

June 6, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this concerning the mega farm operations in my area. Within a mile radius we have two hog farms and one chicken farm. One hog farm is approximately 300 yards from my house. We have lived in our current location for 35 years and while we understand farming is necessary we would like to see stricter guidelines enforced upon these operations. A major concern of mine is how they dispose of the carcasses. I worry about the contamination to our drinking water. Recently they spread the hog manure on the fields around our home and afterwards for three days no one could stand the odor outside, it made you physically ill. The odor got into our attic and lingered in our home for several days. I also have a swimming pool and due to the fly situation we are unable to enjoy it. They constantly land on us and our grandchildren any time we go outside to play. We find that we are never able to leave open our doors and windows in the summer because of the horrible smell. As homeowners we have the right to enjoy our property.

Another issue is that we have been trying to sell our home for the last two years and are having a terrible time because nobody wants to live next to these operations. All I ask is for you to please take our concerns into consideration. It is extremely unfair that we have to live this way.

Tom & Sharon Zinsmeister
9319 Sparta Rd
Fredericktown, OH 43019



JUDITH AND DAVID GAWELEK

12020 Cochran Road

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Phone: (740) 393-2524 | E-mail address: jtetlak@msn.com

May 4, 2015

Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl

77 S. High Street, 11th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Rep. Ruhl:

We are concerned with the alarming growth of industrial farming (CAFO) in our district. Each year, for the past three years, a new force-feeding operation has been built in our township, all within a 3 mile radius. The newest pig operation will sit within ½ mile of some 50 homes.

The impact of these facilities is devastating to our community. First, and foremost, they pollute our air and water. The waste from the animals moves freely through our streets without regulation. It is spread on lands surrounding our properties, leaving our drinking water at risk of contamination, our ponds vulnerable to nitrate pollution, and our air fetid and fowl. Can you tell us what environmental impact studies are required before permits are issued for this type of facility?

The completion of these facilities sees the value of all the properties near them plummet. Our life savings, tied to our homes and land will disappear if this trend continues unabated.

We turn to you, to help us gain control of the situation. Our township leaders tell us they are powerless to regulate agricultural development. We argue that this is NOT agriculture, but rather an industrial process imposed on animals. Ethics aside, a new definition for this industry needs to impose so that local governments can take back control of this situation. It needs to be done soon. Ohio is in jeopardy. What we are experiencing in Wayne Township is being repeated across the 88 counties of Ohio. If we are to protect our land, our water and our air, something needs to change.

As our representative, we ask are asking for your assistance. We have repeatedly asked who is responsible for enforcing the existing regulations on Animal Waste and Agricultural Pollution (OCR Chapter 1501:15-5 Animal Waste and Agricultural Pollution). Also, there needs to be a mechanism for homeowners to be made aware of the construction of a CAFO in their vicinity, so that they can have input into viability of constructing such a facility near their land. We also request that legislation be introduced, preventing CAFO facilities within a specified distance of residential areas, and limiting the number of these facilities within a specified area.

JUDITH AND DAVID GAWELEK
12020 Cochran Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

We regret that our work schedules would not allow us to meet with you at this time, but we would be willing to speak with you in the evening. We invite you to attend the open portion of our next township meeting. It will be held, May 14 at 7:30 PM.

Thank you for your time, attention, and hopefully, your action regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

David and Judith Gawelek
Phone: (740)393-2524

From: Sayward Herron
12480 Cochran Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
(740)263-0064

To: Margret Ruhl

I cannot begin to convey the depths of my despair, there will be no words that can truly do the heartache that overwhelms my heart and mind daily. I walk out to the sounds of heavy equipment constructing a hog barn right across the tree line of my parents' home. This is the home we built my senior year of high school in 1999. The home that my parents have let their children come back to repeatedly, when needed via lost jobs, repeated deployments of my brother which required his wife to have help with their three children, my family when my ex-husband was severely injured in a horrifying work accident, and now while I am a single mother of two young boys, and I am going to school full-time and work as well. What is hard to believe is this is my stepfather that opens his heart and wallet to make sure that we are not living off of the government in metro housing etc.! This is the man who goes to work 6, sometimes 7 days a week at 4:30am every morning sometimes not returning until 10:00pm, and never complains. He treats us with the most love and care that you could possibly fathom. The shirt off of his back kind of man. The man that finally had hernia surgery because he could not go any longer without it, who knows how long he actually had them before he told any of us, because he would worry about taking time off of work and putting any of us without. Now I see the hurt in his eyes daily, as he is being robbed with no recourse.

