



CAFOs in Wisconsin

In 2004, Wisconsin legislators passed the Livestock Facility Siting Law (Wis. Stat. § 93.90). The law and rules were designed with the intent of making the farm permit application and approval process more efficient. The law is not designed to protect public health or natural resources and it doesn't.

Since the CAFO siting law passed the number of CAFOs in Wisconsin has doubled from approximately 150 to over 300. CAFOs generate large quantities of manure, both liquid and solid. This is an issue because manure contains bacteria, phosphorous, nitrates and other substances that can contaminate water supplies. The management and disposal of this manure is the source of many of the significant problems that can arise from one of these facilities.

- A dairy CAFO with 2,500 cows generates the same amount of waste as a city of 410,000 residents.
- Liquefied animal waste emits 160 known toxic gases, including hydrogen sulfide, a deadly gas with the characteristic stench of rotten eggs.
- A recent study in Kewaunee County show that of 47 wells tested 29 were contaminated by manure.
- In 2004, a six-month old infant from Kewaunee County was taken to the emergency room after bathing in manure-tainted well water.
- An estimated 94,000 households in Wisconsin have unsafe levels of nitrates in their drinking water, harmful to adults and potentially fatal to infants
- A dairy operation of 5,000 cows would use approximately 67,000,000 gallons of water per year.

Ask your state legislators to either repeal the Livestock Siting Law or amend it to include impacts on water quantity, quality and air, and to give local governments more control over siting and setting standards for CAFOs. And ask your state legislators to provide sufficient resources to the DNR or implementation, monitoring and enforcement of laws related to CAFOs

For the full report go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin>