

Are Wood County Residents Ready for the Changes Being Forced Upon Them?

Do you think this does not involve you?

Get the Facts about Factory Farms

What is a Factory Farm?

700+ Animals in a confined environment sometimes called CAFO's (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). These cows are feeding 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. They are milked 3 times every day. They do not graze or get exercise other than the trip to the milking parlor. They are kept healthy by using antibiotics, and are given hormones regularly to increase production. Despite these efforts, and because of the close and confined areas in which they live, there is a very high mortality rate. These cows are disposed of in our county landfill with no testing being done to see what was the cause of death. Most factory farms keep their operation between 650-699 cows to escape permitting and inspection.

Why are these dairies so bad?

Open air lagoons are used to store manure. These lagoons leak and can cause manure to enter ditches, streams and wells polluting our water supplies and killing aqualife. Wood County has an untold number of abandoned oil wells and abandoned water wells that were never properly sealed. This is a direct link to our water supply. Many Wood County residents still have shallow wells. These dairies use alot of water everyday. People living next to these dairies may see their wells go dry.

These lagoons produce the most rancid odors which can be smelled for miles depending upon the wind direction, air pressure, etc. The air pollution from these lagoons are ammonia and hydrogen sulfide - a very deadly gas.

Farmers who sell grain to the Factory Farms are called Contractors. They are required to take the manure that is stored in these lagoons. So even though you don't live next to a Factory Farm, your neighbor may be spreading this rancid manure on his land next to you. This manure is spread using deck guns attached to a semi-tanker. It is not unusual to see manure dripping from trees after spraying.

These open air lagoons breed large populations of pests such as flies and mosquitoes which carry diseases. Property values next to these dairies will decrease.

Who is watching these farms?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is now the "Watchdog" over these factory farms, not the Ohio EPA (passing of House Bill 142). The Ohio Dept. of Ag (OAG) does not have the equipment, the experience nor the staff necessary to watch over these farms. They have, and are actively lobbying to get less restrictions on these factory farms. They want the Ohio EPA cut out of this altogether and this is not in the best interests of our health, our land, our water. Our local officials have already been cut out of this by our elected officials in Columbus. Our township trustees and our county commissioners have no say in anything regarding factory farms. Dairy operators are not required to have any training to operate, are not required to be bonded, contribute to remediation funds or provide other kind of financial assurance. Dairy integrators are not held liable for environmental damages caused by megafarms under contract to them.

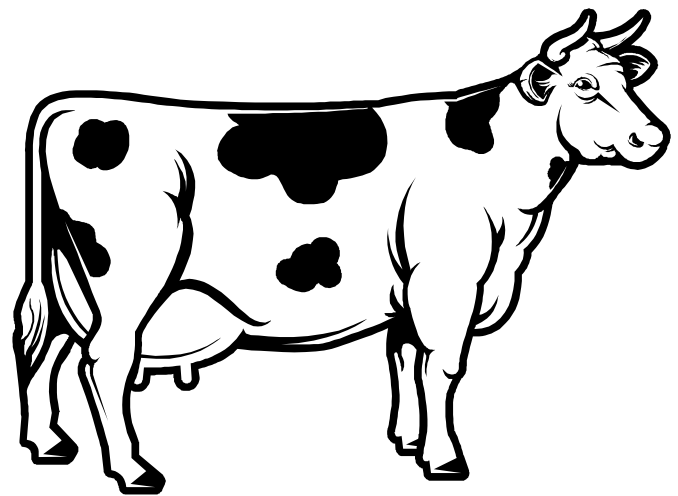
What can you do?

- 1] Call, write, fax, email or visit your elected officials and let them know how you feel about this. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- 2] Urge Governor Taft to VETO House Bill 152. Insist on more local control.
- 3] Encourage your neighbors to take a stand and not become a contractor for these dairies. **This means DO NOT sell grain to them and DO NOT take manure from them.**
- 4] If you cash rent your farm land to another farmer, make sure that farmer knows that you do not want any of this manure on your land.
- 5] Show your support — put a sign in your yard.
- 6] Become a member of WCCOFF and either help financially or be an active participant. Help on a committee.
- 7] Attend the WCCOFF meetings held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30, St. Marks Lutheran Church, 315 College Drive, Bowling Green, Ohio.
- 8] Get your water tested so that there is a bench mark for future testing.
- 9] Keep a diary of every time you are inconvenienced by smell, flies, traffic, etc. and make a formal written complaint each time.
- 10] Insist on stricter regulations and tougher fines.
- 11] Encourage your elected officials to stop the subsidizing of these foreign owned dairies.
- 12] Insist on more studies about the devastating effects on our health, our land & our water.
- 13] **Do not accept this as a change that we must live with.**

