

CAFO UPDATE – Sierra Club joins petition to EPA

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Hog CAFO

CRAIG VOLLAND, Chapter Agriculture Chair

Our chapter continues its legal fight against CAFOs in our state to protect the rights of rural Kansans to enjoy streams, air and waterways unpolluted by these noxious methane-producing operations. Large hog and dairy CAFOs use wet manure disposal (anaerobic waste impoundments and lagoons) which create harmful methane emissions, intense odors, airborne allergens, and pathogenic particles.

Environmental organizations have submitted a [75-page petition to the EPA](#) demanding that the agency add industrial dairy and hog operations to its list of stationary sources regulated by the Clean Water Act and initiate rulemaking to implement performance and emission standards for the reduction of methane emissions for new and existing sources.

Aaron Isherwood, managing attorney of the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program signed the petition on behalf of Sierra Club. Here's what Aaron said in his petition comments.

Sierra Club is a national nonprofit organization with 65 chapters and over 800,000 members dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting the wild places of the earth; to practicing and promoting the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educating and enlisting humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to using all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Sierra Club is committed to reducing emissions of all harmful pollutants, including industrial greenhouse gases, and has invested significant resources into combatting emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that is responsible for approximately one-quarter of the warming our planet has experienced since pre-industrial time.