

■ SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE MANURE MANAGEMENT ■

Iowa's quality of life is threatened. Please take the reasonable steps that will help.

Many of Iowa's livestock producers are carefully managing their livestock manure. However, there are some real problems that are affecting Iowa's people and environment. Our current laws will not address these problems, even if we "give them time," because they overlook key issues. As a result:

- Livestock manure is reaching drinking water sources, resulting in dangerously high levels of nitrate and pathogens that contaminate private water supplies. Removing these pollutants is expensive for public water systems as well.
- More than 1.7 million fish were killed by manure spills in Iowa from 1995 to 1999. Mis- or overapplication of manure, storage overflows, and feedlot runoff were primary causes.
- The stench from large volumes of manure is driving Iowans away from their rural homes and our natural areas. The air pollutants are causing health problems for those who stay.

Is this the way to get young people to stay?

Is this the way to get others to move here?

Is this the way to treat rural Iowans who have been here for generations?

The Iowa Legislature must protect Iowa's quality of life. How?

Greater separation distances are needed between concentrated livestock operations and unique natural areas, state parks, and high quality and protected waters

Some state parks, fishing and swimming areas, and drinking water sources currently are vulnerable to contamination from livestock manure.

Livestock feeding and housing operations should not be constructed on 100-year floodplains.

Right now, large quantities of manure are being stored in floodplains, making our waterways particularly vulnerable to contamination from catastrophic spills during flood events.

An air quality monitoring strategy needs to be developed and implemented.

Studies have shown that people living near large animal confinement operations are experiencing health problems, as well as a diminished quality of life.

Additional resources are needed to educate about, monitor, and enforce manure management requirements.

History has demonstrated that a solid education program with farmers produces good results. The state needs the resources to check manure management plans and provide strong enforcement, if necessary.

A phosphorus standard along with a nitrogen standard coupled with erosion limitations must be part of any manure management strategy.

All livestock producers must be aware of the problems that excess phosphorus, nitrogen, and erosion cause to the environment and to their own economics and health.



Protect drinking water sources

This manure storage structure is located on the floodplain of the Des Moines River. If a spill or leakage occurs, the pollution moves downstream to the source of drinking water for Des Moines, Ottumwa and other communities.

We need to prohibit animal feeding operation structures from being constructed in the 100-year floodplain.

■ Questions and Answers ■

Why is taking action pro-farmer?

Most of all, farmers and Iowa's rural communities need protection and support. Right now, rural Iowa is suffering because of the air and water quality concerns produced by poor management of livestock manure.

Iowa Farmers Union, Practical Farmers of Iowa, and many family farmers support change. According to *Blaine Nickles, a farmer in Wright County*, "Large confinement operations are here to stay. But we need adequate protections so that we can still live in our homes and have somewhere near the same quality of life that we had before."

Why is this a statewide issue, an issue for both urban and rural Iowans?

Inadequate management of livestock manure affects many of the major urban areas in the state. Most of the major rivers in Iowa (including the Des Moines, Iowa, Cedar, and Skunk rivers) flow through the central part of Iowa with large concentrations of livestock facilities. Communities downstream from these facilities are experiencing water quality problems, including high nitrate levels in drinking water sources.

In addition, fish kills and chronic pathogens affect the waters all Iowans use for recreation. Says *Steve Throssel, a businessman from Eldora*: "We see a lot of cars from Black Hawk, Story, and Polk counties in the Iowa River Greenbelt. The manure management problem we have is a problem not just for our community but for every Iowan who cares about a state park or recreational area. And it's an issue for every taxpayer, as the state invests so many dollars in habitat improvement and public land protection for resources now at risk from livestock manure contamination."



Why is phosphorus important?

Because phosphorus is one of the leading causes of impairment in Iowa's rivers, lakes, and streams. After sediment, phosphorus is the most common cause of impairment of the 157 water bodies on Iowa's impaired waters list.

Using a phosphorus standard makes economic sense. Using a phosphorus rate brings cost savings directly to the farmer's bottom line, according to ISU Extension's Maquoketa Watershed Project. The Iowa Environmental Council supports a transition period for phasing in the phosphorus standard, but Iowa must begin to implement this now.

Protect Iowa's value as a tourist destination

French Creek in Allamakee County is a haven for wild trout -- and the trout anglers who come from all over to fish the stream. DNR describes French Creek as "worthy of special protection," yet this valuable resource is being contaminated by livestock manure. **Greater separation distances are needed between concentrated livestock operations and high quality recreational areas.**

Isn't this just a "nuisance" issue?

No! This is a human health issue. This is an issue about the protection of our drinking water sources and our public swimming areas. It is an issue about protecting the health of rural Iowans. People living near large animal feeding operations face real health hazards, recent studies suggest. Headache, runny nose, sore throat, excessive coughing, diarrhea, and burning eyes were reported more frequently.

"As a state, we must be careful not to risk the physical and mental health of Iowans in our efforts to preserve the rights of CAFO operators," according to *Dr. Stephen Gleason, Director, Iowa Department of Public Health*.

The Iowa Environmental Council and its 70 member organizations represent about 80,000 Iowans.
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