

JFAN

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC.



FARMS, NOT FACTORIES!

A Nonprofit Educational Foundation

Volume 1 ~ WINTER 2007

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY IOWA



WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

Dear Jefferson County Community Members,

As many of you know, Jefferson County Farmers and Neighbors (JFAN) is a nonprofit educational foundation composed of rural and Fairfield residents and traditional family farmers. Our common concern is to stop the unchecked growth of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Jefferson County and to protect our residents' quality of life.

Numerous published scientific studies have shown that CAFOs can adversely affect air, water, and property values. As an educational organization, our goal is to educate the community and protect citizens from the dangers created by large- and small-scale factory hog confinements.

Over the year, JFAN has faced many challenges and we've enjoyed many victories as well. Now, we'd like to share this news with you.

In response to countless community requests for JFAN progress updates, we will begin distributing a newsletter twice a year so Jefferson County residents can learn about the successes we have all had curtailing the growth of CAFOs. To date, JFAN has approved grants to 3 county-resident lawsuits that have taken actions against factory hog confinements, we've created other educational grants, and we continue to actively monitor all nearby factory farm developments.

We encourage you to share in our triumphs and also see what work has yet to be done. JFAN has certainly had many successes, but the factory farm industry will not accept change easily. For this reason, we as a community need to continue raising funds and working together to create a safe and healthy Jefferson County.

Sincerely,
The JFAN Board Members

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 22

BY JIM RUBIS, JFAN PRESIDENT

It's been over a year since JFAN has held a general public meeting to discuss the factory farms cropping up in and around Jefferson County. To catch everyone up to speed, the first of our anticipated "Annual Meetings" will be held at the Best Western Inn on Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

See **JFAN MEETING** on page 2

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JFAN NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC.

Volume I ~ January 2007

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JFAN

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JFAN MEETING *continued from page 1*

JFAN addresses three main areas of the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) issue: legal, educational, and legislative. At the February meeting, a review of each area will be given, with "Health Issues Related to CAFOs" as the evening's theme.

Dr. Kendall Thu of Northern Illinois University will be our honored keynote speaker at the event. Professor Thu is a cultural anthropologist with specific interests in applied anthropology, food systems, and public and environmental health. His research focuses on the relationships between industrialized food systems, the environment, public health, and rural social dynamics.

Thu has been the President of the Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, has served on the Executive Board of the Central States Anthropological Society, and is a Fellow in the Society for Applied Anthropology. He teaches courses in applied anthropology, medical anthropology, environmental anthropology, and introductory cultural anthropology.

Professor Thu's address will focus on the health hazards associated with CAFOs. According to Thu, the controversial impact of factory farms on the economy and society of rural Iowa is of great importance, but **it is human health and the degradation of our environment that are most adversely affected by CAFOs.** Thu has recently compiled a comprehensive review of research on known and new CAFO-related health hazards, and he will share information on how our water, air, and soil are being polluted by factory farms, affecting neighbors, industry workers, and the general environment.

Other topics for the meeting will include a review of statewide developments and the cooperative efforts of JFAN with Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI). A brief update on Jefferson County legal issues will also be given, and action plans will be discussed, with



Kendall Thu, Ph. D.

an emphasis on the Iowa Legislature (which will be in the middle of its 2007 session). Lobbying for local control continues to be our top priority but we are exploring other angles as well, including pursuing a moratorium on CAFO construction, establishing "Protected Areas," and strengthening the Matrix guidelines.

We also hope to have a representative of Niman Ranch on hand to explain alternative systems of livestock management. California-based Niman Ranch raises and sells free-range livestock, and they work with over 500 family farmers who raise livestock traditionally, humanely, and sustainably.

Finally, we'll be introducing our new JFAN Membership campaign, for which we hope to receive great community participation. The new JFAN membership will serve multi-fold purposes. It will allow us to have closer communication with you for action plans and dissemination of information, making it easier for you to be involved. It will enable us to easily raise funds for ongoing and future activities, especially grants for legal action. Lastly, a large, community-supported membership base will strengthen our clout with government officials, livestock producers, and the general public.

