



Report Card for: Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

	Grade	Comments
Air Quality	F	The stench from CAFOs can be detected for 3 to 6 miles. The issue of CAFO manure is more than its horrendous stench. The manure is loaded with toxic pollutants such as methane, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀), fungi, bacteria, and endotoxins that become airborne.
Water Quality	F	Once the manure is applied on farm fields, it does not always stay on the fields. Some is over-applied meaning that more is applied than the crops can absorb. Some of Iowa's waterbodies are so polluted with nutrients, which are chemicals in manure, that the water has been placed on the federal Impaired Waters list, which means that the water does not meet water quality standards.
Public Health	F	<p>The physical reaction to the toxic chemicals in CAFO manure results in nausea, running noses, sore eyes, respiratory distress, and asthma attacks. Exposure to odors can cause changes in mood.</p> <p>Because of the heavy use of antimicrobials within a CAFO, the bacteria have become antibiotic-resistant. That can result in harmful life-threatening illnesses, including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and drug-resistant E. coli.</p> <p>Every year a number of Iowa's beaches are so polluted with microcystin toxins that it is unsafe to swim. The toxins are formed by bacteria that thrive when manure enters a lake.</p>
Property Values	F	Studies show large adverse impacts on property values for houses located within 3 miles and those directly downwind from a CAFO.
Being Good Neighbors	F	CAFOs have a huge negative effects on quality of life for neighbors. Neighbors complain of stench so bad that they cannot hang laundry outside, they cannot open their windows, and they cannot sit outside. It is difficult to invite family and friends to their homes due to the stench.
Overall	F	