

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
DRAFT September 25, 2025 Ordinance 25-XX Summary

Section	Summary
Whereas & Therefore	4 statements - Established committee to do research and make recommendations
Local Findings	20 Findings - Specific to Town
General Findings on Industry	128 Findings - Organized in the same categories as the Section 10 Conditions
Section 1 - Authority	Constitution, Wisconsin Statutes 92.15 & 60.22
Section 2 - Purpose	Regulate operations with 1000 animal units or more
Section 3 - Definitions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal unit definition based on Wisconsin NR 243 2. CAFO defined as 1000 animal units 3. Include outside CAFOs spreading manure in Rock Elm
Section 4 - License Required	New Facilities - 1000 animal units
Section 5 - License Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Board 2. Designated third party(ies)
Section 6 - License Application & Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply before operating or starting construction 2. Town Board approve
Section 7 - License Application Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$3 per animal unit up to 1000 animal units and \$5 per animal unit thereafter 2. Town may reevaluate and adjust application fee on an annual basis.

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Section	Summary
Section 8 - Application Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant must be owner and sign application with property owner 2. Submit 11 plans 3. Third party engineer paid by applicant certifies plans 4. Public hearing and permit writing process
Section 9 - Financial Surety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial assurance required as condition 2. Amount based on Closure/Rehabilitation Plan 3. Plan sealed by licensed engineer 4. Not required by CAFOS from outside of Town of Rock Elm
Section 10 - Conditions of Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 11 Potential Conditions described 2. Baseline well data required 3. Land spreading based on spreadable acres 4. Manure Land Application contracts with land owner - 5 years 5. Fire Safety Needs analysis
Sections 11 to 18	Record of Decision, Transfer & Expiration of License, Terms, Annual fees Penalties, Appeals, Severability, Effective Date
Appendix A.	Research used as basis for the General Findings of Facts. Includes 263 citations from Scientific Journals, University Program, Regulatory & Court Documents and Media
Appendix B.	Seven maps based on data cited in the Local Findings of Facts.
Appendix C.	Application form and checklist. To be completed once the ordinance is finalized

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Fees, Compensations, Financial Surety and Penalties		
Section	Description	Amount
Section 7	Application Fee for the purpose of offsetting the Town's costs to review and process the application	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$3 per animal unit up to 1000 animal units and \$5 per animal unit thereafter 2. Town may reevaluate and adjust application fee on an annual basis.
Section 8.2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation for third party review of plans 2. Fully compensate Town for all legal services, expert consulting services, and other expenses which may be reasonably incurred for verifying and enforcing compliance with the terms of the permit 	Determined by size and scope of the operation
Section 9	Financial surety to ensure that sufficient funds will be available for pollution clean-up, nuisance abatement, and proper closure of the operation	Determined by size and scope of the operation
Section 14	Annual Renewal Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$1 per animal unit 2. Town may reevaluate and adjust application fee on an annual basis.
Section 15	Penalties for violation of ordinance provisions, failure or refusal to comply, material false statements or knowing omissions of documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, plus the applicable surcharges, assessments, and costs for each violation 2. Each day is separate offense 3. Town may seek injunctive relief

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY - September 25, 2025

**TOWN OF ROCK ELM
PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-XXX
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO) ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rock Elm established the Town of Rock Elm Operations Ordinance Committee (Committee) to complete a review of the possible impacts of permit issuance under the CAFO Ordinance;

WHEREAS, the Town devoted a substantial amount of time and expertise in reviewing the potential impacts of large-scale livestock farming with respect to the particular natural resources of the Town of Rock Elm;

WHEREAS, the Committee reviewed the scientific literature and formulated recommendations to the Town of Rock Elm Town Board for ordinance provisions to address the concerns raised by CAFOs;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Rock Elm makes the following Findings of Fact and declarations in support of this Ordinance:

Local Findings

1. The Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Rock Elm in 2011. The goal is that the rural character of the area will remain, and the quality of our natural resources will continue to improve. Participants saw the Town of Rock Elm remaining largely a rural community during the next twenty years with many large scale farming operations and some smaller organic and specialty farms. Elected/appointed officials listed the changing face of agriculture from “family” to large “corporate” farms and its potential impact on the environment, residential development and local income as a top issue. Rapid deterioration of township roads from larger agricultural equipment was cited as a serious problem. The Plan Commission found clean air and streams to be a strength and possible ground water contamination as a weakness. Resident surveys found 82% supported agricultural expansion and 55.2% supported additional land use regulation to protect groundwater. ([Town of Rock Elm's Comprehensive Plan](#))
2. The Town is located in Pierce County. The county's Waste Storage Ordinance was updated in 2023. It addresses concerns about the impact of livestock waste on the health of residents, livestock, animals, plants and to the property tax base. The ordinance also recognizes that improper management of waste storage facilities and use of waste may cause pollution to ground and surface waters. Anyone who constructs or enlarges a waste storage facility is required to be permitted. Waste is defined as manure, milking center waste and other organic waste. Manure is defined as livestock feces and urine as well as other materials such as bedding, water, soil, hair, feathers and debris. Erosion, tillage, setback and phosphorus standards must be met. New or altered facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimize the risk of structural failure and to minimize the potential for waste to discharge to surface water or groundwater. Waste storage facilities may not lack structural integrity or have significant leakage. Liquid waste storage capacity shall be a minimum of 180 days for reasonably foreseeable storage needs based on the operator's waste and nutrient management strategy. The Certificate of Use requires annual reports on Nutrient Management Plans requires landowner agreements for land not owned by the applicant, compliance with standards and 180 days of liquid waste proof storage capacity. ([Pierce](#)

[County Waste Storage Ordinance 23-02](#))

3. The Town conducted a comprehensive literature review which provides thorough documentation of the risks associated with CAFOs included as Appendix A. Maps of data specific to the Town of Rock Elm are included in Appendix B.
4. The Town recognizes the importance of protecting water and air quality, and that proper management, including proper management of nutrients from livestock operations, is essential to the protection of groundwater, surface water and air quality, public health, domestic and wild animal health, property values, safety and welfare.
5. The 2024 Wisconsin Ground Water Coordinating Council reports that nutrient application from fertilizers and manure on agricultural fields accounts for 90 percent of nitrate in groundwater. Models estimate that 13.5% of Pierce County wells have nitrates levels over the 10 mg/L standard. Nitrate contamination continues to rise. Though research is ongoing, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services concludes that high levels of nitrate in drinking water can pose some serious public health risks, including:
 - Infants below the age of 6 months can become seriously ill with a condition called methemoglobinemia or “blue-baby syndrome.”
 - Birth defects affecting how the brain and spinal cord form that can occur early in pregnancy before a person even knows that they are pregnant.
 - Long term consumption of water high in nitrates may increase the risk of thyroid disease and bladder and colon cancer.

[\(2024 WI Ground Water\)](#) [\(WI DHS\)](#)

6. Like all of Pierce County, the Town of Rock Elm is ranked high by WDNR for groundwater contamination potential. Therefore the protection of this resource is of utmost importance to all who live and work here. ([Town of Rock Elm Comprehensive Plan](#)) ([2024 WI Ground Water](#))
7. All of the Town's 442 residents rely on groundwater for drinking, cooking, bathing, irrigating and watering livestock. Excess nitrates and other contaminants potentially found in well water present significant health risk to the Town of Rock Elm residents. ([Town of Rock Elm Comprehensive Plan](#))
8. [At this time, there is no systematic or ongoing testing of private wells done by the State of Wisconsin or Pierce County. However, a 2024 review of the Wisconsin Well Water Quality Viewer, maintained by UW-Sevens Point, found 119 well tests from the Town of Rock Elm. Of these 119, nine \(8%\) tested above the national safe drinking water limit for nitrates of 10 mg/L. The Committee analyzed these results and identified 11 sections \(640-acres each\) in the Town that had no test data available. The Town Board agreed to cover testing costs in those sections. Well samples were taken in 10 of the 11 sections. Four of these 11 tests found nitrates over 10mg/L. Based on these two sets of data, 13 of 130 \(10%\) wells tested exceed the safe drinking water standard.](#)

Pierce County Land Conservation department, Ad Hoc Groundwater Committee and the Finance Committee have proposed that the county fund a 5-year, 300-well testing program through UW-Stevens Point. ([Pierce County Groundwater Committee](#)) ([UWSP-Well Water](#))

9. The Town has a vulnerable landscape with large areas susceptible to groundwater pollution. Five factors contribute to groundwater susceptibility, including: type of soil, bedrock and materials between soil and bedrock; depth to bedrock; and depth to groundwater table. Data

from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Groundwater Susceptibility Model were divided into five evenly spread categories ranging from high to low. Of the Town's total acres:

- 32% are moderately high to highly susceptible
- 41% are moderately susceptible
- 28% are moderately low susceptibility
- 0% are least susceptible

(See Appendix B. Map 1.)

10. For approximately 97% of the Town of Rock Elm's acres, groundwater is at depths greater than 50 feet below the land surface. Three percent of acres lie from 20 feet to 50 feet and 0% are less than 20 feet.

Depth to Groundwater	
1-20ft	0%
20ft - 50ft	3%
Over 50ft	97%

(See Appendix B. Map 2.)

11. Data for the Town of Rock Elm extracted from WiscLand 2 show the approximate land cover as follows:

Land Cover - WiscLand (NOT land use)	Percent
Agriculture	53%
Barren	0%
Forest	30%
Grassland	15%
Open Water	<1%
Urban/Developed	1%
Wetland	1%

(See Appendix B. Map 3.)

12. Of the Town of Rock Elm's total acres the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey for Fragile Soil Index shows that:

- 6% Fragile
- 81% Moderately Fragile
- 4% Slightly Fragile
- 0% Not Fragile
- 9% None or Not Rated

(See Appendix B. Map 4.)

13. Of the Town of Rock Elm's total acres the NRCS Web Soil Survey shows the limitations rating for Manure and Food-Processing Waste as follows:
- 89% Very Limited – Limitations cannot generally be overcome. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.
 - 11% Somewhat Limited – Limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation.
 - <1% Not Limited or Not Rated
- (See Appendix B. Map 5.)
14. The Town of Rock Elm contains a special geologic feature called the Rock Elm Disturbance. Scientists studying this feature state that a meteorite approximately one-half mile in diameter impacted this area hundreds of millions of years ago. The crater caused by the impact was an estimated 200 yards deep and four miles in diameter. Part of present-day Nugget Lake County Park is included in the crater. University of Wisconsin Emeritus Professor of Geology Bill Cordua has completed extensive research on the geologic site and is considered an expert on this topic. Although not a groundwater expert, Dr. Cordua does have concerns about bedrock fractures and fragility and subsurface complexity within the Rock Elm Disturbance. The rocks beneath the shale of the crater basin vary greatly in very small distances. Dr. Cordua refers to the crater as "a chaotic environment" making it "virtually unpredictable" to model groundwater flow in the area. ([Cordua](#)) ([Cordua email](#)) ([Evans](#))
15. Three of the Town of Rock Elm's surface water bodies - Eau Galle River, Missouri Creek and Plum Creek - are listed as impaired waters by the WDNR under the federal Clean Water Act. Nugget Lake, an impoundment on Plum Creek, is not listed as impaired but can have elevated bacteria levels following major storm events. There are frequent algae blooms, dense aquatic life and a high rate of sedimentation occurring in the lake. These issues stem from watershed erosion, stream bank erosion, and feedlot runoff. Nugget Lake was drawn down and dredged out over the winter of 2007-2008 and again in 2025. Water quality is dependent on preventing runoff of soil, chemical pollutants, and animal waste into rivers and lakes. ([Town of Rock Elm's Comp Plan](#)) ([WDNR Eau Galle](#)) ([WDNR Impaired Water](#)) ([WDNR Missouri](#)) ([WDNR Plum Creek](#))
16. The Town lies in the driftless ecosystem of the Lake Pepin/Rush River/Eau Galle River/Chippewa River basin of the Mississippi River. Under the U.S. Clean Water Act, Lake Pepin is classified as impaired because of phosphorus pollution. Lake Pepin forms the boundary between the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 2021 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for Lake Pepin was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). This TMDL characterizes the watershed, models phosphorus loading and sets allocations for meeting phosphorus water quality criteria. However, approval of this TMDL was only for the Minnesota side of the watershed. Wisconsin's portion of the Lake Pepin watershed was included in the TMDL modeling effort; however, the allocations were specifically excluded from U.S. EPA's approval. Wisconsin DNR is developing a TMDL to cover the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Pepin watershed. ([EPA 2021 Decision Document](#)) ([MPCA Lake Pepin TMDL](#)) ([WDNR Lake Pepin](#))

17. The Elmwood Fire District serves the village of Elmwood, the towns of Rock Elm, Spring Lake, and El Paso in Pierce County, and the towns of Weston, Eau Galle and Lucas in Dunn County. The Fire District is operated by 30 volunteer firefighters, one chief, one assistant chief and five captains. The Elmwood Fire District has the following equipment:
 - Two pumper engines (one combination heavy rescue)
 - One tender with 3,000-gallon capacity
 - Two brush trucks with 300-gallon capacity
 - One Utility vehicle

The Elmwood fire district has agreements with Plum City, Spring Valley, Ellsworth and Menomonie. They currently have six volunteer firefighters that have specific fire training related to agriculture.

18. As agricultural operations, CAFOs are not required to submit engineering, plumbing or electrical plans. Potential concerns of fire fighters include, but are not limited to:
 - Where to contain thousands of animals evacuated from a burning building
 - How to contain firefighting water runoff
 - Large scale of the buildings in proportion to local firefighting equipment
 - Location of fire doors, hook-ups for access to high capacity wells, gas lines
 - Availability of generators in case of power outage
 - Need for rally point for all farm workers to ensure all are accounted for in event of fire
 - Need for pre-incident meeting and on-site staff emergency training

([Pierce County Land Use Permit](#))

19. Local fire departments work in partnership with the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) on training programs. CVTC does not have firefighting training specific to CAFOs. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) publishes a range of standards and codes. Their NFPA 150: Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code does not specifically address CAFOs or the anaerobic digesters that many CAFOs are now adding. ([NFPA Hawes email](#)) ([NFPA 150](#)) ([Chippewa Valley Schwartz email](#))

20. The Town of Rock Elm's total 2022 tax assessed property value is approximately \$51.54 million. Property values could be affected by CAFOs depending on where they are located:
 - Property values within 1/2 mile of 10 selected sites range in value from \$414,100 to \$2.4 million.
 - Property values within 1 mile of 10 selected sites would range in value of \$1.6 million and \$5.5 million

(See Appendix B. Maps 6-7.)