If we dumped toxic sludge on our property we would have legal repercussions, if we remove tags from certain things it is a crime, if we stole from someone it would be punishable financially, and come along with a prison sentence. Seems very justifiable that if someone does bad things that harm others they should be punished if they commit atrocities. Not for corporate feeding operations,

erecting structures so close to another's home that they stand to lose upwards of 60% of their homes value. The people that have sold off their road frontage and invited people out the country are now throwing up these toxic putrid facilities beside our homes. Partially funded with tax dollars we all pay, they made money off of selling us land, and now they steal from us all daily, by robbing us of the dreams and life we envisioned when we built these homes. Please, hear our pleading to save future families from these horrid injustices.

Thank you for your time

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sayward Herron', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sayward Herron

Senate Finance Committee-

I am writing this letter in regard to a hog farm that is being constructed on Green Valley Road here in Knox County (Wayne Township). We purchased this house and 12 acres of woods on Cochran Road so we could have our own little "slice of Heaven." An abundance of wildflowers in the spring, walking trails, stream, deer, turkey, fox, barred owls, you name it. Everybody who visits comments on how blessed we are and how great of a place we have. We were lucky to find it and made an offer the first day it was on the market. We also paid full asking price because it was exactly what we had dreamed of owning. We did the usual work/decorating to the place over the last 12 months to make it feel like OUR home. Here it is spring already and the wildflowers are everywhere and the birds are building their nests and deer fawns are soon to be born.

Awesome right? Couldn't be happier, but then comes the news of the Cabbage family putting in a CAFO hog facility. Now rest assured we love the horses and sheep and occasional pig farms that are in the area, but this one hits close to home. Our property is probably in the worst possible location for the smell, being just southeast and considering the prevailing winds. There are nights I lay awake trying to NOT think about it. Our property value, our peace and tranquility, our positive attitudes.....all gone. Not to mention family & friends who won't want to visit and our general wellness. We thought they were just logging over there, like others to the south of them, when we heard the equipment during the winter months. Had no clue our neighbor was in the process of destroying our future here. We don't believe there is anything that can be done at this point with the regulations set the way they are. We know this is just one of many cases, but really the one that stands to end our happiness!

I want to thank you for your time and "listening" to what I have to say in this matter.

Regards,

Craig Hughes

12100 Cochran Rd.

12420 Cochran Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio
43050
June 4, 2015

Senator Kris Jordan
Senate Building
1 Capital Square
Ground Floor
Columbus, OH
43215

Senator Jordan,

I am writing this letter to you concerning the current Ohio laws dealing with farming enterprises. As you may know, a hog barn is being constructed in Wayne Township, Knox County that will contain approximately 2500 hogs.

This facility is approximately 1000 feet from our home and there are approximately 50 residences within a half mile of this facility.

At the township meeting, we were informed that neither the township trustees nor the county commissioners can make any rules or regulations concerning farming operations according to Ohio law.

At the meeting were representatives from the county health department, the soil and water district, the county sheriff, the chief of the fire district, and the county prosecutors office. We were informed that we have no recourse whatever according to Ohio law concerning this facility being erected in our area and any problems caused by this operation, such as air pollution, rodent infestation, or fly infestation.

I feel this is very unfair to the area property owners that Ohio law allows unregulated commercial farming factories and any problems they may cause to the detriment of other area residents.

I would like you to work to change the laws so that these operations are regulated by the state and area property owners rights are protected.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Noell

DATE: 5 May 2015

FROM: Roger U. Williams
9180 Green Valley Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050-8609

TO: The Honorable Margaret Ann Ruhl
Ohio House of Representatives
District 68
77 South High Street-11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

SUBJECT: Confined Animal Factory Operations (CAFO)
Wayne Township-Knox County

Dear Representative Ruhl:

It is my understanding that you are a member of the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee for the Ohio House of Representatives. With this in mind, I am writing to express my concern for the proliferation of both swine and chicken CAFO's in Knox County and in particular Wayne Township in which I reside.