All of us on the board hope to see you and your family on February 22. Come on out, enjoy our speakers, sign up for a JFAN membership, and get involved in protecting the quality of life here in Jefferson County.

PUTTING CAFOS IN PERSPECTIVE

BY KENDALL THU, PH.D.

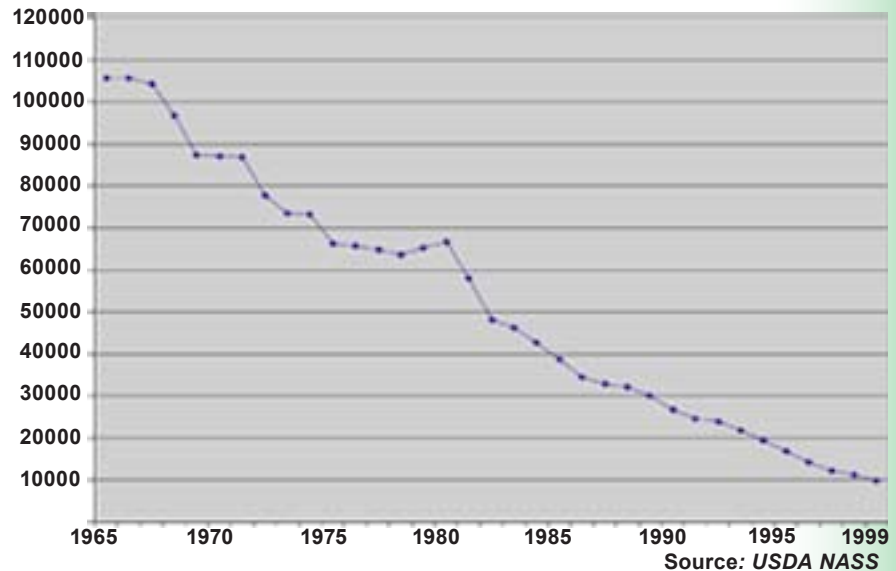
A cultural anthropologist and professor at Northern Illinois University, Dr. Kendall Thu's research focuses on the relationships between industrialized food systems, the environment, public health, rural social dynamics, and state power and policy. The former president of the Culture and Agriculture section of the American Anthropological Association, Thu coauthored a peer-reviewed research paper entitled "Community Health and Socioeconomic Issues Surrounding CAFOs" with Kelley J. Donham, Steven Wing, David Osterberg, Jan L. Flora, Carol Hodne, and Peter S. Thorne. Dr. Thu will be the featured keynote speaker at JFAN's annual meeting at the Best Western Inn on Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

The global pattern of agricultural industrialization and increasingly centralized control is exemplified in North American agriculture, particularly the livestock industry, in recent years. The swine industry is a classic example of this industrialization process.

There is very little difference between the total U.S. inventory of hogs in the year 2000 (59.3 million) compared with the total inventory of hogs produced over 80 years earlier in 1915 (60.6 million). However, **while overall production volume has changed little, the structure of the industry has shifted radically.**

As revealed in the table above, the number of hog producers in the U.S. declined precipitously from the 1960s to the present. Notable in this regard is the rapid rate of decline and concurrent emergence of relatively large production operations (Confined Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs). For exam-

Total U.S. Hog Farmers from 1965 to 1999



ple, over a mere six-year period from 1993 to 1999, there was a 250% increase in the total U.S. hog inventory concentrated in operations with 5,000 or more hogs each.

The pattern is similar in Canada, where the last two decades (1981 to 2001) alone have witnessed the loss of over 60,000 farms—a 22 percent decline. During the same period, more than 40,000 farms have ceased raising hogs, which is a whopping 72 percent loss of hog producers.

Several Canadian provinces are experiencing the same dramatic disappearance of hog producers as large-scale factory hog operations become entrenched. For example, in Saskatchewan the total volume of hogs produced nearly doubled between 1981 and 2001. At the same time, the number of farms producing hogs declined over 80%, from nearly 9200 to 1700.