Condition 1 Findings - Operations, Public Health

1. On November 2, 2019, the American Public Health Association enacted a policy statement advising federal, state and local governments and public health agencies to impose a moratorium on all new and expanding CAFOs. Under this recommendation, the halt would be in place until additional scientific data has been collected and public health concerns associated with CAFOs are addressed. ([APHA 2019](#))

2. CAFOs confine large numbers of animals of the same species—such as beef and dairy cattle, swine, broilers (poultry raised for meat consumption) and laying hens—on a small area of land. The scale, density, and practices associated with these operations present a range of public health and ecological hazards, including large volumes of untreated animal waste, the release of environmental contaminants to air, water, and soil, and the generation and spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens. ([Johns Hopkins 2008](#)) ([USEPA 2004](#))
3. There is a significant body of evidence which shows CAFOs are directly associated with occupational and community health risks, as well as the social and economic decline of rural communities. Current regulatory structures make it difficult to adequately address these concerns. ([Donham 2007](#)) ([Fry 2014](#)) ([Foltz 2002](#)) ([Graham 2008](#))
4. Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future found that the primary human health concerns related to industrial food animal production, or CAFOs, include: infections resulting from transmission of harmful microorganisms from animal operations to nearby residents; respiratory effects from increased exposure to air pollution from animal operations; and multiple negative health impacts due to increased exposure to ground and/or surface waters that can be contaminated by manure from animal operations. ([Johns Hopkins 2008](#))
5. A 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement recommends that pediatricians ask families if they obtain their water from private wells and encourage parents to test and maintain their wells at least annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Tests of rural Wisconsin wells found that 47% of wells had an exceedance of one or more health-based water quality standards. Surveys from other states report similar findings. ([AAP 2009](#)) ([Knobeloch 2013](#)) ([MacDonald 2017](#))
6. The National Association of Local Boards of Health published a 2010 report identifying the following Environmental Health Effects of CAFOs:

Groundwater	Insect Vectors
Surface Water	Pathogens
Air Quality	Antibiotics
Climate Change	Property Values
Odors	

Pollutants commonly found in air surrounding CAFOs include the following:

CAFO Emissions	Source	Traits	Health Risks
Ammonia	Formed when microbes decompose undigested organic nitrogen compounds in manure	Colorless, sharp pungent odor	Respiratory irritant, chemical burns to the respiratory tract, skin, and eyes, severe cough, chronic lung disease
Hydrogen Sulfide	Anaerobic bacterial decomposition of protein and other sulfur containing organic matter	Odor of rotten eggs	Inflammation of the moist membranes of eye and respiratory tract, olfactory neuron loss, death

Methane	Microbial degradation of organic matter under anaerobic conditions	Colorless, odorless, highly flammable	No health risks. Is a greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change.
Particulate Matter	Feed, bedding materials, dry manure, unpaved soil surfaces, animal dander, poultry feathers	Comprised of fecal matter, feed materials, pollen, bacteria, fungi, skin cells, silicates	Chronic bronchitis chronic respiratory symptoms, declines in lung function, organic dust toxic syndrome

Pathogens found in animal manure that have been determined to cause illness in humans include the following:

Pathogen	Disease	Symptoms
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Anthrax	Skin sores, headache, fever, chills, nausea, vomiting
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Colibacillosis, Coliform mastitis-metris	Diarrhea, abdominal gas
<i>Leptospira pomona</i>	Leptospirosis	Abdominal pain, muscle pain, vomiting, fever
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Listeriosis	Fever fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
<i>Salmonella species</i>	Salmonellosis	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, chills, fever, headache
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	Tetanus	Violent muscle spasms, lockjaw, difficulty breathing
<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>	Histoplasmosis	Fever, chills, muscle ache, cough, rash, joint pain and stiffness
<i>Microsporium and Trichophyton</i>	Ringworm	Itching, rash
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	Giardiasis	Diarrhea, abdominal pain, abdominal gas, nausea, vomiting, fever
<i>Cryptosporidium species</i>	Cryptosporidiosis	Diarrhea, dehydration, weakness, abdominal cramping

(Hribar 2010)

- The impact on CAFOs of human pandemics such as Covid-19 would represent a risk for Town of Rock Elm residents. Most CAFO operators contract with processing plants to deliver milk, beef, pork or chicken. Wisconsin dairies were forced to dump milk as schools,

- restaurants, hotels and other business buyers closed down. Processors across the nation and Wisconsin saw Covid-19 infection rates among workers as high as 54% with estimates of 59,000 total infections and 269 deaths. These high rates forced more than 100 plants to close, according to the Centers for Disease Control. This caused problems for swine CAFOs which cannot ship animals over 280 pounds to slaughter. The closure of so many processors meant that CAFOs had nowhere to ship their animals. National Pork Producers Council president, Howard Roth said on April 29, 2020 that "millions of pigs can't enter the food chain" and will have to be killed and disposed of. The JBS plant in Worthington, MN reopened to euthanize, not process, up to 13,000 hogs a day saying that the "carcasses will be rendered, sent to landfills, composted or buried." Smithfield's Sioux Falls, SD plant shut down for four weeks. Another shutdown caused by human pandemics would leave the Town of Rock Elm vulnerable when CAFOs would be forced to kill and dispose of tens of thousands of animals. ([Ag Week 2020](#)) ([Dyal 2020](#)) ([Milligan 2021](#)) ([Barrett](#)) ([National Pork 2020](#)) ([USEPA](#)) ([US House 2021](#))
8. Highly infectious animal viruses such as African Swine Fever (ASF) would be a high risk for Town of Rock Elm. Millions of hogs have died or been killed globally due to ASF, commonly called hog Ebola. The disease is 100% fatal and the pathogen is especially hardy. Asian countries such as China, Vietnam and Korea have been hit hard. Germany is building a wall along its Polish front to stop a potential ASF invasion. On July 28, 2021, the US Department of Agriculture announced the first documentation of ASF in the Western Hemisphere's Dominican Republic. Veterinary health experts are concerned that ASF will invade the United States, spread rapidly among large concentrated swine facilities, and have a devastating negative effect on the swine industry. ([USDA Sep 2021](#)) ([UMN Sep 2021](#))
9. While researchers believe ASF cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans, many public health issues have been raised, such as how to:
- Euthanize tens of thousands of animals.
 - Ensure capacity to dispose of tens of thousands of carcasses through composting, incineration or landfilling.
 - Dispose of leachate from carcasses.
 - Disinfect infected trucks and facility materials such as metal cages, tractors and feed.
 - Treat and dispose of water used for disinfection.
- ([USDA August 2019](#)) ([USDA ASF](#))
10. Large outbreaks of the avian flu (H5N1) virus in poultry and dairy operations also pose a potential risk for the Town of Rock Elm. The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports the first H5N1 outbreak was detected in February 2022 at a commercial poultry operation in Indiana. As of late September 2024 more than 100 million poultry in 48 states, including Wisconsin, have been affected. Egg, turkey and dairy groups have petitioned USDA to approve a vaccine but it can pose barriers to global exports. Many countries ban imports of vaccinated poultry because of concerns that the vaccine could mask the presence of the virus.

A multistate outbreak of H5N1 in dairy cows was first reported on March 25, 2024. As of early February 2025, H5N1 cases in 957 dairy herds in 16 states, not including Wisconsin, have been reported.

On April 1, 2024, CDC confirmed what is thought to be the first person infected with exposure to dairy cows in Texas. That was the first documented instance of a likely mammal to human spread of the virus. CDC continues to report additional cases of people who had exposure to infected dairy cows. The first suspected human-to-human cases were reported in September 2024. As of early February 2025, there were 67 confirmed human cases and one

confirmed human death. That latest human case counts are available at [CDC Mammals](#).

Historically, this avian flu virus has caused up to 30% fatality in humans. Some experts deem the risk level for the general U.S. population to be low. Others feel that the dairy industry has needlessly constrained efforts to stop the virus from mutating by refusing to test herds and workers or require protective equipment for workers. The USDA is also viewed as being unable to address H5N1 in a vigorous way. A Texas study analyzed samples from three wastewater plants near known dairy outbreaks and found high levels of a marker for H5N1. They think the virus likely came from effluents from processing plants for milk or beef. International development and stockpiling of human vaccine is needed. US Health and Human Services made grants of \$176 and \$590 million in 2024 and 2025 to Moderna for development of mRNA vaccines. A virus strain found in dairy cows in the U.S. in 2024 may only need one mutation for it to be able to spread among humans. Spillover of animal viruses into human populations stem ultimately from our ways of life and how they shape the human–animal interface. ([CDC Mammals](#)) ([Cohen](#)) ([Douglas](#)) ([HHS 2025](#)) ([Lancet](#)) ([Moderna](#)) ([Ting-Hui](#)) ([UMN Osterholm](#)) ([Physician's Weekly](#))

11. Fueled by financial giants such as BlackRock Real Assets, CAFO developers are now working to integrate their facilities into the fossil fuel industry's infrastructure with biogas from waste digesters and claims of cutting methane pollution from livestock. Federal, state and university programs also promote development of biogas from waste digesters with taxpayer dollars. Under California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program, companies financially benefit from building digesters and selling renewable natural gas (RNG). The 2022 federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provided over \$2 billion for USDA's Rural Energy for America (REAP) program to promote rural or agriculture-related renewable energy. Digesters can qualify for this funding. There are a range of public health and environmental risks associated with digesters:
 - Digesters' byproduct is called digestate. During the digester process, phosphorus, nitrogen nutrients and ammonia, as well as other components, are concentrated into dry and liquid products spread on farm fields.
 - On-farm co-digesters mix animal waste with a number of inputs from outside the farm including food waste (can include industrial food manufacturing waste), yard waste and biosolids, making it difficult to determine digestate nutrient levels.
 - Digesters do not destroy all pathogens and pathogens reproduce over time after digestate is removed from the digester.
 - Digestate's impact on various aspects of soil health is not well understood.
 - Digesters and biogas production produce toxic air pollutants.
 - Expansion of natural gas infrastructure hinders a renewable energy future and efforts to cut carbon emissions through carbon lock-in and stranded assets. Methane reductions are overstated.
 - High technical skills are needed to operate, maintain and repair digesters.([Burch](#)) ([D'Onofrio](#)) ([EPA-AD](#)) ([Holly](#)) ([Goldstein](#)) ([Kemfert](#)) ([Levin](#)) ([Nag](#)) ([Penn State 2023a](#)) ([Penn State 2023b](#)) ([UC Davis](#)) ([Zhang](#))

Condition 2 Findings - Waste

1. The increase in concentration of livestock and poultry and transition to large, high-density, CAFOs over the last several decades has resulted in the concentration of animal waste and process water over small geographic areas. While it can be a valuable fertilizer, untreated animal waste spread at the magnitude produced by CAFO operations represents a public health and ecological hazard impacting groundwater, surface water, air, property values and a community's quality of life. ([USEPA 2013](#))
2. Untreated wastes from these operations can contaminate ground and surface waters with nitrates, drug residues, parasites, viruses, bacteria and other hazards. Studies demonstrate negative impacts on ecosystems and that humans can be exposed to waterborne contaminants from livestock and poultry operations through the recreational use of contaminated surface water and the ingestion of contaminated drinking water. Exposure to elevated levels of nitrates in drinking water is associated with adverse health effects, including cancer, birth defects and other reproductive problems, thyroid problems and methemoglobinemia. ([Brender 2013](#)) ([Burkholder 2007](#)) ([Chiu 2007](#)) ([Graham 2010](#)) ([Gulis 2009](#)) ([Manassaram 2006](#)) ([Price 2007](#)) ([Showers 2008](#)) ([Spencer 2004](#)) ([USEPA 2012](#)) ([Ward 2009](#))
3. Animal wastes are also rich in organics and high in biochemical oxygen-demanding materials (BOD). For example, treated human sewage contains 20–60 mg BOD/L, raw human sewage contains 300–400 mg BOD/L, and swine waste slurry contains 20,000–30,000 mg BOD/L. (Burkholder)
4. Nutrient runoff is implicated in the growth of harmful algal blooms, which may pose health risks for people who swim or fish in recreational waters, or who consume contaminated fish and shellfish. Exposure to algal toxins has been linked to neurological impairments, liver damage, gastrointestinal illness, severe dermatitis, and other adverse health effects. ([Carmichael 2001](#)) ([Heisler 2008](#)) ([Paerl 2001](#)) ([USEPA 2013](#))
5. Wisconsin CAFOs are required to have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) to get a permit under the Clean Water Act from the WDNR. The rules governing how these permits are issued and implemented are contained in NR 243. Wisconsin's agricultural standards and prohibitions for runoff management are contained in NR 151. WDNR released draft revisions to NR 151 in March 2021 but stopped the process in November 2021. ([WI NR151 change](#)) ([WI NR 151](#)) ([WI NR 243](#))
6. Runoff from land application of waste and leaks from storage facilities at permitted facilities can cause groundwater contamination. That is of particular concern for residents who rely on private wells for drinking water and household use because private wells are not monitored by government agencies to ensure safe levels of pathogens. In Wisconsin, the risk of finding pathogens in wells is seasonably variable but typically highest following spring snowmelt or large rainstorms that generate runoff, since these events can create large pulses of water that move quickly through the ground. ([Fox 2016](#)) ([Uejio 2014](#)) ([Ward 2009](#))
7. Baseline and ongoing water quality data collection engages the community and protects residents dependent on private wells from potential exposure to contamination. ([AAP 2009](#)) ([Schmalzried 2010](#))
8. CAFO operators have a limited number of days when they can do land application based on varying weather, soil types, harvest status, equipment availability and condition of waste. Maps from the Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast and SNAP Plus provide information that,

combined with knowledge of field-specific conditions, allow for better decisions on the timing of nutrient applications. ([UWI-SNAP](#)) ([WI DATCP Runoff](#))