As I sit and write this letter, I am, for the first time in my life, taking OTC antihistamines for the treatment of watery eyes, sinus/nasal congestion, headache, sore/scratchy/itchy throat, and cough brought on by the disposal of manure onto crop fields in the near vicinity of my two (2) properties on Green Valley Road in Wayne Township. I am in my 70's and have never had an allergy in my life from medical or environmental sources. I am concerned that, unless something is done about the manure disposal practices, I am going to develop an allergy and worse, some form of chronic sinus problem(s).

I have a farm and residence at 9180 Green Valley Road and another residence with crop acreage at 8479 Green Valley Road. The 8479 Green Valley Road property is at the corner of the intersection of Green Valley Road and Granny Creek Road. I reside in this house at nights and am therefore subject to the odors and dust coming from a factory swine operation one-half mile to the North on Granny Creek Road and a soon-to-be built factory swine operation just across the road on Green Valley Road. For me, there is no escaping the obvious situation.

Currently, there are factory swine operations in the area at:

13306 Granny Creek Road (1 building)
8670 Green Valley Road (1 building under construction)
9335 Sparta Road (1 building)
Quaker Road/Gregg Road area (4 buildings)

Currently, there are factory chicken (broiler) operations in the area at:

7376 Bryant Road (3 buildings)
7377 Bryant Road (3 buildings)
Waterford Road area (3 buildings)
8300 Green Valley Road (Potential location)

The above listings are by no means all-inclusive. They are only what we know about from visual confirmation or confirmation from other land owners. I am sure there is a master location(s) list in the Office of Knox Soil & Water, the OSU Extension Service and the USDA Regional Office in Mount Vernon.

A few weeks ago, I drove around the Green Valley Road area and a few township roads **within a mile** of the facility under construction at 8670 Green Valley Road. I counted 54 strictly residential homes. I excluded an additional 12+ homes that were on larger acreage and had enough land that was being used for crops or horses or cattle, etc. The majority of the residential homes were **within a half-mile** of the facility under construction. As you can see, this facility under construction is unlike the other facilities that are on large parcels of land out in the middle of sparsely populated farming areas. The new facility is being dropped right in the middle of a primarily residential neighborhood community. We have neighborhood get-togethers, annual cookouts, church suppers, etc. **A swine operation is totally out-of-place and does not belong in the middle of a neighborhood!**

A swine operation consists of about 2,400 (can be 2,500) pigs per building. A chicken broiler operation consists of about 40,000 (can be 45,000) chickens per building or 120,000 chickens per a 3-building operation. Thus, nearby our neighborhood, we have 2 swine operations consisting of about 4,800 pigs with the addition of 2,400 more upon completion of the operation on Green Valley Road and 240,000 chickens and all the manure and odors and potential health problems associated with these operations.

When these operations need to clean out at the time that the swine and poultry leave the buildings to be taken elsewhere for processing, the manure has to be taken to owned or rented crop land in all directions...some on owned land at the facility site and the rest of it must be transported on county and township roads. When the manure is not spread as it should be by recommended methods with the weather conditions in mind, then the residents nearby must endure the odor, the dust, the potential for runoff, contamination of nearby streams, creeks, rivers, etc. The odor from the chicken manure spread on crop fields the week of 27 April through 3 May was unbearable because of the improvised methods these owner/operators used to spread the manure...both liquid pig manure and dried chicken/sawdust manure.

The odors these past 10 days are the worst I have ever smelled during the past couple of years. My house stinks, my clothes smelled like manure, even my dog became ill, neighborhood children were sickened, their school bus reeked of the odor of manure, the odors could be smelled inside the village limits and various businesses.

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When does the proliferation of these CAFO's reach the point where the sheer volume of such and all the problems and potential problems associated with the disposal of the manure causes **irreparable harm/damage** to the residents, their property values, and the entire township as a whole? What then, when it is too late?

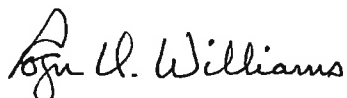
I am enclosing a copy of Article X, Page 26, of the Wayne Township Zoning Regulations. As you can see by the wording of 10.0 Performance Standards that these facilities are in violation of Item 6, Item 7, and the potential violation of Item 10.