This precipitous decline in farms has been well-documented by anthropologists and rural sociologists to have eroding social and economic consequences for rural areas. Rooted in the work of anthropologist Walter Goldschmidt, **a whole generation of research has demonstrated that it**

is simply better for the social and economic fabric of rural communities to have more farmers producing food than to have production concentrated in the hands of a few.

The core of the problem, discovered by Goldschmidt over 50 years ago, is that when farming is practiced on a scale that exceeds a family's ability to provide the main source of labor and management, it tends to acquire industrial relations of production in which ownership and management are separated from labor. **As a result, this industrialized form of agriculture tends to become disarticulated from surrounding communities, resulting in social inequities, poverty, and a range of attendant social, economic, and environmental pathologies.** Indeed, the range of problems associated with industrialized hog production is particularly disconcerting.

The growth of industrial hog production facilities and the concentration of swine into fewer hands parallels technological changes—most notably, the shift from pasture-based and open-lot production to total animal confinement beginning in the early 1970s. The shift to totally confined production does

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

JFAN: WORKING HARD FOR YOU

•September, 2005: **500 Jefferson County citizens attended a public meeting at the Best Western hotel in Fairfield to hear how, according to published studies, factory hog confinements could adversely affect our county.**

•October, 2005: **A Fairfield benefit concert and puppet show raised over \$15,000 for JFAN.** Mayor Ed Malloy spoke and said, “**the activities of JFAN are very important in safeguarding our city from large scale factory farms to protect the investments we are making in our downtown, our cultural assets and tourism.**”

•October, 2005: **The Dick Simmons family was given a grant to legally protect their home from a newly constructed factory hog confinement of 1,200 nearby.** Dick was previously a Board Supervisor for the county and his son has just returned from fighting in Iraq. The Simmons family lives near Pleasant Plain Road and 145th Street. The matter is currently in litigation and a trial is planned for Spring of 2007.

•October, 2005: **A Batavia group of farmers and homeowners were given a grant to legally protect their homes from a proposed 5,900-head sow confinement that would create 6 million gallons of toxic manure a year.** Over a year has passed with many discussions between the lawyers and **all indications are that this big facility is permanently stalled and will not be built.**

•October-February, 2005/6: **A CAFO was proposed across from the new Cambridge Investment Research building on Pleasant Plain road.** After lengthy discussions between the parties and their counsel, **the owners decided not to build that factory farm.**

•December-August, 2005/6: **A new DNR water-protection rule regarding animal confinements was instituted** after a long battle. Over the year, **JFAN supporters sent hundreds of opposition emails to government officials.** In response, the Governor vetoed a proposed bill that reduced and limited the authority of the DNR and, finally, **the EPC approved the new water-protection rule.**

•January, 2006: **In one week, over 2,200 people signed a petition supporting a moratorium on hog confinement construction.** Quite a feat! On January 10, the impressively thick petition was presented to Governor Vilsack and DNR Director Vonk. Later, it was given to the Fairfield City Council, Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, Senator Miller, and Representative Whitaker.



•February, 2006: **A 4,300-head hog/sow facility was announced in Farson, just across the line from northwest Jefferson County.** After hearings, Wapello County Board of Supervisors voted against it. In April, due to information provided by locals and JFAN, the DNR denied the permit because of problems with the manure management plan. Very, very few CAFO applications are denied.

•February, 2006: **The Fairfield City Council voted to request that the state legislature pass legisla-**

tion giving counties Local Control. It was a tie. Unfortunately, a tie is considered a loss.

•February-March, 2006: **760 letters were written by Jefferson County residents requesting the state legislature pass legislation allowing Local Control of livestock confinements.** With Senator Miller and Representative Whitaker in attendance, we discussed the issue thoroughly with the Chairpersons of the Iowa Senate and House Agricultural Committees.

•March, 2006: **The Wapello County Board of Supervisors in Ottumwa passed a resolution asking state legislators for Local Control of animal confinements.**

•April, 2006: **The Batavia City Council passed three resolutions requesting that the state legislature pass legislation giving counties Local Control over siting of animal confinements and a moratorium on hog confinement construction.**

•May, 2006: **Pleasant Plain Property Owners Association and other residents filed a lawsuit against a factory hog confinement located near Pleasant Plain Road and 167th street.** JFAN is aiding the group through education and grants for lawsuits. A trial is planned for early fall of 2007.