9. Historically, livestock farmers disposed of manure by applying it to fields as fertilizer. But a CAFO often has more manure than it can use at any one time. Excess is typically stored in lagoons which can contaminate water via seepage, breaches or overflow. During the cold spring of 2013, a Minnesota CAFO discharged an estimated 1 million gallons of animal waste when a lagoon wall ruptured. This type of impact can be decreased with better practices, such as liners, leak detection systems, engineered berms designed for 100-year events and requirements for engineered enclosed waste storage tanks and treatment facilities. ([USEPA 2012](#))
10. DATCP's 2019 Livestock Facility Siting Technical Expert Committee proposed upgrading Wisconsin's rules for waste storage, compost, process water, leachate, nutrient management structures. No action has been taken. ([WDATCP 2019](#))
11. For decades CAFOs thought the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), applied to garbage landfills. That changed in 2015, when a federal judge in Washington State ruled that RCRA did apply to CAFO waste as part of a lawsuit against the 7,000 head Cow Palace. Settlement required mitigation measures including manure storage liners, monitoring wells, compliance monitoring and a reduction in the use of manure as fertilizer. ([Ziemba 2015](#))
12. CAFOs house animals in highly specialized facilities engineered to capture and store manure. Many operations own less land than needed to safely use the manure to fertilize crops. Some fields can be listed in multiple NMPs or owned by people who have not granted access. WDNR has, but rarely used, authority to require operators to have Manure Easements or Land Application Agreements with owners of land where they plan to spread it. However, under intense local pressure, in 2023 WDNR did require Cumberland LLC in Polk County to submit written verification of permission from land owners to apply manure and process wastewater to all fields that are not under common ownership. In 2024 the DNR initially required Ridge Breeze Dairy in Pierce County to submit land owner agreements but then went back to only requiring affidavits from land operators/growers. ([Bennet](#)) ([Drake Law](#)) ([Polk County](#)) ([Redman](#)) ([U of Missouri](#))
13. Digestate from anaerobic digesters does not act like raw manure, making nutrient management more difficult and potentially increasing agricultural runoff and water pollution. Digesters do not decrease the volume or nutrients of the waste processed. Digestate is still routinely applied to fields that already have high levels of phosphorus, which increases the risk of phosphorus run-off. Much of the nitrogen in livestock waste is converted from its organic form to ammonium. Ammonium can be transformed to either ammonia or nitrate. Nitrate can leach through the soil and eventually reach groundwater. Field application and management to reduce nitrogen losses may be more demanding for digestate than for untreated liquid manure. ([Horta](#)) ([Penn State 2023a](#)) ([Penn State 2023b](#))

Condition 3 Findings - Animal Population and Depopulation

1. Experts recommend approaching CAFO animal depopulation as a three-step, or 3D, process - Depopulation, Disposal and Disinfectant. All or parts of this process apply under three circumstances:
 - **Standard mortality** - The tonnage of dead animals produced annually by normal operations is substantial. Dairy cow mortality levels in the United States have been increasing over time. Historical data suggest that dairy cow mortality ranged between 1 and 5% of rolling herd inventory per year into the 1970's, while current estimates suggest an average of 8 to 10% mortality in dairy herds across the U.S. with a range between 2 and 15%. As of January 2025, dairy cow mortality/cull rates for herds with supportive treatment of H5N1 were reported to be 2%. Poultry mortality rates require daily management and vary during different parts of life. A poultry mortality rate of 0.1% is generally considered normal; rates over 0.5% are cause for concern. Mortality rates in a typical 5,000 sow farrow-to-finish farming system run up to 10% and will produce over 200,000 pounds of carcasses annually. In many systems losses can be higher. Horizontal integration of livestock agriculture systems can concentrate mortality losses into smaller and smaller geographic areas.
 - **Non-diseased animal catastrophe** - The need for the 3D process can be triggered by catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes or fire. In addition, CAFOs can be impacted by human pandemics. For example, chicken and hog CAFOs were forced to depopulate in 2020 when high worker Covid-19 infection rates shut down processing plants.
 - **Diseased animal catastrophe** - CAFO operators face disease outbreaks such as Foot-and-Mouth in cattle, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). Mass poultry die-offs such as in the case of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak are very challenging. Minnesota and Iowa have an especially virulent PRRS mutant affecting both sow and hog finishing barns. USDA earmarked \$500 million in September 2021 in an effort to keep the global African Swine Fever outbreak from entering and spreading in the United States. ([APHIS web](#)) ([AVMA avian](#)) ([Champrix](#)) ([Costa 2019](#)) (Morrow 2001) ([Narishkin 2020](#)) ([NPPC 2020](#)) ([Mississippi SU](#)) ([NPPC Sep 2021](#)) ([Washington SU](#)) ([Swinecast 1168](#)) ([UGA](#)) ([UMN 2014](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#)) ([USDA ASF week](#)) ([USEPA carcass](#))
2. USDA and veterinarian associations recommend that CAFO operators have a Depopulation, Disposal and Disinfectant plan. However, under normal operation, plans are not required. Plans are required if there is a catastrophe covered by a government indemnification program. ([USDA ASF week](#)) ([USDA Nov 2020](#))
3. USDA and veterinarian associations recommend euthanasia protocols ranging from electrocution to blunt force, injections, gas or heat. Workers can find the work distressing. ([AASV 2016](#)) ([USDA avian](#)) ([USDA swine](#))
4. Once the animals are euthanized, workers in protective equipment remove them from the CAFO buildings. Accessing the animals may require opening walls. Temporary storage of the carcasses outside the buildings during the removal is challenging because high levels of body fluids quickly begin to leach out and spill across surfaces. According to the USDA, the average 6,800 hog CAFO will produce more than 27,000 gallons of leachate within days. That is enough to fill a 20' x 40' pool, 4.5 feet deep. ([USDA Aug 2019](#)) ([USEPA 2018](#))
5. There are a wide range of disposal methods, including: Composting on-site; Composting off-site; Burial; Burial above ground; Rendering; Incineration; Incineration (energy from waste);

- Burning (open/air curtain); Burning (mobile gasifier or similar). Each disposal method has costs and benefits depending on the particular CAFO's location, needs and available resources. ([Arora 2017](#)) ([Costa 2019](#)) ([Hseu 2017](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#)) ([USEPA 2018](#)) ([USEPA covid](#)) ([UMN 2014](#))
6. Chemical disinfection of all contaminated structures, equipment, vehicles, and surfaces on the premises follows animal euthanasia and disposal. Insecticides and rodenticides are also applied. Facilities may be left fallow with adequate fencing and security against unauthorized entry or wildlife incursions. ([UMN Pitkin](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#))
 7. Closely related but safer surrogate viruses are used to test disinfectant efficacy to prevent accidental infections. However, this is challenging because surrogate viruses do not always act like the actual virus, depending on the chemical. Eliminating residual microbial DNA or RNA, as well as pathogenic microbes which are often the reason for reoccurring disease, can be especially difficult. ([Steinmann](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#))
 8. In some operations, it may be economically feasible to depopulate and disinfect the facilities and, after a few weeks, repopulate with stock free of target diseases. Producers should thoroughly analyze risk factors for herd re-infection as well as the level of biosecurity that can be maintained throughout the depopulation, disinfection, and repopulation processes. All previously highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) infected premises must be both CLEANED and DISINFECTED. Cleaning and disinfection practices during an outbreak will focus on virus elimination in a cost-effective manner. Hog CAFOs located in swine-dense areas are at high risk for re-infection of several important swine pathogens. ([SwineCast 1168](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#)) ([USDA Oct 2022](#))
 9. Disposal and disinfection present concerns for local communities, including:
 - Potential on-site groundwater contamination by diseased decomposing animals and chemicals used to disinfect buildings, equipment and vehicles.
 - Liability for landfill operators from potential groundwater contamination.
 - Air pollution from incineration.
 - Potential for pathogen contamination spread if livestock leave the CAFO.
 - Difficulty finding new buyers for land with large burial sites.([UMN 2014](#)) ([USDA Aug 2019](#))

Condition 4 Findings - Biosecurity, Animal Health

1. In the context of animal agriculture, biosecurity is a series of management steps and practices implemented to prevent the introduction of infectious agents, especially Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD), into a herd or flock, the spread of these agents through the herd, and out of the herd to other animals or humans, herds or flocks. A strong biosecurity program is critical and must be properly implemented not just developed as a plan on paper. ([Alarcón 2020](#)) ([FAO 2020](#)) ([Graham 2008](#)) ([Paploski](#)) ([UMN Pitkin](#))

2. Biosecurity plans are not required by existing federal, state or local laws and regulations that apply to the Town of Rock Elm.
3. The spread of disease throughout a CAFO facility is enhanced by the closeness of the animals and interior housing. Labor shortages make it challenging to implement and maintain strong biosecurity because crews move among multiple buildings on a CAFO and among different CAFOs. Once introduced, hardy, highly transmissible pathogens can re-infect animals returned to a depopulated and disinfected building. Disinfection is difficult to do so that the target pathogen is completely eliminated. ([ISU 2021](#)) ([UMN Pitkin](#))
4. Neighboring farms are at risk from airborne animal diseases contracted by contained animals living in a controlled and ventilated environment. Exhaust fans running 24/7 can introduce pathogens into the surrounding community. ([UMN Aug 2021](#)) ([Schulz 2012](#)) ([UMN Pitkin](#))
5. Disease can also be transmitted from animals to humans as zoonosis, otherwise known as spillover events. Three sequentially linked populations can facilitate the transmission: the CAFO species, the CAFO workers (bridging population), and the rest of the local human population. Salmonella from dairy cows, Avian Influenza from poultry and H1N1 Influenza from swine are examples of zoonotic diseases. Findings challenge the assumption that large modern production is more biosecure than small holder operations. ([Deschuyffeleer 2012](#)) ([Graham 2008](#)) ([Jahne 2015](#)) ([Ma 2009](#)) ([Saenz 2006](#)) ([Shaw 2018](#))
6. Disease outbreaks can have far-reaching effects on the industry. Even a short-term market closure can lead to long-term consequences to market structure. One prominent example is Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), which was first detected in the U.S. in Iowa in 2013. Just one year later, premises in 32 states had reported losses. Fourteen percent of beef and 27% of pork produced in the US is exported. Outbreaks can trigger trade barriers with a rapid economic impact. In late 2003, one case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was identified in a Washington State cow. Within days, 53 countries banned U.S. cattle and beef products. U.S. beef exports of \$3.95 billion in 2003 accounted for 9.6 percent of U.S. commercial beef production. Exports for 2004 declined 82 percent below the 2003 level. While sales volumes recovered, loss of export competitiveness still lingered more than a decade later. In 2020, the value of U.S. poultry & poultry product exports to the world had still failed to return to the pre-2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak levels. ([Chen 2020](#)) ([Coffey 2000](#)) ([Song 2015](#)) ([USDA-FAS 2020](#)) ([USMEF-FAQ](#))
7. Well-conceived and executed scientific studies on virus variants are sobering. For example, a 2019 study at the University of Minnesota assessed genome sequences from more than 4,000 Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus isolates from the Morrison Swine Health Monitoring Project over nine years (2009-2017). They documented the circulation, emergence, and sequential turnover of different PRRS virus lineages. Results point to immune response as a major driver of virus diversification. Rapid turnover of the dominant virus lineage leads to complex multi-strain virus dynamics in which different virus variants interact and increase and decrease by swine immune-mediated competition and selection. Immune-mediated virus selection is a major challenge for vaccine development, design of veterinary surveillance programs and implementation of effective disease prevention strategies. ([Paploski](#)) ([UMN Sep 2021](#))
8. Implementing protocols and technology necessary to characterize rapidly evolving, highly pathogenic and efficiently transmitted viruses is extremely difficult. Understanding the ancestral relationships and evolution of viruses as they spread quickly among CAFOs requires state-of-the-art genome sequencing and virologic epidemiology. ([Kikuti](#))

9. Field reports from veterinarians managing multiple herds at multiple locations belonging to large systems indicate that new PRRS virus variants are able to elude filtration systems. Filtration systems are not preventing virus spread. There are often multiple virus strains in infected animals that can spread rapidly to adjacent facilities throughout the neighborhood. ([Sanhueza 2020](#)) ([SwineCast 1168](#)) ([UMN Aug 2021](#))
10. A September 2021 forum with veterinarians from academia and corporations described the 2021 PRRS outbreak as a "complete off-the-rails disaster..." with "so much virus in the neighborhood that it overwhelmed the filters." There is little ability to track neighboring management practices such as vaccination protocol and movement of animals and personnel to and between CAFOs or the existence and implementation of biosecurity plans. Experts recommend that corporations consider abandoning the "central hog belt" and starting over in new geographical areas. ([SwineCast 1168](#))
11. The movement of people and equipment among livestock facilities is a primary route of transmission for disease. Mitigation strategies should go beyond ordinary preventative measures. Strategies such as animal traceability, disease syndrome reporting and analysis and risk-based herd health management are all ways to enhance the resilience of livestock production. Inspection of cleanliness and disinfection of incoming transport vehicles may be necessary. CAFO managers and owners must be willing to invest and workers must be willing to comply with mitigation strategies. ([FAO 2020](#)) ([Graham 2008](#)) ([SwineCast 1168](#))
12. Contaminated feed and ingredients may represent a risk for transport of pathogens at the domestic and global levels. ([AASV 2020](#)) ([Dee 2018](#)) ([Niederwerder 2019](#))
13. Infectious disease testing, transmission-prevention and control are measures to detect disease and control it when found. Testing for infectious disease within a facility should be performed on a schedule and at a frequency based on the common diseases of concern, the age of the animal group at risk, observations of the health of individual animals and groups of animals. If a disease is detected, response actions should be implemented immediately. ([UMN Sep 2021](#)) ([UMN 2015](#)) ([UMN Pitkin](#))
14. With the growth of CAFOs, some states have enacted ballot proposals and laws focused on improving conditions for the animals. California's Proposition 12 is one of the most far reaching and tool full effect in 2022. ([CDFA Prop 12](#))

Condition 5 Findings - Animal Transportation

1. Disease outbreaks require restriction of pathogen transmission at all production levels, including transportation. Because of the increasing movement of animals in multisite production, as well as the centralization of the U.S. packing industry, the chances of organism transmission has increased. All trucks, trailers, and other vehicles used for transporting animals, animal products, products, feed, offal, and contaminated equipment are a potential risk in the spread of disease. Under favorable conditions, viruses can survive anywhere from a few days for influenza to 18 months for African Swine Fever. ([Thompson 2001](#)) ([Rule 2008](#))
2. Efficient, experienced and quiet handling of livestock, using recommended techniques and facilities, as well as taking measures to eliminate pain and accidental injury, will reduce stress in the animals and prevent quality deficiencies in meat and by-products. Vehicle design affects air-flow, vibration, heating and cooling. Loading density, length of travel and rest duration are also important. Key factors affecting the welfare of large animals during

