tax-deductible donation. JFAN has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt educational foundation. All donations to JFAN are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult with your personal tax advisor about any questions you may have about your donation. JFAN will send out receipts only for donations over \$250.

**Thank you for all you do
to support JFAN!**

REAL FARMS *continued from p. 1*

managers distrusted by Jefferson, Smith, and Confucius than with the farmers they valorized. These historical figures all understood that real farms are very different from factories, and real farming is very different from factory farming.

Factory farms may be owned and operated by families, but they are managed primarily, if not solely, for the economic bottom-line. Factory farming is first and foremost a business, not a way of life. Profits come first, the family perhaps second, well ahead of any consideration for community, society, and humanity. A family factory farm is often managed to support the economic well-being of the family – not their overall quality of life. Successful factory farms provide new pickup trucks, family vacations, and college edu-

cations. Consumers are respected only as the ultimate source of farm income. Factory farmers leave matters of good or bad and right or wrong to be mediated by markets and politics. If it's profitable and legal, it's good and right.

Traditional family farms were managed to reflect the cultural and social values of the farm family, not simply their financial necessities and economic preferences. They were a cultural, social, and economic way of life. That's what made them real farms. The "culture" of family farming was one of stewardship or caring for the land, society, and humanity. The social value was one of neighborliness and caring for community and society, as well as family. Certainly, a family farm had to meet the family's economic needs. However, real family farmers weren't willing to degrade their land, threaten public health, or destroy their neighbors' quality of life, just for the sake of profits.

Real farms integrate a diversity of farm enterprises to mimic the mutually beneficial relationships among the diverse elements of healthy living ecosystems. Wastes from some enterprises are productively used in other parts of the farm. Products from some enterprises become raw materials for other value-added farm enterprises.

The reasonable amount of wastes not used by farm enterprises are easily assimilated in sustaining the biological health of natural ecosystems. Real farmers respect both the bounty and bounds of nature. Real farmers don't sacrifice their independence to corporate control.

Factory farm businesses are specialized and standardized: their fields, confinements, and feedlots function with the effi-

ciency of a biological assembly line - thus the name "factory farm." The animals on factory farms are treated as machines rather than as sentient, living beings that deserve to be treated humanely – with dignity and respect.

Factory farms operated by families reflect the value of the industrial corpo-

rations with whom they contract, not necessarily the value of the family. Industrial processes are inherently linear and sequential: inputs or raw materials flow in and products and waste materials flow out. The inevitable chemical and biological wastes from factory farms pollute the air and water of rural communities and threaten the safety and healthfulness of the food supply.

Real farms, by nature, require only minimal public oversight and regulation. Lapses in responsible management are more often due to a lack of understanding or of available alternatives rather than a lack of motivation or intent. Regulation of farming has been limited in scope and intended to correct aberrant behavior rather than restrict or restrain those who are motivated by self-restriction or self-restraint. Existing farming regulations are more than adequate to protect the public interest from any negative environmental impacts of real farms – but not factory farms.

Factory farms need to be continually monitored and regulated, much as other industrial operations are monitored and regulated. Factory farms present inevitable environmental and public health risks as a consequence of their economic motivation and industrial systems of organization and production. They simply create and concentrate more toxic wastes

than nature can neutralize and assimilate. Driven by economic expedience or necessity, they have no natural restraint to their exploitation of natural and human resources. For these same reasons, other industries are restricted and restrained by government regulations. Public oversight and effective regulation of factory farming as an industry is the only means of ensuring food safety, public health, and the long-term sustainability of agriculture. Factory farms are not real farms.

Dr. John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri, Columbia, has enjoyed a 30-year academic career at four Land Grant Universities. He has served as Missouri State Coordinator of Extension Programs in Sustainable Agriculture and as project leader for a three-state, five-year program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation that linked sustainable agriculture and sustainable community development. He has authored four books and received many honors for his work in agricultural economics.

LOCAL CONTROL *continued from p. 7*

the *Fairfield Ledger* in support of local control, and sent out emails to the JFAN list encouraging people to attend the supervisors meeting where this would be discussed.

At a board meeting on Monday, April 6 attended by approximately 25 JFAN supporters, the Jefferson County Supervisors voted to unanimously support more local control for counties with no discussion initially taking place. However, during the public comment period, supervisors were pressed to share their feelings on the matter.

Lee Dimmit spoke at length, saying there wasn't a clear answer. "It's a double edged sword," he said, adding he thought there would be more lawsuits filed if local control were reinstated. Citing urban sprawl, Dimmit said, "People are building homes where agriculture conducts their business. I don't think the state legislature would allow local control."

Dick Reed added, "If you say 'local control', it sounds like it's the best thing since sliced bread." Becky Schmitz commented that the survey was not well written, linking the Master Matrix with local control, two very different issues.

When asked if their vote was supporting the survey or local control, Schmitz replied it was supporting the survey but that she hoped the survey would generate more discussion at the Iowa State Legislature to improve the Master Matrix.



Photo: talseN/Shutterstock.com