Bearing in mind all of the aforementioned information, I am respectfully requesting that you take whatever measures necessary to stop construction of and prevent the operation of the swine operation under construction at 8670 Green Valley Road until both an environmental impact study and neighborhood impact study are completed and reviewed and a final decision is made as to the feasibility of allowing a CAFO to be placed on property within a residential neighborhood. The potential owner/operator does not even have a quarter of the adequate ground required to spread manure without transporting it elsewhere for disposal. This should be another factor to be considered in the request for the aforementioned impact studies. The topography of his building site and the closeness of a creek, runoff streams, and a pond on three (3) sides of this building site are a potential spillage disaster just waiting to happen.

Just for your information, the swine CAFO's are corporate operations of Heimerl Farms out of Johnstown, Ohio and the chicken/broiler operations are corporate operations of Case Farms, Inc. They do have informational websites.

I will thank you in advance for your review of this letter, for any advice and suggestions that you may provide, and for your consideration of my request for cessation of construction activities and the impact studies. Any of your valuable time that you can allot to this neighborhood concern will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



ROGER U. WILLIAMS

Enclosure (1)

May 6, 2015

From:

Mark and Mona Parsons

12480 Cochran Road

Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Phone # 740-507-447

To:

The State of Ohio

Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Wayne Township, Knox County

We are all hard working class families. Our homes are the largest investment that we have. Some people in this community are retired and we only have 4 years until retirement. This is painful beyond believe. Nights when we cannot get to sleep, nights when we wake in the wee hours and cannot get back to sleep thinking "how can this be happening to us?" We've played by the rules worked hard, taken care of ourselves, have been good neighbors and citizens. We have not bothered anyone. We have always helped our neighbors when asked. My husband and I were talking one day, he said "what did we do wrong?" and I told him that "I ask myself the same thing, and then I ask myself, what did our neighbors do wrong, the answer was nothing." No one here has done anything to bring about the absolute theft of our properties, and the freedom to enjoy them.

There is a wide spread cancer in this country and it is growing fast, it is called "greed," and it is consuming everything and everyone in its path. I was traveling a couple months ago and I saw a sign that read, "When Money Talks The truth is Silent." That is what's happening here. The neighbor who is building the Corporate Hog Barn next-door knows what he is doing to all of us and he does not care because the law is on his side. He refuses to care about the pain inflicted on his neighbors. We his neighbors need some laws to protect our properties.

We are very concerned over the increase of CAFOs in our Township. As most people we did not realize all the problems associated with them until our neighbor started constructing a new one only about 400 yards from our front door, it is west of our home which will put us down wind. Along with nine other homes on Cochran Road.

After reading different articles on the internet we found out just how damaging they can be. The Health risks, the drop in property values, the inability to even enjoy our own yard because of the odor, and the stress we live daily knowing what is coming our way. I am sure the stress will continue every time my grandchildren want to play outside on the first pretty days of spring, relaxing and splashing in the pool on the hot days of summer, enjoying all the beautiful things fall has to offer us, and none of us can bare the stench.

I did finally come across an article though, written by the National Association of Boards of Health in 2010. Which we will be leaving a copy with you today, called "Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Their Impact on Communities". I think it explains things very clearly.

There are many things written in the journal that our local Health Department can do to help our community. Such as lower cost testing of our wells, fly traps now before the barn is started up and after it is up and running, also air testing for certain gases before and after. Along with monthly testing of ditches, streams and ponds surrounding the barns.

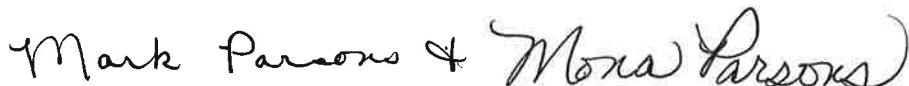
I also have learned about steps that can be taken by our State Government Officials, such as a little fine tuning of the Right- to- Farm Law. This law came about because of urban sprawl in the 1970s' before the invention of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Corporations are using this out dated law to misuse the land which in turn destroys communities. Therefore, we ask you today to take action on our behalf to restrict the placement and proximity of CAFOs to others dwellings. Limit the amount of barns and animals within a 5 mile radius, and only allow them after legitimate studies are completed on soil type, depth of soil, and amount of manure the land can absorb before becoming a hazard from run off into ditches, streams, or our well water. Also inspections and permits for all types of CAFOs, small, medium and large, along with Mandatory Manure Plans with oversight by the EPA, Soil and Water Conservation, or State

Ag, or all three. Someone needs to be on site when the spreading of liquid manure is being sprayed.