- transport include: attitudes to animals and the need for training of staff; methods of payment of staff; laws and retailers' codes; genetics, especially selection for high productivity; rearing conditions and experience; the mixing of animals from different social groups; handling procedures: driving methods; stocking density; increased susceptibility to disease and increased spread of disease. ([Broom 2003](#)) ([Chambers 2001](#)) ([Rioja-Lang 2019](#))
3. A 2024 study of Michigan dairy herds and poultry flocks infected with the H5N1 virus found that about 62 percent of farms shared vehicles to transport cattle, and only 12% cleaned the vehicles before use. Forty percent of the affected dairies had regular visits for deadstock removal, 53 percent utilized the same deadstock removal company and 40 percent had animals removed from the premises by that company within 30 days prior to clinical onset. ([USDA June 9, 2024](#))
 4. Swine are commonly transported to slaughter in vehicles that have not been cleaned and disinfected between loads. In many cases, the risks and associated costs of disease introduced late in the growing period are thought to be less than the cost of cleaning and disinfecting vehicles. Transport vehicles are often shared by different owners, enabling the spread of disease across large regions. ([Lowe 2014](#))
 5. Much of the recent research on disinfecting transport vehicles comes from the swine industry as it faces the PRRS and PED viruses. Implementation of “all in–all out” sites, in which all animals in a group are removed before arrival of the next group, limits the spread of disease introduced by transport vehicles. Critical factors in sanitation programs include selecting an efficacious disinfectant, using it at the proper dilution rate and means of application, and allowing for sufficient contact time. High-pressure washing of transport trailers, followed by 90 to 120 minutes exposure to disinfectants is likely to eliminate residual infectious. A final heating step can be effective at inactivating virus to the point of preventing future infection. Studies suggest that it may be possible to inactivate PED virus in the presence of feces by heating trailers to 71°C for 10 minutes or by maintaining them at room temperature (20°C) for at least 7 days. ([Dee 2006](#)) ([Thomas 2015](#))
 6. Federal interstate regulations provide for quarantine, restriction of movement, maintenance of sanitation, and identification of animals to prevent the spread of animal disease. Accredited veterinarians certify livestock and poultry. [USDA APHIS | Interstate Regulations](#)
 7. USDA's “28-hour rule” for livestock transportation dictates that livestock — poultry is exempt — can only be on a truck for 28 hours, at which point they must be off-loaded and provided with food, water and at least 5 hours of rest. ([49 USC Ch. 805](#))
 8. Wisconsin requires official identification for out of state dairy and swine herds and poultry flock. Generally speaking, animal truckers must be licensed in Wisconsin. In addition, vehicles used to haul animals must be licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; this is separate from vehicle registrations issued by the Department of Transportation. ([DATCP Home Animal Movement](#)), ([Wi Legislature: Chapter ATCP 10](#))
 9. Vehicle traffic at a facility can be broken down into those that are involved with livestock shipments, non-livestock shipments, and employee/personal vehicle traffic. Facilities should consider the following:
 - Separate parking and entrances for livestock, non-livestock, and personal vehicle traffic.
 - Segregated traffic flows for vehicles entering the livestock areas from non-livestock

- areas when leaving facility.
 - Washing/cleaning and disinfecting station for vehicles entering the livestock areas when leaving the facility.
 - Ability to contact drivers and owners of previous livestock shipments
- ([UMN 2015](#))

Condition 6 Findings - Private and Public Drinking and Agricultural Wells

1. Private and public drinking water wells are regulated very differently:
 - a. **Public drinking water systems** - Passed in 1974, the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, sets standards for water treatment as well as systematic collection and analysis of water quality for these systems.
 - b. **Private wells** - Safe Drinking Water Act standards *do not* apply to private wells. No state or federal laws requires existing private wells to be tested for contaminants. All of the Town of Rock Elm's drinking water comes from private wells.
([AAP 2009](#)) ([MacDonald 2017](#)) ([Safe Water Drinking Act](#)) ([Ward 2009](#))
2. Wells pumping less than 36 million gallons a year are not regulated. Wells with a pumping capacity that exceed 100,000 gallons a day (70 gallons per minute or 36 million gallons a year) are regulated by the WDNR as high capacity wells. This includes agricultural wells. Wells are further classified by a water loss above or below 2 million gallons a day in a 30-day period from the basin from which it is withdrawn as a result of interbasin diversion or consumptive use or both. ([Wi DNR High Capacity Wells](#)) ([Wi Legislature: 281.35](#))
3. Wisconsin's constitutional public trust doctrine requires the state to protect its "navigable waters" for the public's benefit. A July 2021 ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed that wells above and below the 30-day period threshold require the WDNR to determine that no public water rights in navigable waters will be adversely affected and that the proposed withdrawal will not have a significant detrimental effect on the quantity and quality of the waters of the state. Permits may include conditions as to location, depth, pumping capacity, rate of flow, and ultimate use, that ensure that the high capacity well does not cause significant environmental impact. ([Wi Legislature: 281.34](#)) ([Wi Supreme Court Case: 2018AP59](#))
4. A wide range of organizations argued to the Wisconsin Supreme Court that the state does not have authority to protect public waters from some types of well pumping. These include: Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, Dairy Business Association, Midwest Food Processors Association, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association and the Wisconsin Legislature. ([Kirwin](#)) ([Wi Supreme Court Case: 2018AP59](#))
5. Knowledge of surface and groundwater located up and down gradient from CAFOs makes it possible to analyze samples for fecal indicators, virus and bacteria. Pumping tests are needed to assess whether groundwater levels and volumes are sufficient to supply a CAFO's needs. ([Sapkota](#)) ([Schmalzried 2010](#))
6. CAFOs use well water for watering animals, cleaning facilities, animal cooling and in some instances for moving manure from the barn to the storage structure. Dairies use water to clean milking systems, parlors and bulk tanks, prepping cows for milking and milk pre-cooling. When animal groups leave a swine facility it is thoroughly cleaned by pre-soaking and/or pressure washing. During periods of extreme heat, pigs may be cooled by periodically

dripping water on the animals back or by small misters. ([Brumm 2006](#)) ([Cullens 2011](#)) ([Guthrie 2011](#)) ([Harmon 2008](#)) ([May MSU](#)) ([Thomas MSU](#))

7. Water use varies widely depending on animal species, number and size of animals, conservation practices and environmental conditions. Dairy CAFOs are most likely to require high capacity wells. Each cow requires between 30 and 50 gallons of water per day. Wash water can occupy 25% to 50% of lagoon capacity. For example, a 6,125 animal unit (4,287 cows) CAFO using 40 gallons/cow/day would require an estimated 62.5 million gallons a year. ([Cullens 2011](#)) ([Eastridge](#))
8. Daily water consumption for pigs range from less than 0.5 gallons/ pig/day for newly weaned pigs to greater than 1.5 gallons/pig/day for grow-finish pigs and 3 to 4 gallons/day for the gestating female to 5 to 6 gallons/day for the lactating female. Pen space utilization rates typically run 85- 90% or occupied pen spaces of 310 to 330 days per year. The mix of pigs can vary widely. As an example, the following table calculates yearly consumption based on data in the Form 3400-025A from the 2021 application for an Agricultural Livestock Operation Permit by Cumberland LLC's Swine CAFO in Burnett County, Wisconsin. Cumberland estimates water consumption at 10.9 million gallons a year. However, based on University of Nebraska research as shown in the chart below, estimated water consumption from this 6,163 animal unit (26,250 pigs) CAFO would be 19.3 million gallons a year.

Number & Type of Animal	P e n Utilization	W a t e r Consumption	Yearly Water Consumption Gallons
7,500 - Sows (3,000 Animal Units)	330 days	6 gal/space/day	14,850,000
14,625 - Pigs up to 55 pounds (1,463 Animal Units)	330 days	.5 gal/space/day	2,413,125
4,125 - Pigs 55 pounds to market (1,650 Animal Units)	330 days	1.5 gal/space/day	2,041,875
Total animals - 26,250 (Total Animal Units 6,163)			19,305,000

([Brumm 2006](#)) ([WDNR Cumberland Form 3400-025A - p 2](#)) ([WDNR Cumberland EQA - p 4](#))

Condition 7 Findings - Air Pollution

1. One of the biggest concerns about large livestock operations is the impact on public health and property values of toxic air pollution from manure spreading as well as dust and manure blown from powerful building fans. While science-based regulations for manure spreading attempt to protect water, there is very limited regulation of air pollution. Federal regulators have not developed standards. A 2010 WDNR study identified 30 beneficial management practices for mitigating hazardous air emissions from animal waste. No action was taken. ([APHA 2019](#)) ([FWW 2021](#)) ([Spencer 2004](#)) ([USEPA 2013](#)) ([USEPA 2017](#)) ([UMN 2021](#)) ([WDNR 2010](#))
2. Community members living near CAFO operations face increased exposure to air pollution which can cause or exacerbate respiratory conditions including asthma; eye irritation, difficulty breathing, wheezing, sore throat, chest tightness, nausea; and bronchitis and allergic reactions. Air emissions include particulates, volatile organic compounds, and gases such as nitrous oxide, hydrogen sulfide, and ammonia. Odors associated with air pollutants from large-scale hog operations have been shown to interfere with daily activities, quality of life, social gatherings, and community cohesion and contribute to stress and acute increased blood pressure. ([Cambra 2010](#)) ([Donham 2007](#)) ([Heederick 2007](#)) ([Horton 2009](#)) ([Hribar 2010](#)) ([Mirabelli 2006](#)) ([Schinasi 2011](#)) ([Wing 2000](#)) ([Wing 2013](#))
3. An analysis of Wisconsin health data from 2008 to 2016 for rural residents found relationships between living close to dairy CAFOs and negative respiratory health such as allergies, asthma, uncontrolled asthma, need for medication and impaired lung function. This includes reduced lung function and self-reported asthma at distances of 3 to 4 miles. This may contribute to health disparities among rural residents. North Carolina citizens show high rates of infant mortality, asthma, low birth weights, kidney disease and tuberculosis in communities near hog factories. ([Kravchenko 2018](#)) ([Schultz 2019](#))
4. Ruminant digestion is the largest human-caused source of methane emissions in the United States. A 2015 US EPA study of greenhouse causing gases estimated 25.4 percent of total methane emissions came from ruminants. These emissions are highly dependent on dairy and beef populations. From 1990 to 1995, emissions increased and then generally decreased from 1996 to 2004, mainly due to fluctuations in beef cattle populations and increased digestibility of feed for feedlot cattle. Emissions increased from 2005 to 2007, as both dairy and beef populations increased. Research indicates that the feed digestibility of dairy cow diets also decreased during this period. Emissions decreased again from 2008 to 2015 as beef cattle populations again decreased. ([USEPA GHG 2017](#))
5. Dairies installing biogas waste digester point to methane reductions but there are concerns that they produce air pollution and drive industry consolidation into bigger and bigger farms. A 2017 study of dairies found digesters could reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, mostly methane, by 25 percent. At the same time, the study found increases in nitrous oxide and ammonia emissions rose by 81 percent. The AgSTAR Livestock Anaerobic Digester voluntary database lists 43 operational Wisconsin dairy digesters. They range in size from 130 to 9,100 cows per facility with a median of 2,100 cows per digester. Wisconsin has 22 dairy digester facilities producing electricity and/or heat from biogas that ranged from 130 to 8,500 cows per facility with a median of 1,950 cows. The 11 existing dairy digester facilities producing only Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) ranged from 1,700 to 9,100 cows per facility with a median of 4,000 cows. Two Wisconsin dairy digester facilities are under construction to produce RNG with sizes of 5,200 cows and 30,000 cows per facility. ([Holly](#)) ([Jervis](#)) ([Kaeding](#)) ([Markham](#))

6. Statistical analyses confirm that source terms such as distance to a hog CAFO and live weight per operation, as well as temperature, wind speed and wind direction are important predictors of atmospheric ammonia (NH₃) at community locations. The results indicate potential zones of exposure for human populations who live or go to school near hog CAFOs. ([Wilson 2007](#))
7. North Carolina now recognizes the impact of air pollution on communities in the 2020 Odor Control Check List as part of "Title VI: Increasing equity, transparency and environmental protection...." ([NCDEQ 2020](#))
8. Under Wisconsin Statute 93.90 and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 51 setbacks for livestock structures with an infinite number of animals cannot exceed 200 feet. Maximum setbacks allowed for manure storage cannot exceed 350 feet. ([Wi Admin Code Ch. 51](#)) ([Wi Legislature: Chapter ATCP 93.90](#))
9. The 2019 Technical Expert Committee (TEC) of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection recommends that setbacks be established using the University of Minnesota Extension's "Odor From Feedlots Estimation Tool" (OFFSET). ([UMN OFFSET](#)) ([WDATCP TEC 2019](#))
10. In 2019, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection developed a draft and final draft rule for Wis. Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 51. In the draft rule setbacks for high odor structures run from 600 to 2,560 feet. In the final draft setbacks run from 350 to 1,450 feet. However, the Wisconsin Legislature refused to hear the rule and none of the proposed changes were adopted. ([WDATCP TEC 2019](#)) ([ATCP 51 2019 Draft Rule](#))
11. Neighboring farms are at risk from airborne animal diseases contracted by contained animals living in a controlled ventilated environment where exhaust fans move airborne particles to the outdoors. Pathogens are also transmitted outdoors in the air flow threatening herds in the surrounding community. Microorganisms could be spread by air flow up to 3000 meters from the chicken production buildings. ([Baykov 1999](#)) ([Spencer 2004](#))

Condition 8 Findings - Private and Public Property Rights and Values

1. Economic concentration of agricultural operations tends to remove a higher percentage of money from rural communities than when the industry is dominated by smaller farm operations, which tend to circulate money within the community. Communities dominated by smaller owner-operated farms have a richer civic and social fabric with more retail purchases made locally and with income more equitably distributed. ([Foltz](#))
2. Concentration of agriculture has associated impacts on the local economy and community. This includes decreased tax receipts and declining local purchases with larger operations. The social and economic well-being of local rural communities benefit from increasing the number of farmers, not simply increasing the volume of commodity produced. ([Foltz](#))
3. Communities face expensive pollution cleanup, euthanasia and closure costs when CAFOs go out of business. This can be further complicated when livestock producers are contractors for large processing companies that file for bankruptcy or terminate contracts. In 2024, dozens of chicken factories in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin were unable to feed their flocks after Pure Prairie Poultry filed for bankruptcy and stopped reimbursements. Some contractors used social media to plead with people to come take the starving birds. Millions had to be euthanized at tax payer expense. Years after the state of Oregon permitted the 30,000 head