•June, 2006: **The Jefferson County Board of Supervisors voted not to have a public hearing in regards to an expansion of a 2,400-head CAFO by an additional 1,200 hogs. A public hearing would allow the community to gain information needed to determine if the expansion made sense.**

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE *continued on page 8*

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY HARMONIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL— HOW YOU CAN HELP JFAN!



JFAN's Strength Stands in:

- Our ability to educate the public on the health and environmental dangers of CAFOs and on positive alternative farming practices.
- Our ability to protect public health and the environment through education and the active monitoring of CAFO activity in Jefferson County.
- Our ability to help those adversely affected by CAFO development and those in need of defending their property rights.

Why Donate to JFAN?

All of JFAN's activities educate the public, focus attention on CAFO activity in Jefferson County, and ultimately curtail CAFO activity in our community. Supporting these goals has and will continue to change the tide of CAFO activity in Jefferson County, but all of these activities depend on your financial support.

Who Does JFAN Help?

JFAN helps individuals and families. Prior to JFAN's inception, many people in our county felt they were

helpless in defending their property rights when unjustly affected by CAFO activity. JFAN educates affected neighbors and, when necessary, offers grants to help with negotiations or litigation initiated by the affected neighbors.

JFAN helps the community at large. Every time JFAN assists an adversely affected neighbor in defending his, her, or an entire family's rights through legal action, we're not only helping individuals, we're helping the whole community.

How Does JFAN Help?

When JFAN assists citizens in taking action to defend their property rights through education, public action, and/or litigation, large agribusinesses and local operators start to act more responsibly and look to do business elsewhere.

Our success lies not in individual court victories, but in our actions themselves—actions that educate, promote alternative farming methods, raise costs for CAFO owners in our area, and lend hope to our community for a healthy, sustainable, and environmentally sound Jefferson County.

How Can You Help?

All of JFAN's endeavors require support from the community—both through many hours of donated time from board members and volunteers AND through your financial support. We are a nonprofit community organization, and without your generous donations our past successes would not have materialized—nor will our future successes be possible.

Please give generously. Today your donation will help your neighbor, and tomorrow it may help you.

JFAN is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit educational foundation and your contribution is tax deductible.

JFAN Receives Tax-Exempt Status

After a long wait, JFAN received notification in early November, 2006 that its application for tax-exempt status had been approved by the IRS. JFAN is now officially recognized as a public charity and, as such, is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, all contributions to JFAN are tax-deductible under section 170 of the code. The effective date of JFAN's tax-exempt status was August 25, 2006.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to JFAN to help keep Jefferson County a beautiful, environmentally sound place to live, please see the donation form on page 11 or visit our website at www.jfaniowa.org.

If you have questions about prior donations, please call us at (641) 209-6600.

THE LAW AND CAFOS

Answers to Your Legal Questions About CAFOS

with Bill Mallory, Esq. and Jim Brick, Esq.

CAFO MANURE AND LIABILITY

Question:

It is generally understood that a CAFO owner is responsible for any injury and property loss caused to another party due to circumstances and any possible negligence arising from the operation of his or her facility. However, what liability is there for a landowner who accepts CAFO manure to spread on his or her property if the fertilization results in an injury or property loss to a neighbor?

Answer:

Iowa lawmakers and Iowa courts have long struggled to strike an appropriate balance between an individual's rights to use manure in the operation of his or her farm, and the interests of protecting the environment and the rights of the neighboring landowners.

Lawmakers have passed legislation prohibiting certain farming practices that may be likely to result in environmental harm or nuisance to neighbors. **Generally, liquid manure from a CAFO may not be applied to land within 750 feet of a business, church, school, or residence not owned by the farmer.** Farmers may apply CAFO manure to land within this "protected proximity" if the manure is injected directly into the ground or incorporated into the soil within 24 hours.