On Sparta Road April 30th through May 2nd. The CAFO owner spread his liquid hog manure over his acreage slinging it around by a large hose he drug with his tractor. The smell traveled up to 8 miles and depending on how the wind blew at any given time it was unbearable to be out doors. I can only imagine how terrible it was for the neighbors surrounding his property. Fredericktown Schools were inundated with the odor and the bus ride home had the kid's gagging.

On March 16, 2015, after the Chicken barns dumped manure and dead chickens a half a mile from my home, just a few feet from a stream that feeds Granny Creek, that lets into the Kokosing River. The smell was of rotten chickens, we could not go out into our yard without wanting to throw up for three days. After a high volume of phone calls, Soil and Water Conservation Officer Rob Clendening told the Millers to spread it, leaving us with the smell of rotten rancid grease for a week. When I ask if he inspected the pile he replied "He drove by after they spread it and from the road he did see some chickens", Sorry but this is not oversight. I ask if they would be fined and the reply was "no, they have to continue these acts and not do what was required when notified".

I believe that fines should be given for any offense. They know better but do not always follow the rules, we need legitimate oversight. Another good policy strategy; would be to require them to own enough land to contain all the manure that they produce so there would be less probability of contaminating other areas in the community while making it easier to control, inspect, and place fines when necessary.

Sincerely, 

Mark and Mona Parsons

The following pages have a few things from the Pamphlet complied by:

National Association of Local Boards of Health

1840 East Gypsy Lane Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

www.nalboh.org

Followed with a Report made by:

Knox Soil and Water Conservation District

In Knox County, Wayne Township Complaint Filed March 16, 2015

Follow –up Visit on March 24, 2015

SWIMS Entry on March30, 2015

Environmental Factors are numerous but the most concerning are the air quality, groundwater, surface water, and odors. Manure from CAFO's liquefied and sprayed onto fields contains various harmful contaminants e coli, nitrogen, phosphorus, growth hormones, antibiotics, and chemicals and additives which when sprayed or with a heavy storm/flooding can runoff into surface waters; streams, lakes, and rivers, but will eventually find their way into our groundwater, which fills our wells. The EPA's 2000 National Water Quality Inventory found that 29 states specifically identified AFO's and CAFO's impaired the water quality (Congressional Research Service 2008). Veterinarian Antibiotics can also be found in nearby well water. Over 53% of the population relies on groundwater for drinking water, often much higher rates in rural areas, and unlike surface water (lakes, rivers, etc.) groundwater is much more difficult to monitor.

Air quality, is another thing weighing heavily on our minds these CAFO's produce several types of air emissions gaseous and particulate substances. The most typical pollutants found in the air surrounding CAFO's are ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and particulate matter. CAFO buildings can also release dangerous contaminants in a study by Iowa State University, two chicken farms operations produced 10 of Ammonia in one year. While all community members are at risk from lowered air quality, children take in 20-50% more air than adults, making them more susceptible to lung disease and health effects, such as asthma.

Researchers in North Carolina found that the closer children lived to a CAFO the greater the risk of asthma symptoms. Of 226 schools that were in the study, 26% said that there were noticeable odors from CAFOs outdoors, while even 8% experience odors even inside their school. CAFOs emit awful odors and particulates into the air, many immunosuppressed people children, elderly, pregnant women, and chemotherapy patients are easily effected by them. Smaller parts of the dust can be absorbed into the body by the lungs and can have systemic effects that include cardiac arrest. Dusts inhaled can caused decreased lung function, if severe enough it can cause scarring of the airways. Other health effects from emission can be headaches, respiratory congestion, eye irritation, nausea, weakness, and chest tightness.

Odors are the most common issue facing communities with a CAFO within a 3-6 miles radius. CAFOs emit complex mixture of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide, as well as volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. These odors are worse than smells formerly associated with smaller livestock farms. The anaerobic reaction that occurs in the pits or lagoons for long amounts of time is the primary cause of the smell. CAFOs can be smelled from as much as 3-5 miles away. These odors cause severe lifestyle changes for individuals in the community and can alter many daily activities. Children having to stay inside and not go out and play. Mental health may deteriorate as well and an increase in smell sensitivity can also result from the CAFOs odor emotion. Odors can cause a wide array of mental health issues tension, anger, depression, neuro psychiatric abnormalities, such as impaired balance, or memory. These odors and environmental hazards add up to losing a whole lot more than just our love of being outside with our children, or sitting on our front porches enjoying the sunset.