Lost Valley Dairy, the factory is now being decommissioned and attempts at remediation for water pollution continue. ([Ballentine](#)) ([Dairy News 2024](#)) ([Figueroa](#))

4. Financial health of government and citizens is based in large part on property values. Large livestock facilities can bring new investment while also negatively impacting property values. CAFOs can have large adverse impacts on home values within 3 miles and directly downwind. Empirical evidence indicates that residences near Animal Operations are significantly affected, and data seems to suggest a valuation impact of up to 26 percent for nearby properties, depending on distance, wind direction, and other factors. There has been some suggestion that properties immediately abutting a CAFO can be diminished as much as 88 percent. Nearby small farms can be impacted by such factors as water degradation and insects. ([Isakson](#)) ([Kilpatrick 2001](#)) ([Kilpatrick 2015](#)) ([Kim](#)) ([Lawley](#)) ([Wi DOR](#))
5. Using longitudinal data from 1995-2017 on a large spatial scale, research finds that CAFO intensity increases the levels of nutrients, specifically total phosphorus and ammonia, in surface water. Adding one CAFO to a Hydrologic Unit Code-8 (HUC8) region leads to a 1.7% increase in total phosphorus levels and a 2.7% increase in ammonia levels, relative to sample mean levels. Results imply that the marginal CAFO in Wisconsin produces non-market surface water quality damages of at least \$203,541 per year. ([Raff 2021](#))
6. Environmental policies at both the state and federal levels for CAFOs directly affect the economy of Wisconsin communities. For example, state and federal policies are using tax dollars to build a market for biogas from anaerobic digesters on CAFOs. These policies force local communities to deal with ever larger CAFOs looking to cash in on programs that former USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack claimed would save American farmers. Instead, more consolidation means fewer farms. ([D'Onofrio](#)) ([WBAY TV](#))
7. St. Croix County, Wisconsin denied a Conditional Use Permit to a digester developer in 2019 based on nine reasons it would be substantially adverse to property values in the neighborhood affected. These included multiple professional real estate agent opinions and examples from other digesters. ([St. Croix County 2019](#))
8. CAFO workers care for thousands of animals. These are skilled workers with a multitude of tasks such as: breeding, birthing, feeding, collecting waste, moving animals, removing mortalities, milking and cleaning equipment. However, CAFOs are not required to develop plans to address a sudden loss of the workforce or the impact it could have on the local community. One threat to CAFO workforce is H5 Bird Flu infections. As of mid-January 2025, 928 dairy herds in 16 states were infected with the H5 virus. That includes an estimated 70 percent of California's herds. No Wisconsin dairy herds are known to be infected. Fourteen infected poultry flocks in four Wisconsin counties have been identified in the last 12 months. Sixty-seven workers in ten states, including Wisconsin, have been infected by the H5 virus from exposure to infected animals. Thirty-six of these were in California dairy workers. Twenty-three poultry workers have been infected including one in Wisconsin's Barron County. Seven percent of dairy workers sampled in Michigan and Colorado during the summer of 2024 showed evidence of recent infection. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends labs nationwide determine within 24 hours of admission whether people hospitalized with flu symptoms are infected with seasonal influenza or H5. Widespread worker infections could result in sudden worker shortages. ([CDC H5 Human](#)) ([CDC Flu Season](#)) ([CDC Mammals](#)) ([CDC Serologic](#)) ([Musto](#)) ([WDATCP Dairy](#)) ([WDATCP Poultry](#))

Condition 9 Findings - Compliance and Enforcement

1. WDNR struggles to keep up with CAFOs required to have WPDES permits. The number of CAFOs grew from 135 in 2005 to 342 in 2024. Sixty (60) or 18% of Wisconsin CAFOs are operating under expired WPDES permits. In Pierce County, one of the four CAFOs WPDES permits are expired. ([WLAB 2016](#)) ([WDNR CAFO page](#))
2. Enforcement of WPDES permits relies, for the most part, on self-reporting and whistleblowers. One WDNR regional staff person covers compliance for eight counties running 245 miles from Douglas County on Lake Superior to Buffalo County on the Mississippi River. ([WDNR employee](#))
3. Issues with Emerald Sky Dairy illustrate the enforcement challenges communities face. Located in St. Croix County, Emerald Sky is now owned by Breeze Dairy Group, an Appleton, Wisconsin company that also owns the Ridge Breeze Dairy in Pierce County. Under Emerald Sky's former owners, Nebraska-based Tuls Dairies, the facility had five known manure violations in three years. The worst was a 2016 spill of 275,000 gallons that was reported by a whistleblower in 2017. The dairy received an \$80,000 fine in May 2019. In November 2019, an anonymous call reported manure flowing down a ditch that dumps into Hutton Creek. DNR staff documented manure flowing into the creek and dead fish. St. Croix County Development Committee had to send a letter to the DNR in February 2020 demanding "full and quick enforcement of manure application rules and statutes for CAFOs located in St. Croix County." ([Kremer 2017](#)) ([St. Croix CDC 2020](#)) ([Wi Circuit Court-000002](#)) ([WDNR Emerald 2019](#))
4. Enforcement by Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) under the state Attorney General on CAFOs with WPDES permits can be very uneven. Enforcement on 2017 violations in St. Croix County took years. However, in 2021 DOJ took enforcement action against CAFOs owned by Rolling Hills, Kostechka, Tri-Star, Maple Leaf, Redtail Ridge, Jon-De Capital and Verhasselt Farms.
5. Tracking where animal wastes are spread is very challenging. In one Iowa study, public records were used to document manure management by CAFOs housing 59,700 finishing hogs in a 3,840 acre area. Together, they generated an estimated 1.79 million pounds of nitrogen (N) each year, more than 70% of which volatilized into the atmosphere. CAFOs minimized the area required for applying manure by underestimating manure N content, projecting above average crop yields, and applying manure to soybeans. Some fields were claimed by more than one operator, and some field sizes were overestimated. Manure application based on crop demand for phosphorus would require 23,104 acres of cropland, compared to the 2,446 acres actually used. ([Jackson 2000](#))

Condition 10 Findings - Monitoring

1. The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in July 2021 that WDNR has the authority to require offsite groundwater monitoring as part of a CAFO wastewater discharge permit. The ruling does not require permits to include monitoring. Kinnard Farms in Kewaunee County and the Wisconsin Legislature argued that Act 21 prevents the DNR from taking steps through its permitting process to protect groundwater. ([Kirwin](#)) ([WI Supreme 2016AP1688](#))
2. Large-scale industrial food animal production can cause numerous public health and environmental problems and should thus be monitored to prevent harm to surrounding communities. Since each situation is different, monitoring program design should be tailored to particular situations. ([Hribar 2010](#)) ([USEPA 2003](#))
3. The most fundamental step in the development of a monitoring plan is to define the goals and objectives. Designing a monitoring plan also includes selecting sampling variables, a sampling strategy, station locations, data analysis techniques, the length of the monitoring program, and the overall level of effort to be invested. ([USEPA 2003](#))
4. Most groundwater contamination incidents involve substances released at or only slightly below the land surface. Contamination can occur by infiltration, recharge from surface water, direct migration, and interaquifer exchange. The first and second mechanisms primarily affect surface aquifers, the third and fourth may affect either surface or deep aquifers. ([USEPA 1994](#))
5. Groundwater monitoring is necessary to determine: background groundwater quality; existing groundwater conditions near retention ponds, corrals, and land application areas; effect of the improved management practices on groundwater quality. ([CAEPA 2010](#))
6. Livestock operators must have a reporting and monitoring system to ensure odor control practices are implemented in accordance with specifications. New Wisconsin rules should require local governments to monitor permitted livestock facilities using a checklist that is comprehensive and forward looking and that covers whether an operation anticipates adding animals or building livestock structures. Local governments should have the option of monitoring by conducting site visits or requiring self-reporting by livestock operators. ([WDATCP 2019](#))
7. Data collection of particulate-matter air exposure in rural areas is needed because of the huge gap in knowledge as compared to gases emitted by CAFOs. Exposure mechanisms for particulates are expected to be different than those for gases because particulates from CAFOs are biologically active and are known to be relatively large. Therefore, data is needed on sedimentation out of the air, resuspension and aerosols from waste spreading. ([Heederik 2007](#))

Condition 11 Findings - Preserve Quality of Life

Roads - Damage and Traffic Disruptions

1. Rural roads account for an estimated 33 percent of the vehicle miles traveled in the U.S., but 56 percent of fatalities. Rural roads may have design elements that increase the risk of fatalities or serious injuries, such as inappropriately high speed limits, narrow lane widths and shoulders, steep ditches, or trees close to the roadway. Transport of animals and feed on roads not designed for increased use and added weight loads can cause road deterioration and traffic disruptions. Low population density and sparse land use of rural communities can increase

- detection, response, and travel times for emergency services, reducing key factors in crash survivability. ([USDOT 2012](#))
2. The Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) estimated in 2019 that a 700 cow CAFO would produce 7 million gallons of animal waste requiring a John Deere 8230 tractor pulling a 2-axle Husky manure tanker to make 2,071 trips annually. That would prematurely decrease the life of a road by 30 years of the original 50-year life, if the road was built with 3 inches of asphalt over 5 inches of gravel on fair base soils. A road built with 5.5 inches of asphalt over 9 inches of gravel, would have no premature aging of the road. ([WTA 2019](#))
 3. WTA recommended to DATCP in 2019 that new livestock siting rules strongly consider:
 - Transportation infrastructure needs associated with a new or expanded facility
 - Current state of the transportation infrastructure proposed to be used
 - Gap between needs and current status
 - Process for identifying both short term damage and long term physical degradation of infrastructure resulting from the operation
 - Method for the operation to fund road damage and life cycle costs accruing to the operation at the owner's expense.([WTA 2019](#))
 4. Heavy vehicles which were not anticipated at the time the pavement structure was designed can cause additional damage and create the need for rehabilitation or reconstruction sooner than expected. These unexpected heavy vehicles could be generated by new industrial facilities, temporary heavy construction in a limited geographical area and other reasons. Best practices entail the completion of a traffic study and roads needs analysis, including provision for additional signage, speed limits and signals as part of the planning. This analysis should be performed in conjunction with both state and local authorities. ([MNDOT 2014](#)) ([USDOT 2012](#))
 5. Accident reports on 415 commercial livestock truck accidents were tabulated between 1994 and June 2007 in the United States and Canada. Data was collected from Google internet searches of newspaper and television news reports, unpublished industry sources and Alberta government agencies. Fifty-nine percent of the accidents occurred during the early morning hours from midnight to 9:00 am and 80% involved a single vehicle. Driver error was blamed for 85% of the wrecks. In 83% of the accidents, the vehicle rolled over and 84% of the truckers tipped over on their right side. In North America, vehicles travel on the right-hand side of the road and if a driver falls asleep at the wheel he usually drifts off toward the right. Driver fatigue is the most likely explanation for many of these accidents. ([Woods 2008](#))

Fire

1. CAFOs can present increased fire safety costs and concerns for communities. A May 2021 fire near Waseca, MN burned two buildings, killed 12,000 hogs and required 20 tankers from nine fire departments. A March 2019 fire started after the roof collapsed at a Holden Farms CAFO near Mondovi, WI killed an estimated 4,000 hogs and required crews from five counties. Hazardous winter condition made the Mondovi scene dangerous sending an Eleva fire truck into the ditch. ([Clemons 2019](#)) ([Moran 2021](#)) ([Pierce County Land Use Permit](#))
2. A Texas fire at South Fork Dairy exploded into the single deadliest event involving livestock in Texas history, when nearly 18,000 cows died in a barn the size of two Amazon distribution centers. The blaze began with a manure vacuum, the specialized, diesel-powered truck that had no apparent regulation or oversight from farm, transportation or workplace regulators. ([Jervis](#))

3. The need for multiple rural fire departments to respond may stretch or exceed their capacity to address other fires at the same time. CAFOs may also be served by rural fire departments that do not have a sufficient water supply as provided by a municipal supply. ([NFPA 1144](#))
4. Fire Safety Needs Analyses look at the: ability of multiple fire departments to respond to a fire, while still supporting the needs of the community; availability of sufficient water on site to douse a fire; and building designs and operating plans that reduce the likelihood of a fire. Standards are laid out by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas. ([NFPA 1141](#))
5. Water Supply Needs Analyses look at the adequacy and reliability of a water supply to control and extinguish anticipated fires in the jurisdiction every day of the year. Guidelines are included in NFPA 1142: Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting. An adequate water supply may entail the need to obtain permits and drill new supply wells. Storage may be needed for enough water to ensure the necessary pumping rate, as well as the total amount of water required to extinguish a large fire. ([NFPA 1142](#))
6. Water Supply Needs Analyses should include an evaluation of the potential impact on surrounding private, public, and agricultural wells, as well as springs.
7. United Egg Producers (UEP) Fire Mitigation Task Force recommends facilities develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Recommendations include: regular meetings with local fire departments; manure belt inspections; ongoing worker training and several other key components. ([UEP](#))
8. A 2022 study by the Fire Protection Research Foundation found the leading causes of animal housing fires to be heating devices in winter months and malfunctioning of electrical systems. NFPA 150: Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code addresses the fire and life safety needs of both animals and humans. CAFOs can also be affected by wild land fires. NFPA1144: Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards and Wildland Fires provides a methodology for assessing wildland fire ignition hazards around existing structures and developments to reduce the potential of structure ignition from wildland fires. ([NFPA 1144](#)) ([NFPA 150](#)) ([Castro](#))

Conclusion

Given the potential impacts to health, safety and general welfare, the Town has an obligation to enact reasonable regulations on the operations of CAFOs.

In addition to the general impacts, the Town of Rock Elm has also determined that this Ordinance is necessary to achieve water quality standards under Wis. Stat. 281.15 which are designed to protect the public interest including the present and prospective future use of the Town's water for public and private water systems, propagation of fish and aquatic life and wildlife, domestic and recreational purposes and agricultural, commercial, industrial and other legitimate uses.