Laws have also been put in place to protect Iowa land from the adverse effects of CAFO manure use. For example, manure may not be applied to frozen or snow-covered cropland, except where land slopes are 4 percent or less, or where other adequate erosion-control practices (such as terraces, conservation tillage, cover crops, or contour farming) exist. Further, manure application to land within 200 feet of a body of water is prohibited unless the manure is injected directly into the soil and

adequate erosion control measures are in place. Although these are only some of the regulations regarding the use of manure in Iowa, it is clear that anyone who participates in the disposal of manure in violation of Iowa law may be liable for any resulting damage.

The Iowa Supreme Court has a longstanding history of recognizing the potential adverse effects of manure. Dating back to 1903, the Iowa Supreme Court has held that the unsanitary conditions and stench related to the presence of manure could so interfere with a neighbor's right to the quiet enjoyment of his or her life and property as to constitute a nuisance. **In 1987 Iowa courts addressed the issue of CAFO-related manure, holding that, in certain situations, spreading manure within several hundred feet of a neighbor's home was unreasonable and constituted a nuisance, and that a neighboring landowner harmed by such activity may be entitled to a court injunction prohibiting manure use in such a manner. These principles can apply equally to those who produce the manure as well as to those who aid in its disposal.** For example, in 1990 an Iowa individual who was transporting manure was held liable when the waste was spilled and damaged a neighbor's property.

Landowners who rent to others may also be liable to neighbors for nuisance or damage caused by CAFO manure. Generally, the landlord must know that the manure usage will take place and that the use will likely constitute a nuisance to neighbors, therein causing liability. It appears that the Supreme-Court-enforced landlord liability may apply to situations where any landowner allows manure to be spread on his or her property and the manure causes

an injury or property loss to a neighbor. While it is not yet clear what effect this ruling will have on manure-usage practices in Iowa, it is clear that landlords, farm tenants, and other landowners may very well face additional liability as a result of the use of manure on their land.

Disclaimer:

This feature is intended to provide helpful information about the law. This information is general, and is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of a lawyer. Small differences in individual circumstances can be very important in resolving legal problems, and the general guidance provided by this feature cannot take such differences into account. Please also realize that the law changes quickly and the timeliness and accuracy of the information contained in this article cannot be guaranteed. If you have a legal problem, do not attempt to solve it based on the information contained in this article—seek the advice of a qualified attorney.

The determination of the need for legal services and the choice of a lawyer are extremely important decisions, and should not be based solely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. This disclosure is required by rule of the Supreme Court of Iowa.

A description or indication of limitation of practice does not mean that any agency or board has certified such lawyer as a specialist or expert in an indicated field of law practice, nor does it mean that such lawyer is necessarily any more of an expert or competent than any other lawyer. Potential clients are urged to make their own independent investigation and evaluation of any lawyer being considered. This disclosure is required by rule of the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Memberships and offices in legal fraternities and legal societies, technical and professional licenses, and memberships in scientific, technical and professional associations and societies of law or field of practice does not mean that a lawyer is a specialist or expert in a field of law, nor does it mean that such a lawyer is necessarily more expert or competent than any other lawyer.

All potential clients are urged to make their own independent investigations and evaluation of any lawyer being considered. This notice is required by rule of the Supreme Court of Iowa.

NEW! JFAN'S GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

This past summer, JFAN introduced a set of Good Neighbor Guidelines to be distributed among the owners of livestock confinement operations in Jefferson County. These new recommendations aim to ensure agreeable practices in the siting of new hog confinements in our county.

"The decision to create the guidelines was the direct result of local confinement operators asking JFAN where new confinements could be built in the county without our organization's opposition," said Jeff Mangin, JFAN board member. "JFAN is a strong supporter of sustainable livestock farming methods and we encourage all future livestock operations to embrace them. However, from a practical perspective, our board recognized that not all confinement operators would agree to employ these sustainable practices, and so, after much deliberation, we developed what we feel is a good compromise: the Good Neighbor Guidelines."

Mangin says JFAN designed the Good Neighbor Guidelines with the intention of fairly addressing the rights of both county citizens and livestock farmers.

