

Taxpayers are subsidizing CAFOs

Many industries are left to their own devices to succeed. However, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are provided many subsidies that the taxpayers may not realize.

- ❑ The gravel roads in rural areas take a toll from heavy trucks moving animals into and out of CAFO buildings, transporting feed to the CAFO site and heavy manure tankards. The CAFOs avoid paying extra use taxes to keep those roads in good repair.
- ❑ Iowa Code 427.1(19) allows a pollution control property tax exemption for manure pits.
- ❑ Taxpayers pay the cost of the pollution discharged into the Gulf of Mexico. The “dead zone” is partially caused by manure being released into Mississippi River tributaries after the manure is land applied and the public bears tremendous costs to repair it.
- ❑ Public beaches close because of too-high bacteria levels, a direct result of manure contamination.
- ❑ Health problems related to air pollutants are borne by taxpayers via community-funded health care, Medicare, Medicaid or private insurers. Illnesses exacerbated by air pollution from CAFOs include asthma and other respiratory problems.
- ❑ Fish kills occur when manure discharges reach water bodies. Dischargers are often imposed fines for the fish kills. After the fish kills, the public is unable to catch fish in the water body, limiting a recreation opportunity.
- ❑ The CAFO industry is not adequately funding the enforcement of laws regulating CAFOs and their discharges. The level of enforcement does not satisfy assurance that all CAFO owners are complying with the laws. The public suffers from laws that are so weak that they can be ignored by CAFO owners.
- ❑ The use of sub-therapeutic levels of antibiotics in CAFOs is leading to antibiotic resistance bacteria. This poses a huge public safety risk and a threat to public health. Antibiotic resistance increases medical costs, some of which are subsidized by taxpayers.



It's time to end the taxpayer giveaways!