The waters of the Town of Rock Elm are vitally important to its residents. The impacts of CAFOs on water systems, fish and aquatic life, agricultural, commercial and industrial uses require the Town's protection and regulation. Water contamination and impairment may result in elevated levels of nitrates and the presence of pathogenic organisms.

Before a CAFO may begin operation within the Town of Rock Elm, it is imperative that the operational risks be analyzed, base lines be established to control medical risks and the monitoring of each risk be established for evaluation and appropriate review.

It is for these reasons the Town of Rock Elm enacts this Ordinance.

TOWN OF ROCK ELM
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS ORDINANCE No. 25-xx

The Town Board of the Town of Rock Elm, Pierce County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the powers granted under the Wisconsin Constitution, and Wisconsin Statutes including but not limited to Section 92.15. This Ordinance is further adopted pursuant to the powers granted to the Town Board under the grant of village powers pursuant to Sec. 60.22 of Wis. Statutes for the protection of public health, safety and general welfare.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to effectively, efficiently and comprehensively regulate the operation of Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations of animal units or greater (“CAFO”) in the Town of Rock Elm, without respect to siting, to protect public health (including human and animal health), safety, and general welfare, to prevent pollution and the creation of private nuisances and public nuisances, to preserve the quality of life, environment, and existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of the Town of Rock Elm and to achieve water quality standards within the Town of Rock Elm. This Ordinance sets forth the procedures for obtaining a CAFO Operations Permit for the operation of new and expanded livestock facilities in the Town of Rock Elm (sometimes referred to as “the Town”).

The need for this Ordinance is based upon the Town’s obligation to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public and is based upon reasonable and scientifically defensible findings, as adopted by the Town Board, clearly showing that these requirements are absolutely necessary to protect public health and safety. Specifically, the Town finds that there is ample scientific research and evidence establishing that CAFOs pose a significant risk to the integrity of the Town’s groundwater, surface water, air quality, the health and well-being of its residents and local property values. These findings are based in part on the scientific articles and research studies discussed and listed in Appendices A. & B.

Section 3. Definitions

1. "Animal Units" means the equivalent unit of livestock present at an operation as calculated under Wisconsin NR 243.05 using Animal Unit Calculation Worksheet Form 3400-25A.
2. “Applicant” or “permittee” refers to the owner of the entity seeking a CAFO Operations Permit under the terms of this Ordinance.
3. “Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation” or “CAFO” means;
 - a. A lot or facility, other than a pasture or grazing area, where 1,000 or more animal units have been, are, or will be stabled or concentrated, and will be fed or maintained by the same owner(s), manager(s) or operator(s) for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, two or more smaller lots or facilities under common ownership or common management or operation are a single Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation or CAFO if the total number of animals stabled or concentrated at the lots or facilities equal 1,000 or more animal units and at least one of the following is true: (1) The operations are adjacent; (2) The operations utilize common systems for the land spreading of manure or wastes; (3) Animals are transferred between the lots or facilities; (4) The lots or facilities share staff, vehicles, or equipment; or (5) Manure, barnyard

runoff or other wastes are comingled in a common storage facility at any time.

- b. Any lot or any facility, regardless of location that meets the definition of Section 3.2.A. and uses land in the Town to manage waste.
4. “Operations” means a course of procedure or productive activity for purposes of conducting and carrying on the business of a CAFO including populating animal housing facilities, storing, spreading and managing animal and other waste materials, and conducting any other business activities.
5. “Pollution” means degradation that results in any violation of any environmental law as determined by an administrative proceeding, civil action, criminal action or other legal or administrative action investigation or proceeding.
6. “Private Nuisance” means a nontrespassory invasion of another’s interest in the private use and enjoyment of land, and the invasion is either: (1) intentional and unreasonable, or (2) unintentional and otherwise actionable under the rules of controlling liability for negligent or reckless conduct, or for abnormally dangerous conditions or activities.
7. “Public Nuisance” means a thing, act, occupation, condition or use of property which shall continue for such length of time as to “ (1) substantially annoy, injure or endanger the comfort, health, repose or safety of the public; (2) in any way render the public insecure in life, health or in the use of property; or (3) unreasonably and substantially interfere with, obstruct or tend to obstruct or render dangerous for passage or public use any street, alley, highway, navigable body of water or other public way or the use of public property or other public rights.

Section 4. License Required

Regardless of siting, a livestock facility with 1,000 or more animal units shall be allowed to conduct operations within the Town of Rock Elm only as provided under this Ordinance. Applicants shall apply for a CAFO Operations Permit to operate in the Town of Rock Elm under this Ordinance prior to conducting any operations.

1. General

A CAFO Operations Permit issued by the Town of Rock Elm is required for new or expanded livestock facilities that will operate with 1,000 or more animal units.

2. Licenses for Existing Livestock Facilities

This ordinance does not apply to any livestock facility in operation in the Town not defined as a CAFO in Section 3, Paragraphs 3 a. & b. on the Effective Date, provided, however, this ordinance shall apply to any such facility at such time as its owner meets the definition of CAFO in Section 3, Paragraphs 3 a. & b.

Section 5. Licensing Administration

The Town Board shall administer this Ordinance and related matters thereto and shall have the authority to issue licenses under this Ordinance, and to designate the local authority/ies to whom the Operator is required to submit all reports and notices; and shall have the authority to enforce the license requirements, including immediate revocation of the license for flagrant violations.

Section 6. License Application and Standards

The applicant shall apply for a CAFO Operations Permit prior to beginning an expansion or conducting any operations associated with a Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation in the Town of Rock Elm. The application shall be submitted on a form provided by the Town Clerk.

The Town Board shall decide whether to approve and issue a CAFO Operations Permit to an applicant that has submitted a complete application and paid the required application fee, after holding a public hearing on the application and considering any evidence concerning the application and the proposed operation presented by the applicant and any other interested persons or parties, including members of the public, other governmental agencies or entities, special legal counsel and expert consultants who may be hired by the Town Board to review the application and advise the Town Board.

The Town Board shall approve and issue a CAFO Operations Permit, either with or without conditions, if it is determined by a majority vote of all members, supported by clear and convincing evidence presented by the applicant, that: the applicant can and will comply with all conditions imposed by the Town; that the applicant's operations as proposed, with or without conditions, will protect public health (including human and animal health), safety, and general welfare, prevent pollution, prevent the creation of private nuisances, prevent the creation of public nuisances and preserve the quality of life, environment, existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of the Town of Rock Elm; and that the applicant and the application meet all other requirements of this Ordinance.

Section 7. License Application Fee

A non-refundable application fee of Three Dollars (\$3) per proposed animal unit up to 1,000 animal units and Five Dollars (\$5.00) per proposed animal unit thereafter payable to the Town of Rock Elm shall accompany an application for the purpose of offsetting the Town's costs to review and process the application. The Town may reevaluate and adjust accordingly the amount of the application fee on an annual basis.

Section 8. Application Procedure

1. An applicant for a CAFO Operations Permit shall complete a Town of Rock Elm CAFO Operations Permit Application (See Appendix C.) and pay the required application fee. The applicant must be an owner of the corporate entity proposing to operate the CAFO and sign the application. The application must also be signed by the property owner, who agrees to be held by the same standards as the operator, and by one or more qualified and professionally licensed third party engineers or geoscientists who attest that they have prepared or have reviewed the plans and certify that they will meet the following performance requirements:

- a. Prevent the spread of infectious diseases from the CAFO to other animals, livestock and humans;
- b. The CAFO Waste Management Plan as implemented with engineered perimeter berms and liners, or equivalent or better containment measures, will prevent any obnoxious odors

- emanating from waste management activities, any discharge of contaminated runoff to surface water, and any seepage to ground water, including impacts to surface water and ground water from offsite management or disposal of animal wastes or digestate and that the CAFO has applied for and will not operate until it has received a zero-discharge permit from the State, or in absence of action by the State, from the Town, a local zero discharge waste water and storm water permit(s);
- c. The Animal Population Control and Depopulation Plans provide for the daily recording and reporting of animal counts and mortality and reporting to the Town-designated local authority within 24 hours of any unusual mortality, as defined in the plan, and that the provisions for managing the movement and transportation of livestock, containment and treatment of bodily fluids from carcasses, and safe disposal of carcasses, will prevent the spread of disease to other livestock, animals, workers and other residents and humans in the area;
 - d. The Biosecurity and Animal Health Plan provides for the health and humane treatment of all animals, routine observation and routine testing for diseases of concern--as defined in the plan-- and for the separation and quarantine of diseased animals and animals in contact with diseased animals, their euthanasia, and the handling and disposal of diseased animals, sufficient to prevent the spread of disease to workers, other livestock and animals, and to humans and provides for quarterly reporting of animal testing results and plan-specified enforceable metrics confirmation that the livestock and conditions at the facility, based on plan-identified metrics, are healthy by a third-party inspector and that any deviations from the metrics and any detection of diseases of concern will be immediately reported to the local health department and local authority; and that the plan provides for adequate financing and immediate implementation of emergency containment measures by third-party contractors, including testing of workers and contractors who may have come into contact with diseased animals, and other emergency measures in the event of an outbreak of disease, based on the latest authoritative disease containment guidance;
 - e. The Animal Transportation Plan, in combination with the biosecurity and animal health plans, will provide for the safe transportation of all livestock to and from the CAFO, the disinfection of transport trailers and treatment of water used to disinfect trailers, the prevention of disease, and provide for coordination with local traffic and road authorities to assure their safe transport and prevent traffic accidents and to provide the necessary emergency response measures in the event of an accident;
 - f. The Water Use Plan is based on a thorough hydrogeological characterization study, including identification of all onsite and nearby wells and springs, and artesian fed streams and any water bodies, including ponds, wetlands, and lakes, within 5 miles, and that the planned use of water will have no impact, considering projected 50-year growth of population in the area, on the flow rate, extent, volume and storage capacity for any existing well or spring, or artesian fed water body within 2 miles of the CAFO and the quarterly reporting of water use to the local authority or their designated hydrogeologist;
 - g. The Odor and Toxic Air Pollution Prevention Plan will prevent the presence of odiferous smells noticeable to human olfactories and the detection of toxic air pollutants along the property boundaries and provides for adequate offsets, waste containment, air and odor emission control devices including particulate filters to prevent air pollution and the transmission of disease particles from the CAFO, anaerobic digester, or offsite waste management area;
 - h. The Community Economic, Land Use and Property Value Assessment and Impact Study has

been performed by a licensed appraiser and a qualified land use planner, is scientifically sound and concludes that there will be no negative impact to properties within 1 mile of the proposed CAFO, and a net positive benefit to the Town, including considering the risks of the operations on the public health, particularly in the case of a sudden loss of workforce;

- i. The Construction, Fire and Road Plans, including signed engineered drawings for the measures required to meet the performance requirements of this ordinance and the measures specified in the plan have been submitted with the application, and include a fire-prevention/fire-fighting capacity/fire-water capacity needs analysis, the requisite fire water storage/fire prevention/fire-fighting equipment and worker accountability plans, as well as a traffic study and road improvement needs analysis and road traffic and roadway improvement plans, along with letters of conformance, on agency letterhead, stating that application-submitted plans are complementary with and are in conformance with the associated traffic and road plans and requirements of and from the local, regional, state and federal road and transportation authorities;
 - j. The Compliance Assurance Testing, Sampling and Monitoring Plan shall provide for an identified chain-of-command, including local authority incident commanders, for the reporting and correction, including emergency measures, of any and all deviation(s) from the plan's enforceable metrics, as well as the daily monitoring of all operations for compliance with the enforceable metrics identified in the plan, including inspection and sampling of storm water discharges, quarterly ground water monitoring at locations that will allow corrective actions and containment measures to prevent offsite migration or vertical migration of contamination, identification and verification of the efficacy of testing methods and quality assurance reviews of test results, and reporting within 24 hours of any and all deviations from compliance metrics to the owner, the third-party corrective measures contractor, and the local authorities identified in the local permit;
 - k. The Compliance Assurance Plan shall document that the prepared plans and procedures are based on sound science and includes an updated review of best practices and technologies and test methods, and provides for specific compliance metrics to assure the performance requirements of the plans are met and the permit approval conditions are satisfied, and for annual audits, inspections, and certification by qualified and experienced, and licensed third party(ies), of compliance with the procedures and provisions of the various operational plans, including with the identified metrics in the plans;
2. Upon signing and submitting a CAFO Operations Permit Application to the Town Clerk, the applicant shall include and sign a notarized statement that the applicant agrees to fully compensate the Town for all legal services, expert consulting services, and other expenses which may be reasonably incurred by the Town in reviewing and considering the application, regardless of whether or not the application for a permit is subsequently approved, with or without conditions, or denied by the Town Board. The applicant statement shall also state that the applicant agrees to fully compensate the Town for all legal services, expert consulting services and other expenses, for verifying and enforcing compliance with the terms of the permit, with or without conditions, if approved by the Town Board. The applicant shall submit the application fee as required by the Town Clerk.
 3. After receiving the application and the application fee, the Town Clerk shall mail a notice that a CAFO Operations Permit Application has been received to all landowners within 3 miles of the proposed CAFO with the date and time of a Town Board meeting at which the application will be considered. The notice shall provide information on how interested persons and parties may inspect and obtain a copy of the application.