"Every citizen within Jefferson County has the right to the free enjoyment of his or her home and property," said Mangin, "and every farmer should have the right to pursue agriculture—but in such a way that it is not at the expense of neighbors or the environment. JFAN is committed to working with all members of the community."

The Good Neighbor Guidelines address a broad range of issues regarding the proper siting of confinements, including neighbor approval, caps on area livestock concentrations, setbacks from high density and ecologically sensitive areas, environmentally sound management practices, and ongoing communication with neighbors around confinement activities that affect them. JFAN



considers the guidelines as an adjunct to all existing DNR and state regulations.

One of the most significant issues the Good Neighbor Guidelines addresses is that of neighbor notification and approval within one mile of the proposed site. Currently, JFAN sends letters to notify neighbors who live within approximately one mile of any proposed hog confinement. The new guidelines recommend that CAFO owners take the same measures and ask for neighbor approval of the site.

"Many published studies have shown that it is the neighbors within closest proximity to a confinement who are most effected by its emissions," says Mangin. "Consequently, a good livestock operator should approach his nearest neighbors, providing disclosure of his plans and receiving permission to go ahead. If he cannot get such permission, then he should respect his neighbors' concerns and site elsewhere."

Within the livestock industry, a current practice among some CAFO owners is to push forward with construction plans as quickly and quietly as possible in the hope of avoiding community confrontation. In the end, says Mangin, an approach like that will only result in the alienation of nearby neighbors and, commonly, nuisance lawsuits.

"JFAN remains committed to providing citizens with grants for legal action when the guidelines are not followed," says Mangin, who notes that this particular Good Neighbor

Guideline is actually part of Iowa's Master Matrix plan for confinement siting, though unfortunately not a requirement at this time.

Another crucial area addressed in the guidelines is moderation of the concentration of hogs within a given area. In certain rural zones, nearby neighbors and landowners may be willing to agree to smaller, family-run hog confinements; however, they often worry that, unchecked, one such confinement may grow to become ten confinements in the future. Indeed, it has been a practice of some CAFO operators in Iowa to start small and then steadily build out. In an attempt to moderate this practice, the Good Neighbor Guidelines call for a maximum of 1,200 hogs per square mile, assuming all other guideline factors are also met.

Finally, a third significant guideline area relates to setback distances. Says Mangin, current state regulations are, unfortunately, greatly inadequate in this area.

"According to current DNR regulations, a 1,249-head hog confinement could be sited within 50 feet of another person's home!" says Mangin. The new JFAN guidelines call for a ring of protection around high-density areas—three miles around a town's city limits, and two miles around rural residential developments.

"Writing the guidelines was a challenging decision for JFAN," says Mangin, "Because we had so many factors and parties to respectfully consider. However, we're confident that, if used, these new guidelines will result in a newfound respect between the county's livestock farmers and its general population. Most importantly, they'll help ensure that Jefferson county stays environmentally sound for all to enjoy for generations to come."

The new Good Neighbor Guidelines can be viewed in their entirety at JFAN's website:

<http://www.jfaniowa.org>.

CITIZENS RALLY TO PROTECT IOWA'S AIR

CITY AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS RALLY TO IMPLEMENT NEW AIR-MONITORING SYSTEM IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



With JFAN as a catalyst, several local and state organizations are rallying together to implement a new Jefferson County air-quality monitoring project to help keep unwanted CAFO air emissions in check.

“An increasing number of published studies on CAFOs and air pollution have found that large-scale animal confinements release excessive quantities of extremely toxic elements into the air we breathe,” says JFAN President Jim Rubis. “When we at JFAN learned that Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement had the necessary equipment for studying air emissions in our area, we negotiated an agreement to make the air monitoring device available locally.”

According to Rubis, the equipment will measure the levels of several offending gasses—including hydrogen sulfide and ammonia—and airborne matter. To begin with, M.U.M. students from the Sustainable Living

Department will conduct the monitoring. They will measure air-pollutant levels around existing animal confinements, and they’ll also establish air quality baselines in areas where new factory farm units are proposed. Power will be provided by a solar collector.

