



BARACK OBAMA ON CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

Iowa leads the nation in hog production and has some of the nation's highest levels of bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorous pollution. Between 1992 and 2004, there were more than 450 manure spills from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Iowa. These spills have killed millions of fish and have jeopardized public health by contaminating surface and ground drinking water. Barack Obama is committed to working for tougher regulations on CAFOs to preserve Iowa's environment. He also wants to provide local communities with the tools to fight back against these polluters.

Regulate CAFOs: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) raise more than 40 percent of U.S. livestock and are taking up larger shares of the livestock industry every year. Barack Obama has worked for tougher environmental regulations of CAFOs. He has supported legislation to set tough pollution limits for livestock operations, including limits on nitrogen, phosphorus, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and other pollutants. Obama supports striking the proper balance between enforcing environmental laws against corporate polluters without overreaching and adversely affecting family farmers.

Enforce Strict Requirements for Polluters: CAFOs pose significant threats to air and water quality. Barack Obama opposes giving large industrial livestock operations immunity from the Clean Air Act and Superfund in exchange for simply reporting air emissions. Rather than letting CAFOs off the hook, Obama believes they should be subject to the requirements of the Clean Air Act and Superfund just as any other polluter. Obama supports strict EPA monitoring and regulation of pollution from CAFOs, with large fines for those who violate tough air and water quality standards.

Establish Meaningful Local Choice: Communities near CAFOs face the full brunt of pollution, odor, and health problems. Barack Obama supports efforts to set stricter local requirements and ensure meaningful local choice about the placement, expansion, and regulation of CAFOs in communities.

Limit EQIP Funding for CAFOs: Barack Obama believes that we should help farmers find the resources to comply with environmental requirements. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program provides important financial support to farmers seeking to improve the environmental quality of their operations. Unfortunately, the 2002 Farm Bill lifted a cap on the size of livestock operations that can receive EQIP funding, thereby allowing substantial EQIP funding to go to the largest CAFOs. Barack Obama supports reinstating the cap on the size of the livestock operations that can receive EQIP funding so that the largest polluters have to pay for their own environmental clean up.

Assure Proper Manure Management: For many family farmers, the normal application of manure as fertilizer is a centuries-old practice and a critical element of the standard farming procedure. In most cases, manure is applied in conjunction with an approved nutrient application plan. Major animal feeding operations have high concentrations of animal waste, and that waste, if improperly managed, can create major pollution problems. Obama believes that the public has a right to know what chemicals are released into the environment as a result of large corporate livestock feeding operations, particularly when those releases are uncontrolled, unreported, or due to lack of proper management. He also believes tools should be in place to assure proper manure management at large CAFOs.