4. The Town Clerk shall place the application on the agenda for the next regular Town Board meeting for which required notice can be provided.
5. At a formal public hearing held by the Town Board on the application at least sixty (60) days after it has been determined to be complete, the Town Board shall consider any evidence concerning the application and the proposed CAFO presented by the applicant and any other interested persons or parties, including members of the public and other governmental agencies or entities, and special legal counsel and expert consultants who may be hired by the Town to review the application and advise the Town Board.
6. In its review and consideration of a CAFO Operations Permit Application, the Town Board shall act in a quasi-judicial capacity, and its final decision on whether to approve and issue a CAFO Operations Permit, either with or without conditions, shall be based on written findings of fact and conclusions of law consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, which shall be filed with the Town Clerk and served on the applicant by certified U.S. Mail.
7. The Town Board shall approve and issue a CAFO Operations Permit, either with or without conditions, if it determines by a majority vote of all members of the Town Board, supported by clear and convincing evidence presented by the applicant, that the operations of the proposed CAFO, with or without conditions, will protect health (including human and animal), safety, and general welfare, prevent pollution and the creation of private nuisances and public nuisances, and preserve the quality of life, environment, and existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of the Town and that the application meets all other requirements of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Financial Surety

A CAFO Operations Permit shall require the applicant and all contractors, subcontractors, agents and representatives, to ensure that sufficient funds will be available for pollution clean-up, nuisance abatement, and proper closure of the operation if it is abandoned or otherwise ceases to operate as planned and permitted, based on the following provisions:

1. A determination shall be made regarding the financial assurance level required by the scale of the operation. As a condition of the license, the required financial assurance shall be filed with the Town of Rock Elm in an amount sufficient to clean up environmental contamination if the same were to occur, to abate public nuisances caused by the operation, including but not limited to the testing and replacement of any potentially contaminated private and public wells and water supplies within the areas subject to operations, and to ensure proper closure of the operations should the applicant elect to close or should closure occur for some other reason. The amount of the financial assurance shall be based on a Closure/Cleanup/Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan, sealed by a licensed engineer, and based on engineering estimates of the typical cost to address the contamination of ground water within a quarter-mile radius, the replacement cost for any wells or water supplies within a quarter mile, the remediation cost for 1/2 mile of the sediment of a receiving stream, and the complete removal, closure and restoration of the subject facility to approximate its original condition, including demolition based on a site-specific closure plan, including: assuming 1 foot of affected soil below all ponds, tanks, pipes and animal holding areas, and including a reasonable contingency based upon the uncertainty in the estimate as identified by the engineer. Upon notification of the required amount of the financial assurance by the Town, but prior to commencing operations, the applicant shall file with the Town the financial assurance conditioned on faithful performance of all requirements for the license. Upon notification of receipt of adequate form of finance assurance (as noted below) or deposit approval and verification of conformance with license conditions as verified by a third party engineer, the applicant may commence operations.

2. The applicant may deposit cash or irrevocable letters of credit established with a bank acceptable to the Town as the required financial assurance.
3. The Town may reevaluate and adjust accordingly the amount of the financial assurance required on an annual basis.

Section 10. Conditions of Approval

A CAFO Operations Permit may be approved with conditions to protect public health (including human and animal health), safety, and general welfare, prevent pollution and the creation of private nuisances and public nuisances, and preserve the quality of life, environment, and existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of the Town. It is not the intent of the ordinance to create a requirement that exceeds the State's water quality performance standards, prohibitions, conservation practice and technical standards. To the extent not expressly or otherwise preempted by Wis. Stat. 93.90, and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 51 or any other provision of state or federal law, such conditions may include, but are not limited to:

1. Conditions relating to the operational characteristics of the proposed operation, to protect public health, prevent point and non-point sources of air and water pollution, and prevent private nuisances and public nuisances; including provisions for specific air emissions controls, retention ponds and berms to prevent releases to surface water, liners under operational areas to prevent infiltration to ground water, the annual testing of nearby wells and springs, and annual inspections for permit compliance by representatives of local authorities;
2. Conditions relating to the management of animal and other waste that, may be generated as part of an operation's ongoing operation, to protect public health, prevent point and non-point sources of air and water pollution, and prevent private nuisances and public nuisances, including the operator's paying for periodic inspections and air emission, surface water, and ground water testing by consultants retained by local authorities, including the following added provisions:
 - a. The Waste Management Plan in Section 8.1.b. will include scientifically significant baseline data on the water quality of local human drinking and agricultural wells.
 - b. For applications that include land spreading of manure,
 - i. the amount of land used to spread waste as part of the Waste Management Plan in Section 8.1.b. will be based on spreadable acres, not total acres, and
 - ii. the application will include all Manure Land Application Agreements with landowners, with a minimum contract period of five (5) years, and such agreements must include provisions for application of wastes in accord with the Waste Management Plan required in Section 8. 1. b.;
3. Conditions relating to the population and depopulation of individual animal housing facilities, to protect public health and prevent the spread of animal-borne and vector-borne disease, to assure a safe level of sanitation, and to assure human health hazard control or health protection for the community, including provisions for health department inspections and testing of dead animals and provisions for the safe treatment and transport off-site disposal of sanitation wastes at a separately permitted commercial facility;
4. Conditions relating to biosecurity and the maintenance of animal health and welfare, to prevent the spread of animal-borne and vector-borne disease, to protect public health, and provide for animal safety and welfare, including provisions for frequent testing of livestock for specific diseases of concern and development of emergency containment measures in the event of the detection of a disease of particular concern;

5. Conditions relating to transportation of animals as part of the ongoing operations, to protect public health, prevent pollution, and prevent private nuisances and public nuisances, including completion of a traffic and transportation needs analysis and applicant's paying for traffic control and roadway improvements, including provisions for high-pressure washing with disinfectant of all transport trailers coming into the Town to include treatment and disposal of water used for disinfectant;
6. Conditions relating to protection of private and public drinking and agricultural wells, and other public water supplies, as part of an ongoing operation to protect public health, prevent pollution, and prevent private nuisances and public nuisances, including provisions for completing a thorough survey and mapping of private and public wells and springs and artesian fed water bodies, including wetlands and karst areas, as well as a thorough hydrogeologic characterization of ground water within 5 miles of the proposed CAFO;
7. Conditions relating to air emissions and dust control as part of an ongoing operation, to protect public health, prevent pollution and prevent private nuisances and public nuisances, including provisions for property boundary offsets, air emission and air quality testing and for specific types of air emission controls on all facility exhaust fans, waste management areas, and livestock quarantine holding areas;
8. Conditions relating to protection of the private and public property rights and property values of affected property owners, as part of an ongoing operation, to protect the general welfare of the Town's residents and property owners, and to prevent private nuisances and public nuisances;
9. Conditions relating to permit compliance, enforcement and monitoring, including establishment of fees that may be assessed against the permittee to cover the costs of hiring, training, and maintaining Town personnel, or for contracting with private consultants, to conduct permit compliance, enforcement and monitoring activities for the Town, as well as provisions for annual certification of compliance by the owner/operator and by qualified and licensed third-party auditor, approved by the Town;
10. Conditions relating to the monitoring of surface water, ground water, air quality and all other environmental factors and considerations, including retention pond sampling and testing and ground water quality monitoring at compliance points sufficiently far from the facility's property line to allow implementation of prevention of offsite migration corrective action and containment measures acceptable to the Town;
11. Any other conditions deemed reasonably necessary or appropriate by the Town Board to effectively, efficiently, and comprehensively regulate the operations of a facility, to protect public health (including human and animal health), safety, and general welfare, prevent pollution and the creation of private nuisances and public nuisances, and preserve the quality of life, environment, and existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of the Town, including provisions for adequate fire-fighting equipment and storage of adequate fire-fighting water based on a needs analysis approved by the Town and a Fire Safety Needs Analysis Plan that is annually reviewed and updated based on the following:
 - a. Guidelines from the National Fire Protection Association NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas;
 - b. Water Supply Needs Analysis based on guidelines included in NFPA 1142: Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting;
 - c. Wildlands Fire Analysis based NFPA1144: Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards and Wildland Fires;
 - d. Animal Housing Analysis based on NFPA 150: Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing

Facilities Code.

These conditions may apply not only to the CAFO facility itself, but also to any property upon which manure, carcasses, body tissue or other by products of the CAFO are spread, deposited or disposed of. Any conditions imposed under this Ordinance may be modified by the Town Board at the time of each annual renewal. Any modifications must be documented as required by section 11, below.

Section 11. Record of Decision

The Town Board must issue its decision in writing. The decision must be based on written findings of fact supported by evidence in the record.

Section 12. Transferability of License

A CAFO Operations Permit and the privileges granted by this license run with the land approved under the license and remain in effect, despite a change in ownership of the livestock facility, as long as the new operator does not violate the terms of the local approval.

Within thirty (30) days of a change of ownership of the livestock facility, the new owner(s) of the facility shall submit a signed and notarized affidavit to the Town Clerk ensuring compliance with the requirements of the ordinance. The new owner(s) will also file information with the Town Clerk providing pertinent information, including but not limited to such information as the name, address, phone and email of the new owner and date of transfer of ownership.

Section 13. Expiration of License

A CAFO Operations Permit remains in effect regardless of the amount of time that elapses before the livestock operator exercises the authority granted under this permit, and regardless of whether the livestock operator exercises the full authority granted by the approval. However, the Town may treat a CAFO Operations Permit as lapsed and withdraw the license if the license holder fails to do all of the following within 2 years after issuance of license:

1. Begin populating the CAFO.
2. Begin constructing all of the new or expanded livestock housing or waste storage structures proposed in the application for local approval.
3. Pay the renewal fee on or before January 1 of each calendar year as required by Section 14 of this Ordinance.

Section 14. License Terms, Modifications and Annual Renewal Fee

A CAFO Operations Permit and the privileges granted by a CAFO Operations Permit issued under this Ordinance is conditioned on the livestock operator's compliance with the standards in this Ordinance, and with commitments made in the application for a CAFO Operations Permit. The operator may make reasonable changes that maintain compliance with the standards in this Ordinance, and the Town Board shall not withhold authorization for those changes unless the Town can demonstrate good cause to do so. A violation of the Permit or a failure to comply with the commitments made in the application may result in suspension and/or termination of the Permit.

The Town Board, or its designee, shall work to ensure on an ongoing basis that all requirements and conditions of any permit issued under this Ordinance are followed by the permittee. To assist in

accomplishing this task, any permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall be subject to an annual renewal fee in the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) per animal unit. The Town may reevaluate and adjust accordingly the amount of the application fee on an annual basis. Modifications to the conditions of a CAFO Operations Permit may be made as described in Sections 10 and 11.

Section 15. Penalties

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance, or who fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, or who knowingly makes any material false statement or knowing omission in any document required to be submitted under the provisions hereof, shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. Upon conviction by a court of law, pay a forfeiture of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, plus the applicable surcharges, assessments, and costs for each violation.
2. Each day a violation exists or continues shall be considered a separate offense under this Ordinance.
3. In addition, the Town Board may seek injunctive relief from a court of record to enjoin further violations.
4. In addition, the Town Board may suspend or revoke the local approval of a CAFO Operations Permit under this Ordinance after due notice to the livestock facility owner and a public hearing to determine whether the license should be suspended or revoked.

The Town shall exercise sound judgment in deciding whether to suspend or revoke a CAFO Operations Permit. The Town shall consider extenuating circumstances, such as adverse weather conditions, that may affect an operator's ability to comply.

In addition to any other penalty imposed by this Ordinance, the cost of abatement of any public nuisance on the licensed premises by the Town may be collected under this Ordinance or Sec. 823.06 of Wis. Statutes against the owner of the real estate upon which the public nuisance exists. Such costs of abatement may be recovered against the real estate as a special charge under Sec. 66.0627 of Wis. Statutes unless paid earlier.

Section 16. Appeals

An applicant or any other person or party who is aggrieved by a final decision of the Town Board on whether to issue a CAFO Operations Permit, either with or without conditions, or a taxpayer, may, within thirty (30) days after the filing of the decision with the Town Clerk, commence an action seeking the remedy available by certiorari in Pierce County Circuit Court. The court shall not stay the decision appealed from, but may, with notice to the Town Board, grant a restraining order. The Town Board shall not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but it shall be sufficient to return certified or sworn copies thereof. If necessary, for the proper disposition of the matter, the court may take evidence, or appoint a referee to take evidence and report findings of fact and conclusions of law as it directs, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify, the decision brought up for review.

In any certiorari proceeding brought under the preceding paragraph, attorney fees and costs shall not be allowed against the Town Board unless it shall appear to the court that it acted with gross negligence, or in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

A final decision of the Town Board under this ordinance is not subject to appeal under Wis. Stat. 93.90(5), Wis. Stat 93.30, or Wis. Admin Code Ch. ATCP 51, which apply only to siting decisions.

Section 17. Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Section 18. Effective Date

This Ordinance is effective the day after publication.

Adopted this XXth day of XXX, 20XX by the Town Board of Supervisors.

Town Chair

Attested:

Town Clerk

TOWN OF ROCK ELM
PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ORDINANCE NO. 25-xx
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO) ORDINANCE

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY - APPENDIX A

[Journal Articles & Reports](#)
[University Programs](#)
[Regulatory & Court Documents](#)
[Media Articles](#)

Journal Articles

1. Alarcón, L.V., Allepuz, A. & Mateu, E. Biosecurity in pig farms: a review. *Porc Health Manag* 7, 5 (2021).

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40813-020-00181-z>

The perception of the importance of animal health and its relationship with biosecurity has increased in recent years with the emergence and re-emergence of several diseases difficult to control. This is particularly evident in the case of pig farming as shown by the recent episodes of African swine fever or porcine epidemic diarrhea. Moreover, a better biosecurity may help to improve productivity and may contribute to reducing the use of antibiotics. Biosecurity can be defined as the application of measures aimed to reduce the probability of the introduction (external biosecurity) and further spread of pathogens within the farm (internal biosecurity). Thus, the key idea is to avoid transmission, either between farms or within the farm. This implies knowledge of the epidemiology of the diseases to be avoided that is not always available, but since ways of transmission of pathogens are limited to a few, it is possible to implement effective actions even with some gaps in our knowledge on a given disease. The development of quantitative assessment methods will permit a more precise selection of measures and a fine evaluation of their impact. Collaboration with other branches of science such as sociology or psychology may help to the sustainable implementation of biosecurity plans.

2. Almond, G. Water: Optimizing Performance While Reducing Waste. *46th Annual North Carolina Pork Conference North Carolina State University*, 2002.

Link: [Water: Optimizing Performance \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

Due to the relative abundance of water and its “low price”, there previously was little demand for research on the role of water and water delivery systems in US pork production, and specifically with applications to North Carolina. Water is important in pork production for two general reasons: its role in pig performance and its contribution to waste.

3. American Academy of Pediatrics. Committee on Environmental Health and Committee on Infectious Diseases, 2009. Drinking water from private wells and risks to children. *Pediatrics* 123(6):1599–1605.

Link: [Drinking Water From Private Wells and Risks to Children \(aappublications.org\)](#)

Drinking water for approximately one sixth of US households is obtained from private wells. These wells can become contaminated by pollutant chemicals or pathogenic organisms and cause illness. Although the US Environmental Protection Agency and all states offer guidance for construction, maintenance, and testing of private wells, there is little regulation. This policy statement provides recommendations for inspection, testing, and remediation for wells providing drinking water for children.

