

From: [gina booth](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comments](#)
Subject: Comment about the Buffalo CAFO
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 10:09:41 PM

EC Farms permit # 3540-7

I am very concerned about the CAFO in our area. I live in Newton County. The karst topography is a huge concern. The possibility of overflow coming down into our state's top scenic attraction, the Buffalo River, is a huge concern. And now I have read that they are going to start spraying smelly CAFO liquid manure on local fields.

I certainly feel sorry for the neighboring homes to those fields and their loss of value. I hope none of the nearby homes are tourist cabins. Tourism (which includes nature and clean fresh smells) is our areas biggest industry. How can anyone around here own a property and expand or invest in it if they fear that a CAFO or chicken house could pop up within smelling range or close enough to pollute one's well ? Why invest if one doesn't have protections? There should be a certain amount of acreage around a CAFO. It should not be within close proximity to a National Park or River. That is all just common sense.

Basically a CAFO is not a farm in the way you and I think of a farm. It is quite a toxic environment. The two plastic lined ponds to store the massive amounts of liquid manure appear quite unproven and risk prone to me. Witness that the first plan was to spray from them, but now the plan has switched to 'trucking the liquid waste to other people's field. What went wrong with the first plan to spray them there at the CAFO? Some say the manure amounts to no more than the sewage from a city the size of Harrison. Well, this can't be true, because even if the volume is the same, the sewage from Harrison serves multiple square miles of land, it is not compacted into a small acreage producing the waste. I have seen the Harrison sewage plant. There are drainage pools where good old-fashioned sunlight filters through the pools and they loose their toxicity naturally over time. Where is that natural process happening at C & H?

These CAFO's, with their mass production and the animals kept caged amounts to animal cruelty by all meat companies to make a profit against competitors. Not fighting this CAFO is tantamount to opening up Newton County to the possibility of even more CAFO's in the area. Even if this CAFO is proven safe for *now*, sooner or later there is going to be karst leakage, or flood overflow during extreme rains. Just the stink, which I've heard can seep miles down a valley, will be bad enough. I feel sorry for landowners downstream and nearby who have already lost property value.

From the beginning of this CAFO it was incomprehensible to many in our community that the process for notices and approving the CAFO was (inadvertantly?) designed to be hidden from neighbors and county citizens until it was too late to protest, and too late to cancel the government backed loan. This was a sad situation for the farm's owners who probably now realize it would have been a good idea to talk to the river personnel and the town of Mt. Judea. But of course, if they had, their answer probably would have been 'no.'

Even if the laws were technically followed to start the CAFO, trust was lost. Clear laws need to be established so that tax payer money does not fund any more CAFO's around here nor should their liquid refuse be spread in local fields. That is sort of like giving the go-ahead for 'expanding' the CAFO even further. This is the wrong direction to go. Shutting down the CAFO as a terrible mistake would be right thing to do. Cargill take the loss and reimburse these local pig farmers in some way and thank them for their hard work and trouble. It is a very sad situation for all neighbors to be in as I believe all of us want to protect our land and be good stewards for future generations. Thank you for your time.

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