

From: [John Calvin Brewer](#)
To: [Water Draft Permit Comment](#)
Subject: [BULK] Buffalo River: C&H Farms
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:22:42 PM

ADEQ board members,

Hello, John Calvin Brewer here from Hot Springs, AR. I would like to comment on the C&H Farms permit & recent study findings. I am an avid fisherman, kayaker, and spend time with my family on the Buffalo River every spring/summer. While kayaking/fishing the Buffalo in 2014 during a 5 day trip, my last destination was Craver landing. At the time I was not aware of the C&H pig farm facility. As I floated towards Bear Creek I started noticing a drastic difference in the water quality I hadn't noticed in previous years. As I approached closer to the junction of the Buffalo & Bear Creek, the water churned creating an extra large concentration of yellow bubble pools for as far as I could see, & continued for the duration of my trip. The water became cloudy (which is usually crystal clear) and had an eerie smell. I started noticing on the North shore of the Buffalo, large deposits of which I can only describe as feces. The deposits had taken over the shore line well over a foot deep for about 100 yards, creating an un-natural caking collection of waste caused by Bear Creek's entering water. I immediately told my family, "don't put your feet or hands in the water anymore". Some of the collecting feces were as big as large boulders collecting in eddy areas. This I feel is a true testament to the negative impact C & H Farms is having on the Buffalo River. I literally feared for my family's safety due to the water quality & possible concentration of bacteria. Every fish I caught for the duration of trip (probably 25) started having a black film attached to them and concentrations of black spots. I did not keep any of the legal fish, which I had planned to grill for our dinner that evening. I have floated many of the rivers in Arkansas, many of which have cattle farms or such. I have never seen anything in comparison to the impact that C & H farms is inflicting on the Buffalo River. The natural bacteria concentration that exists already on the river is a threat to humans without this drastic unimaginable increase.

When we arrived back in town a strange coincidence happened. At a gift shop we stopped at an older lady was crying while talking to the cashier. She was saying, "If I had known that's what they were going to do with the property, I would have never sold it to them". We then learned she was speaking of C & H Farms, she had been the previous land owner. That was when I first learned of the farm & it all made sense in comparison to what I had just witnessed on the river.

Over the next few years I have watched an un-natural algae bloom take over this middle section of the Buffalo River & the feces concentration come & go due to natural river changing conditions (flood waters washing it down river).

There is negative impact due to C & H Farms, & it doesn't take a scientist to figure it out. It is a threat to wildlife, humans, the Buffalo River community & commerce, and the Natural State which we so love. As a protected National Park this should've never been allowed & should be a Federal Crime. As a family man I will never take my family to this area again, & know a large community who won't either. The emotional and physical effects one farm has had on the river, the community, & people wanting to enjoy this great natural wonder should be enough to shut this operation down. I pray that C&H Farms find another location and do not financially suffer. But then again companies like these should 1st consider the environment anywhere they decide to farm. We all know a concentration of 6500 pigs or more is not natural & will cause harm to any area they farm.

In close I say to the ADEQ board, the Arkansas Governor, all Arkansans, & the EPA. Would you take your kids or grand kids for a swim on Bear Creek? Or the river junction I've spoke of? Would you feed them the fish from this area? You cannot understand until you actually witness it for yourself.

Thank you,
John Calvin Brewer