Local funding for the project will be provided by the Iowa Institute for Atmospheric Research. The Institute, founded by local Sky Factory owner Bill Witherspoon and his employees, has spearheaded several other projects to help protect and improve the Iowa environment.

“Organizations and businesses across the state are uniting to sponsor their mutual goals to protect Iowa’s environment, economy, and general quality of life,” says Rubis. “The groups may come at the issue from varying perspectives and promoting different strategies, but we all share one common goal—to stop

the proliferation of CAFOs and the manifold health and environmental problems these animal confinements create. We’re looking to alternative, sustainable farming practices—not those that cause harm.”

Iowa organizations that have collaborated with JFAN range from the Iowa Farmer’s Union, which has been in existence for decades, to CleanIowa.org and The Iowa Network for Local Control, which are groups just recently formed.

Says Rubis, “Large-scale corporate agribusiness organizations like Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Pork Producers, and the Iowa Cattleman’s Association have shaped state policy for years. Now is the time for grassroots citizens’ groups to make ourselves heard. This latest air-quality monitoring project is yet another example of how, step by step, the citizens of Iowa can reclaim control over state policy and the welfare of their land and communities.”

ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE UNEARTH'S THE DIRT ON CAFOS

Snoop Dog made the cover of the December 14 *Rolling Stone* magazine this year, but the rapper-facts article made meager news compared to a food-chain investigative journalism manifesto in the same issue. If you've been wondering exactly what effect CAFOs are having on the environment and human health, you'll definitely want to read "Boss Hog" by reporter Jeff Tietz.

According to Tietz, America's largest and most profitable pork producer, Smithfield Foods, "churns out a sea of waste that has destroyed rivers, killed millions of fish and generated one of the largest fines in EPA history."

Tietz goes on to explain how toxic manure from hog CAFOs like Smithfield is causing alarming ecological damage for North Carolina and other states, creating severe illness among nearby residents, polluting streams and groundwater, killing fish, and turning the regions' farmlands into toxic wastelands.

Clearly this is no mere pig manure we're talking about. The waste from CAFOs is so laden with antibiotics, ammonia, methane, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, cyanide, phosphorous, nitrates, and heavy metals, it is, in Tietz's words, "on a continuum of pollutants... probably closer to radioactive waste than to organic manure."

The hardest-hitting fact in Tietz's article is this: all of these toxins are going into American air and groundwater, and Smithfield, fully aware of the repercussions, doesn't seem to care.



To read the entire story online, go to: www.rollingstone.com and enter the following in the search box: "pork's dirty secret."

IARI To Fund Air-Quality Studies

The Iowa Atmospheric Research Institute, Inc. (IARI) recently expressed its willingness to fund air-quality studies in Iowa—particularly with reference to the proliferation of CAFOs. IARI is a nonprofit Iowa Corporation committed to the funding of scientific research that can help improve the quality of Iowa's atmosphere. Parties interested in participating in research, design, or implementation are requested to contact IARI at info@ioair.com.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE *continued from page 4*

•August, 2006: **JFAN distributed its Good Neighbor Guidelines to the public. It could be the beginning of local control.**

•September, 2006: **JFAN made a grant to ICCI's Protect Our Waters Media Campaign** to raise environmental awareness about CAFOs statewide.



•November, 2006: **Research scientists from University of Iowa and North Carolina called for a moratorium on livestock confinement construction and for Local Control.** They contend that "enough evidence exists to suggest there are clear health threats from these operations."

•December-April 2006/7: **State legislators are being contacted to create legislation for Local Control.** JFAN directly contributed to a lobbyist in Des Moines (but did so within the constraints of JFAN's 501(c)(3) nonprofit status). In addition, a group outside of JFAN, CleanUplowa.org, was formed as a political action committee. The lobbyist will encourage legislation for Local Control and other aspects of hog confinements which would improve quality of life.

JFAN PROTECTS IOWA'S WATER



This past year, JFAN was proud to support Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI) in its ongoing media campaign to raise awareness about environmental and, specifically, water-quality issues caused by factory farms throughout the state of Iowa.