1 Cow produces 120 lbs. of wet manure per day or 43,800 lbs. per year.

700 Cows produce 30,660,000 lbs of wet manure per year

2,250 Cows produce 98,550,000 lbs. of wet manure per year



1 Cow uses approximately 80 gallons of water per day for drinking and clean up.

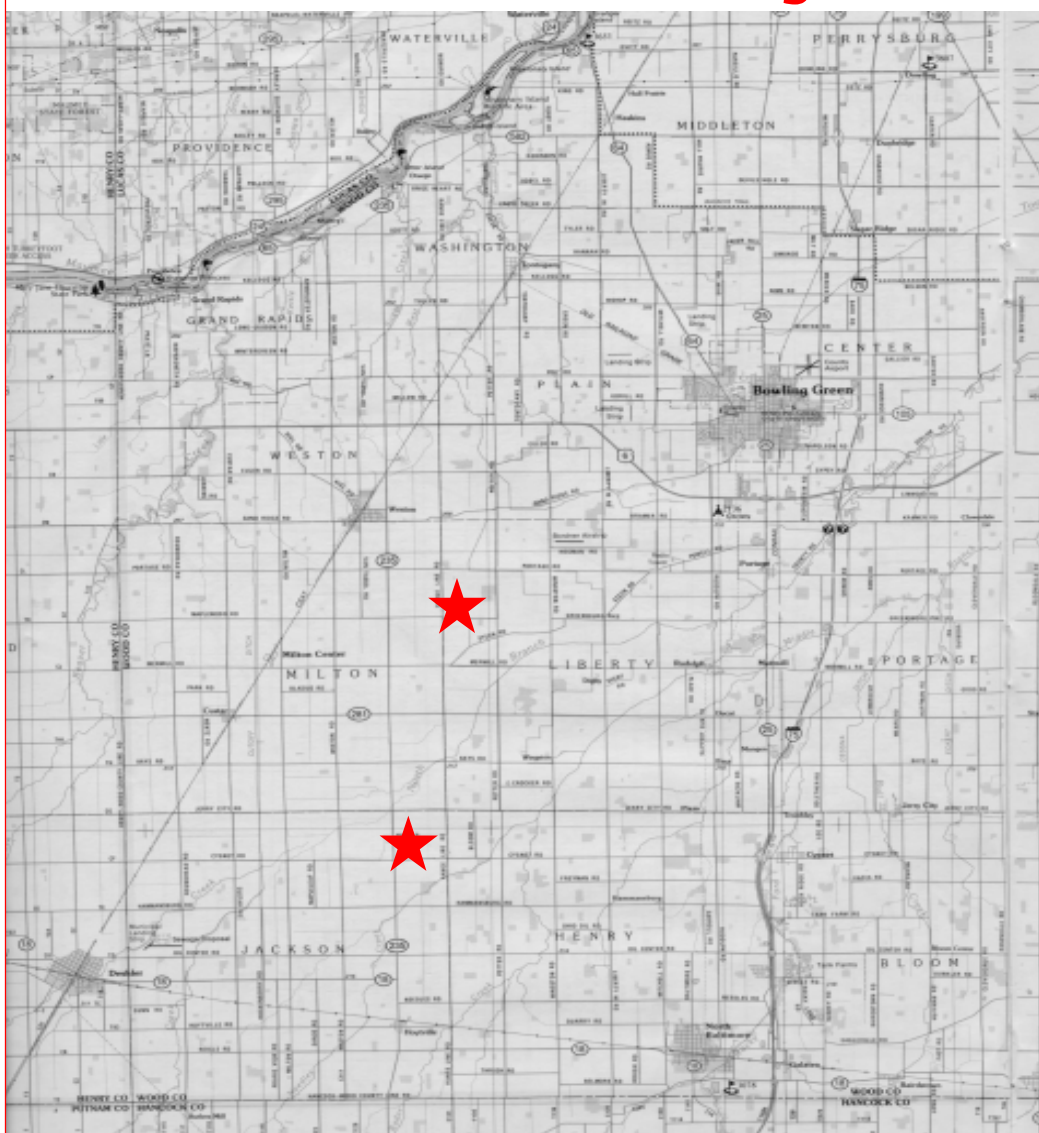
700 Cows use approximately 56,000 gallons of water per day

2,250 Cows use approximately 180,000 gallons of water per day

The average person uses 60 gallons of water per day.

**American Water Works Association*

Does this affect you?



Facts stated above are from the following sources - please visit these websites for the full story.

Down on the Factory - A special 20 page report by The Dayton Daily News - www.daytondailynews.com

Some of the articles include:

- Factory Farmers blamed for outbreak that killed 104 in Milwaukee in 1993. Officials say farm waste polluted city's water system in 1993.
- Ohio Farm Bureau a powerful advocate for mega farms
- Buckeye Egg Farm violations among worst in country
- Lucrative megafarm market lures Europeans - Foreigners pulling up roots and migrating to America in droves
- Details sought on farm emissions - Study: Feds don't effectively monitor toxic gas

G.R.A.C.E. (Global Resource Action Center for the Environment) - www.gracelinks.org

Vreba-Hoff Dairy Corp. LLC and Vanderhoff Haley Dairies in Southern Michigan (developers of the Manders Dairy near Weston and the Cygnet Road dairy to be built this fall) have numerous violations. Read the full story at www.nocafos.org

Farm Groups Demand Senate Action to Stop Mega Farms from Receiving Million Dollar Payments. Read the full story: www.cfra.org/newsroom/newsreleases/Paymentlimits%201-28-02.htm

The Dirt on Factory Farms - www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Health/DirtFactoryFarms.html

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Proximate Property Values: The Appraisal Journal, July 2001

Nuisance Lawsuits On the Rise - www.nationalhogfarmer.com

Toxic gas levels near some confinements at high levels - <http://webstar.agrinews.com/agrinews/301488907946655.bsp>

Potent Chemical Reaction - <http://www.mankatofreepress.com/archives/1999/991023/story1.html>

Studies Show Food from US Factory Farms Are a Major Health Hazard - <http://www.organicconsumers.org/Toxic/rach690.cfm>

The Land Stewardship Project - <http://www.centers.agri.umm.edu/misa/lsp.html>

The Rap Sheet on Animal Factories - www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/rapsheets

For those who do not have internet access — please contact WCCOFF for copies.

Visit us at www.wccoff.org or call 419-669-3727 for membership information