Property values there is more than sufficient evidence that shows residence near a CAFO can experience up to an 80% drop in property value due to the proximity of the CAFO building. The closer the property the more you stand to lose. Studies do have differing results on how much is lost when a CAFO is established. One study showed that 6.6% within a 3 miles radius due to smell and environmental health issues, and water worries, and within a tenth of a mile, can cost you up to 88% of what your home is valued at, potentially more if you live downwind.

These are the things that hurt a community, and turn it into an area where only low income families will live. Where does that leave our children's future, and what is going to become of your constituency? I am certain that we your normal everyday families outnumber the few families that are poisoning our land, and rotting away our futures.

May 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to explain the situation my family and neighbors are in. We have a Hog CAFO being built about 300 yards from our homes.

We have spoken to other neighbors in our township that are living with Hog CAFOs and Chicken CAFOs next door to them. The things we have learned are heartbreaking.

The smell, the flies, and the loss of their property value to the extent that they cannot sell their homes. No one wants to live even remotely close to a CAFO. On Granny Creek after spreading too much liquid manure on too little land, rain washed the manure down on three different home owners. A test was performed and the nitrate levels were 200 times above what would be acceptable. The EPA, and Soil and Water, did nothing to the farm, and gave no direction on what to do next.

One neighbor had to finally auction their home to get away. Their home was valued at \$125,000 and at auction they received only half, \$65,000 and it would not have gone that high but the CAFO owner next-door was trying to buy it, he dropped out when he couldn't get it for a few cents on the dollar.

Property Taxes go down, our Township loses money, but the worst part of it all is our Blue Ribbon school will also be losing a considerable amount of funding.

I see a pattern, all in the favor of the CAFO owners. They move into a community and property values decrease, property taxes go down, they win because their property taxes go down also. Neighbors move out. It becomes a low income community, a good place to get cheap labor.

I tell everyone I speak to about what is happening to us.

That it is me today, it will be you tomorrow. We are all hard working citizens in this community. Our biggest investment that we have are our homes. My husband and I are 4 years from retirement, we cannot recover from this loss of security in our older years. We need protection from CAFOS. I don't need a crystal ball or a fortune teller to know what lies ahead for our community. I am sure at this point our community is ruined. But there is something that you can do to make us all safer. You can see that we get true oversight of all CAFOs no matter what size, small medium or large. And that will take monies from you and hopefully an agency that doesn't tell us "I can't be too pushy, I have to work with these CAFO farmers'." We need someone who will take them to task for not doing everything they can to keep us safe from the smell, the flies and the pathogens that they are responsible for. They must all have and follow a manure plan for spreading and someone on site to make sure it is done according to plan. They empty the Hog CAFOS twice a year, depending upon how many are in our county someone should be able to have the time to oversee the spreading of liquid manure.

The Chicken CAFOs need the same. They brought and dumped what I believe to be their dead animal compost on March 16' 2015 on property they bought several miles from the CAFO, just a half mile from

my home and behind about 8 homes. They dumped it along with a manure pile a few feet from Granny Creek which makes its way to the Kokosing River. The air was so filled with the smell of rotten chickens you could not go outside for three days without getting ill and wanting to vomit. Knox County Soil and Water Conservation received so many calls that they did file a report. After they made them spread it we were left the smell of rancid grease for over week.

These CAFO Operators know what the rules are but chose not to follow them. They think they can get by with whatever they want. We need help, to save our communities and the environment for future generations.

We need Traditional Family Farms, true Stewards of The Land to assure it is useable in the future.

Sincerely,

Mark and Mona Parsons

12480 Cochran Road

Mount Vernon, Oh. 43050

Wayne Township, Knox County

28 Apr 2015
Deborah Mattix
7285 County Road 183
Fredericktown, OH 43019

Hello, We live within a mile of a poultry facility that will house 80,000 layers. I am concerned about our property values, the odors and bugs, and the consequences for our health.

Since there are less than 82,000 birds no permits or license are required. No oversight by any agency. We feel this infringes on our freedoms. We have no voice. Our assets will be negatively effected and our quality of life will devastated with the odors, flies and bugs that accompany these facilities.