This September, JFAN gave a grant to ICCI to help fund a statewide public awareness campaign about the havoc CAFOs can wreak upon Iowa's natural water sources.

"ICCI's implementation strategy and goals in this regard are manifold," said JFAN board member Alan Marks. "There are a lot of different angles to cover."

According to Marks, ICCI plans to educate the public about the environmental threats studies have shown CAFOs pose to Iowa's water supply, and also to ensure that the voices of those whose lives will be impacted are heard over those of the well-financed factory farms. ICCI will also continue to keep the issue in front of key legislators and other decision makers and, additionally, motivate more people to help address these important issues.

"ICCI will be implementing the most aggressive, strategic statewide media advertising campaign they've ever undertaken," says Marks. "Their members will ensure this important information is heard on nearly 160 radio stations across Iowa and over 450 stations across the country."

The organization additionally plans to mobilize ICCI members and other Iowans to put pressure on key decision makers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor through ongoing meetings, petitions, letters, and action alerts. They'll also continue countering industry pressure by challenging their positions at public meetings, hearings, and in the media.

"JFAN is extremely proud to be supporting this important public awareness initiative of ICCI," says Marks. "We're committed to Iowa's environment, and ICCI has been and will continue to be a strong and important partner and mentor as we look to the future."

CAFOs IN PERSPECTIVE

continued from page 3

provide an advantage to hog producers in temperate regions by providing an antidote to harsh climatic conditions which impede growth rates and time to market.

When hogs expend a larger proportion of their nutrients in the form of energy to protect themselves from cold conditions, their feed-to-meat conversion rates decline. In addition, enclosed production units provide an opportunity for stricter control of feed rationing and reproduction.

The costs of confined animal feeding operations, particularly as they take on characteristics of industrial-scale production, are dramatic.

In addition to the economic costs for rural areas, a wide variety of environmental and public health problems have emerged as a result of the industrialization of livestock production. **Surface and groundwater contamination occurs from the huge volumes of manure produced. In contrast to the solid manure produced in open-air hog production, confined animal production requires the storage and management of manure in a liquid form that is much more mobile.**

Swine produce over twice as much manure per day compared to humans, and the biological oxygen demand (BOD) of undiluted hog waste is 160 times greater than raw human municipal sewage. **In addition, the huge volumes of antibiotics livestock ingest—primarily served up as growth promotants in feed—are largely excreted in the liquid manure. Consequently, antibiotics, as well as antibiotic-resistant bacteria, join the likes of nitrogen, phosphorus, heavy metals, and other swine manure constituents that can find their way into, and degrade, surface and ground waters.**

Another common environmental problem created by large concentrations of hogs and manure is the degradation of air quality. **Some 160 volatile organic compounds are emitted from liquid hog manure, and their odiferous character can offend even the most seasoned farmer or rural resident.**

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Industrial production facilities housing thousands of swine come equipped with storage facilities holding hundreds of thousands—even millions—of gallons of liquid manure. Large exhaust fans dot the exterior walls of these facilities, testifying to the fact that the interior ambient environment is not particularly healthy, so particulates and gasses are forced outside.

Indeed, a full third of workers laboring inside these facilities will develop one or more chronic respi-

ratory problem in direct response to exposure to gas and dust mixtures. Compounds such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, blended with dusts and endotoxins, also create problems for neighbors, particularly when large volumes of manure are stored in liquid form.

Anyone who has spent even a little time on farms clearly understands that some type of odor is inherent to the agricultural environment. **However, concentrating hundreds of thou-**

sands of gallons of liquid manure in one area is anything but natural and can have a devastating quality of life effect on neighboring farmers and other rural residents.

*Read the entire "Community Health and Socioeconomic Issues Surrounding CAFOs" research paper online at <http://www.ehponline.org/docs/2006/8836/abstract.html> and **catch Dr. Thu's keynote address at the JFAN annual meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Best Western Inn on Thursday, February 22.***

READ MORE ABOUT CAFOS & THE ENVIRONMENT ONLINE!

Environmental Health Impacts of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Anticipating Hazards — Searching for Solutions (2006)

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2006/8831/abstract.html>

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