

**From:** L. M. [mailto:[mafeb23@gmail.com](mailto:mafeb23@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 01, 2014 7:43 AM  
**To:** Reg-Comment  
**Cc:** L. M.; Blair Madison  
**Subject:** Typo: CAFO's in the Buffalo Watershed

On Mon, Jun 30, 2014 at 10:22 PM, L. M. <[mafeb23@gmail.com](mailto:mafeb23@gmail.com)> wrote:

I am extremely opposed to allowing medium and large CAFO's in our Buffalo River watershed.

CAFOs consist of animals confined in a small land space. They are typically foul-smelling because of their production of large amounts of fecal waste. This fecal waste is often not suitable for use as fertilizer, but is instead held in large vats/containers on site, or worse, is discharged into the environment. Either way, this fecal sludge, which largely consists of coliform bacteria, is invariably released into the environment. Spills of fecal sludge from hog farming CAFOs are common in states such as North Carolina. When contaminating waterways, this large discharge of fecal sludge contributes large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium into the water, which increases the incidence of algal blooms. These algal blooms deplete the waters of oxygen, causing a massive die-off of fish and other aquatic organisms that need oxygen to survive.

This fecal sludge is also often the source of antibiotic-resistant bacteria because hogs (or other animals) at CAFOs are constantly fed large amounts of antibiotics, which contributes to the likelihood that resistant strains will appear. Therefore, CAFOs are undoubtedly a threat to the sanctity and beauty of our Buffalo River Watershed, and also pose a serious threat to public health by increasing the incidence and dissemination of antibiotic-resistant bacteria such as Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

Sue Madison, former State Senator

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