In our nation we do not need cheap food - it causes an increase in population which our earth cannot handle and it adds to our burden of health care as it does not truly meet our nutrional needs.

I am a farmer who raises grass fed Katahdin lambs and pastured Buckeye poultry. We began raising our own food so we could avoid the hazards of animals raised in concentrated animal feeding facilities and the health hazards of consuming processed foods. I know the importance of allowing farm animals to the land. It allows them to access the grass and balance the omega fatty acid 3s with the 6s. This is very heart healthy. It also allows them to behave as a sheep or chicken should behave. By allowing animals room to grow and thrive naturally, we give them the chance to stay healthy without the use of chemicals to manage the crowding.

These CAFOs are unhealthy for us and for the animals. And with continued research it is being found that CAFOs are linked to respiratory problems, MRSA and antibiotic UTIs. There are a high percentage of CAFO Workers that have MRSA in their system and also a high percentage of swine that have MRSA In their systems. Those that live around the fields "fertilized" with the waste from these CAFOs also develop MRSA and antibiotic resistant UTIs. Also the use of sub clinical levels of antibiotics need to removed from feed that is used on animals in CAFOs. These are used for weight gain but have implications for the developement of antibiotic resistant infections in humans.

We need to only proceed with great caution and control the proliferation of these facilities. They need to be license and monitored for MRSA and other health consequences and pollution to the envirnoment. Externalities need to affect the true cost of production of these products. I have the freedom of happiness and this poultry facility makes my happiness more remote as I deal with the stench, the health hazards and the lose of value of my property.

Sincerely
Deborah Mattix
7285 County Road 183
Fredericktown, OH 43019
419-768-3050

Monday, June 08, 2015

To whom it may concern:

The natural environment suffers in many ways from factory-farming practices. Sometimes the damage is sudden and catastrophic, as when a ruptured lagoon causes a massive fish kill. At other times, it is cumulative -- for example, when manure is repeatedly over applied, runs off the land and accumulates as nutrient pollution in waterways.

I live within walking distance of three Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or CAFOs in Wayne Township housing thousands of hogs which produce staggering amounts of manure. The way these wastes are stored and used has profound effects on human health and the environment. I want to know where these farms plan to acquire the 300 + acres required to “safely” spread their untreated liquid animal waste once every other year ? Are they shipping it to a field near you ? Who determines how close the nearest waterways and aquifers that are potentially impacted from this animal waste can be located ?

Clean drinking water is our most precious natural resource and CAFO’s are threatening our water quality. Phosphorus and nitrogen, two nutrients present in animal wastes can, in excessive amounts cause an explosion of algae that robs water of oxygen, killing aquatic life. Manure can also contain traces of salt and heavy metals, which can end up in bodies of water and accumulate in the sediment, concentrating as they move up the food chain.

Practical remedies to these problems do exist. But implementing them will require some important changes in factory farm practices and government oversight:

- **Regulation and accountability.** Factory farms are industrial facilities and should be regulated accordingly. They must obtain permits, monitor water quality and pay for cleaning up and disposing their wastes.
- **Increased transparency.** The public should know where CAFOs are located, how CAFOs in their neighborhoods dispose of their waste, and what waterbodies or drinking water sources may be at risk. There is not currently a comprehensive database of this critical information, which should be collected and made publicly available.
- **Public awareness and participation.** Local governments and residents must have a say in whether to allow factory farms in their communities. The public is also entitled to review and comment on the contents of pollution reduction plans and to enforce the terms, where a factory farm is in violation.
- **New technology.** Factory-farm technology standards must be strengthened. The EPA must consider recent technology advances that significantly reduce pathogens.
- **Alternative farming practices.** States and the federal government should promote methods of raising livestock that reduce the concentration of animals and use manure safely. Many alternative methods exist; they rely on keeping animal waste drier, which limits problems with spills, runoff and air pollution.
- **Pollution-reduction programs for small feedlots.** Voluntary programs must be expanded to encourage smaller factory farms, which fall outside of the regulations for

industrial facilities, to improve their management practices and take advantage of available technical assistance and other resources.

Water safety is not a neighborhood, county or even a state issue...it is a national issue. Those elected to serve and protect the people need to step up and demand better regulation of factory farms which, as they are currently allowed to operate, threaten human health and safety.

Sincerely,

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