4. American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Holding Time Calculations for Feed Ingredients to Mitigate Virus Transmission. February 4, 2020
Link: [Holding-Time-Calculations-for-Feed-Ingredients-to-Mitigate-Virus-Transmission](#)
Imported feedstuffs are not all manufactured and handled in the same way. Consideration should be given to the conditions of manufacture and how these products are handled and transported. Feedstuffs that are manufactured, sealed, handled and shipped under biosecure conditions that produce a product free of pathogens and prevents post-processing contamination are not a risk to animal health. If a feedstuff is not produced under biosecure conditions, is produced under unknown conditions or is not sealed to prevent post-processing contamination, a holding time gives an opportunity for viral contaminants to naturally degrade and to not be infectious.
5. American Association of Swine Veterinarians. On-Farm Euthanasia of Swine. 2016 #04970-11/16
Link: [2016EuthRec-EN.pdf \(aasv.org\)](#)
Euthanasia is the humane process whereby the pig is rendered insensible, with minimal pain and distress, until death. For the euthanasia process or method to be considered humane, it must be quick, effective and reliable. Key elements for determining if a method is humane include: • minimal pain and distress to the pig during administration, • rapid loss of consciousness, • death is achieved quickly and consistently. This brochure provides practical recommendations for the on-farm euthanasia of swine. It also highlights euthanasia methods that have been shown to meet the definition for humane euthanasia based on the available scientific literature. However, this list may not be all-inclusive. Other options may be used as long as they meet the definition and key elements for euthanasia discussed above.
6. American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Swine Disease Manual - Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome
Link: [Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome \(PRRS\)](#)
In some operations, it may be economically feasible to depopulate, clean and disinfect the facilities and, after a few weeks, repopulate with stock free of PRRS and other major diseases. Herd closure for at least 200 days has also been used as another means to stabilize a breeding herd without depopulating. Most breeding stock companies today provide PRRS-free seed stock which was once a major limitation. Before embarking on this strategy, one should honestly assess risk factors for re-infection of the herd as well as the level of biosecurity that can be maintained by the producer. Herds located in swine-dense areas are at great risk for re-infection.
7. American Public Health Association. Precautionary Moratorium on New and Expanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. November 5, 2019. Policy Number: 20194
Link: [Precautionary Moratorium on New and Expanding CAFOs \(apha.org\)](#)
These operations function with the high throughput and rapid turnover of an industrialized system. The enormous accumulation of manure and other untreated waste is often stored and disposed of in a manner that pollutes the air, surface, and groundwater, posing risks to the environment and human health, particularly for CAFO workers and nearby residents. This policy statement calls for a moratorium on the establishment of new CAFOs and expansion of existing CAFOs until regulation and enforcement conditions are in place to adequately protect the public's health.
8. American Veterinarian Medical Association. *Avian influenza virus type A (H5N1) in U.S. dairy cattle* Accessed January 29, 2025
Link: [Avian influenza virus type A \(H5N1\) in U.S. dairy cattle](#)
While avian influenza virus type A (H5N1) is associated with high morbidity and mortality in birds ("highly pathogenic"), this hasn't been the case for dairy cattle. Most affected animals

reportedly recover with supportive treatment, and the mortality/culling rate has been low at 2% or less on average.

9. American Veterinarian Medical Association. *Novel bird flu strain continues to threaten animal, public health* Accessed January 29, 2025
Link: [Novel bird flu strain continues to threaten animal, public health](#)
As the epizootic of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, more specifically avian influenza type A H5N1) spreading globally approaches its fourth year, animal and public health officials are monitoring how quickly a new variant of the H5N1 virus—the clade 2.3.4.4b viruses—can jump to new animals, including people.
10. Arora, K. General Guidelines on Composting of HPAI Infected Carcasses. *Iowa State Extension Store*. July 2017.
Link: [General Guidelines on Composting of HPAI Infected Carcasses \(iastate.edu\)](#)
Containment of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a critical step which must be properly performed to ensure human and animal safety. This publication discusses how to prepare to contain a potential outbreak and what should be done to safely contain it.
11. Baykov B, Stoyanov M. Microbial air pollution caused by intensive broiler chicken breeding. *FEMS Microbiol Ecol*. 1999;29(4):389-392.
Link: <https://academic.oup.com/femsec/article/29/4/389/527380/Microbial-air-pollution-caused-by-intensive-broiler-breeding-operations>
This study examined the extent of microbial atmospheric pollution caused by industrial broiler breeding operations and found that as birds aged, microbial numbers increased in the indoor air and were spread into the environment to a greater degree. The study also found that microorganisms could be spread by air flow up to 3000 meters from the production buildings.
12. Brender JD, Weyer PJ, Romitti PA, et al. Prenatal nitrate intake from drinking water and selected birth defects in offspring of participants in the national birth defects prevention study. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2013;121(9):1083-1089.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23771435>
The relationship between prenatal exposure to nitrates in drinking water and birth defects was examined in this study. The study concluded that higher maternal water nitrate consumption was associated with birth defects, including spina bifida, limb deficiency, cleft palate, and cleft lip.
13. Broom, DM. (2003) Causes of Poor Welfare in Large Animals During Transport. *Veterinary research communications*, 27 Suppl 1, 515–518.
Link: [Causes of poor welfare in animal transport \(nih.gov\)](#)
The welfare of animals during transport should be assessed using a range of behavioral, physiological and carcass quality measures. In addition, health is an important part of welfare so the extent of any disease, injury or mortality resulting from, or exacerbated by, transport should be measured. Many of the indicators are measures of stress in that they involve long-term adverse effects on the individual. Key factors affecting the welfare of animals during handling and transport which are discussed are: attitudes to animals and the need for training of staff; methods of payment of staff; laws and retailers' codes; genetics, especially selection for high productivity; rearing conditions and experience; the mixing of animals from different social groups; handling procedures: driving methods; stocking density; increased susceptibility to disease and increased spread of disease.
14. Brumm, M. Patterns of Drinking Use in Pork Production Facilities. (2006) *Nebraska Swine Reports*. 221.

Link: [Patterns of Drinking Water Use in Pork Production Facilities](#)

The amount of drinking water needed daily by the pig depends on numerous influences, including temperature, diet, stage of production and health. Daily drinking water needs for pigs range from less than 0.5 gal/pig/day for newly weaned pigs to greater than 1.5 gal/pig/day for grow-finish pigs. Water requirements for breeding swine range from 3 to 4 gal/day for gestating females and 6 gal/day for lactating swine.

15. Burch, Tucker, et al. Fate and seasonality of antimicrobial resistance genes during full-scale anaerobic digestion of cattle manure across seven livestock production facilities. *J Environ Qual*. 2022 May; 51(3):352-363.

Link: [Fate and seasonality of antimicrobial resistance genes during full-scale anaerobic digestion...](#)

Anaerobic digestion has been suggested as an intervention to attenuate antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) in livestock manure but supporting data have typically been collected at laboratory scale. Few studies have quantified ARG fate during full-scale digestion of livestock manure. We sampled untreated manure and digestate from seven full-scale mesophilic dairy manure digesters to assess ARG fate through each system. Results suggest that mesophilic anaerobic digestion may be limited as an intervention for ARGs in livestock manure and emphasize the need for multiple farm-level interventions to attenuate antibiotic resistance.

16. Burgos J, Ellington B, Varela M. Presence of multidrug-resistant enteric bacteria in dairy farm topsoil. *J Dairy Sci*. 2005;88(4):1391-1398.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15778307>

In addition to human and veterinary medicine, antibiotics are extensively used in agricultural settings, such as for treatment of infections, growth enhancement, and prophylaxis in food animals, leading to selection of drug and multidrug-resistant bacteria. To help circumvent the problem of bacterial antibiotic resistance, it is first necessary to understand the scope of the problem. However, it is not fully understood how widespread antibiotic-resistant bacteria are in agricultural settings. The lack of such surveillance data is especially evident in dairy farm environments, such as soil. It is also unknown to what extent various physiological modulators, such as salicylate, a component of aspirin and known model modulator of multiple antibiotic resistance (*mar*) genes, influence bacterial multi-drug resistance. We isolated and identified enteric soil bacteria from local dairy farms within Roosevelt County, NM, determined the resistance profiles to antibiotics associated with *mar*, such as chloramphenicol, nalidixic acid, penicillin G, and tetracycline. We then purified and characterized plasmid DNA and detected *mar* phenotypic activity. The minimal inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of antibiotics for the isolates ranged from 6 to >50 microg/mL for chloramphenicol, 2 to 8 microg/mL for nalidixic acid, 25 to >300 microg/mL for penicillin G, and 1 to >80 microg/mL for tetracycline. On the other hand, many of the isolates had significantly enhanced MIC for the same antibiotics in the presence of 5 mM salicylate. Plasmid DNA extracted from 12 randomly chosen isolates ranged in size from 6 to 12.5 kb and, in several cases, conferred resistance to chloramphenicol and penicillin G. It is concluded that enteric bacteria from dairy farm topsoil are multidrug resistant and harbor antibiotic-resistance plasmids. A role for dairy topsoil in zoonoses is suggested, implicating this environment as a reservoir for development of bacterial resistance against clinically relevant antibiotics.

17. Burkholder J, Libra B, Weyer P, et al. Impacts of waste from concentrated animal feeding operations on water quality. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2007:308-312.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.88>

This work-group, part of the Conference on Environmental Health Impacts of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Anticipating Hazards—Searching for Solutions, found that current

and generally accepted livestock waste management practices do not protect water resources from the pathogens, pharmaceuticals and excessive nutrients found in animal waste. As concern about the potential human and environmental health impact of long-term exposure to contaminated water grows, there is greater need for rigorous monitoring of CAFOs, improved understanding of the major toxicants affecting human and environmental health, and a system to enforce these practices.

18. Cambra-Lopez M, Aarnink AJ, Zhao Y, Calvet S, Tones AG. Airborne particulate matter from livestock production systems: A review of an air pollution problem. *Environmental Pollution*. 2010;158(1):1-17.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19656601>

This paper reviews research on particulate matter inside and emitted from livestock production system and reports that livestock housing is an important source of particulate matter emissions. The paper recommends additional research to characterize and control particulate matter in livestock houses, as high concentrations such as those found in livestock houses can threaten the environment and the health and welfare of humans and animals.

19. Carmichael WW. Health effects of toxin-producing cyanobacteria: "The CyanoHABs". *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal*. 2001;7(5):1393-1407.

Link: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/20018091095087>

Current understandings of cyanobacteria toxin poisonings (CTPs) and their risk to human health were reviewed in this paper. CTPs occur in fresh and brackish waters throughout the world as a result of eutrophication and climate change. Cyanobacteria toxins are responsible for acute lethal, acute, chronic and sub-chronic poisonings of wild and domestic animals and humans.

These poisonings result in respiratory and allergic reactions, gastrointestinal disturbances, acute hepatotoxicosis and peracute neurotoxicosis.

20. Casey JA, Curriero FC, Cosgrove SE, Nachman KE, Schwartz BS. High-density livestock operations, crop field application of manure, and risk of community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection in Pennsylvania. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2013;173(21):1980-1990.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24043228>

Nearly 80% of antibiotics in the United States are sold for use in livestock feeds. The manure produced by these animals contains antibiotic-resistant bacteria, resistance genes, and antibiotics and is subsequently applied to crop fields, where it may put community members at risk for antibiotic-resistant infections. The objective of this study was to assess the association between individual exposure to swine and dairy/veal industrial agriculture and risk of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infection. This study was a population-based, nested case-control study of primary care patients from a single health care system in Pennsylvania from 2005 to 2010. Incident MRSA cases were identified using electronic health records, classified as community-associated MRSA or health care—associated MRSA, and frequency matched to randomly selected controls and patients with skin and soft-tissue infection. Nutrient management plans were used to create 2 exposure variables: seasonal crop field manure application and number of livestock animals at the operation. In a sub-study, we collected 200 isolates from patients stratified by location of diagnosis and proximity to livestock operations. The study measured community-associated MRSA, health care—associated MRSA, and skin and soft-tissue infection status (with no history of MRSA) compared with controls. From a total population of 446,480 patients, 1,539 community-associated MRSA, 1335 health care-associated MRSA, 2895 skin and soft-tissue infection cases, and 2914 controls were included. After adjustment for MRSA risk factors, the highest quartile of swine crop field exposure was significantly associated with community-associated MRSA, health care-associated MRSA, and skin and soft-tissue infection case status (adjusted odds ratios, 1.38 [95%

CI, 1.13-1.69], 1.30 [95% CI, 1.05-1.61], and 1.37 [95% CI, 1.18-1.60], respectively); and there was a trend of increasing odds across quartiles for each outcome ($P \leq .01$ for trend in all comparisons). There were similar but weaker associations of swine operations with community-associated MRSA and skin and soft-tissue infection. Molecular testing of 200 isolates identified 31 unique *spa* types, none of which corresponded to CC398 (clonal complex 398), but some have been previously found in swine. Proximity to swine manure application to crop fields and livestock operations each was associated with MRSA and skin and soft-tissue infection. These findings contribute to the growing concern about the potential public health impacts of high-density livestock production.

21. Castro, Victor S. Fires in Animal Housing Facilities. *Fire Protection Research Foundation* July 2022

Link: [Fires in Animal Housing Facilities](#)

NFPA 150, Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code, establishes life and safety requirements for both humans and animals in all types of animal housing facilities where animals are kept for any purpose. The Technical Committee on Animal Housing is responsible for developing the language in the standard. Their study identified a lack of a single database of fire events in animal housing facilities, which would show the numerous fires that have occurred and their impacts to the animal industry. This study also shows an opportunity to create outreach programs and fire protection training to better educate animal housing facility owners and staff. Finally, the study recommends local government adopt ordinances based on NFPA 150.

22. Centro del los Derechos Del Migrante. Recruitment Revealed: Fundamental Flaws in the H-2 Temporary Worker Program and Recommendations for Change. 2018

Link: [Recruitment Revealed](#)

This report reveals the reality of international labor recruitment for low-wage, temporary jobs in the United States, examining recruitment in Mexico, home to the largest number of temporary migrants who labor under H-2 visas in the U.S. The findings are based on data gathered by Centro de los Derechos Migrante through a groundbreaking survey and lengthy interviews of hundreds of H-2 workers.

23. Chambers, PG, Grandin, T, et.al. *Guidelines for humane handling, transport, and slaughter of livestock*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. RAP Publication 2001/4

Link: <https://www.fao.org/3/x6909e/x6909e.pdf>

Guidelines with several specifics on handling, design of pens and chutes, and good animal welfare standards.

24. Chen, C-T, Crespi, et. al. Long-run impacts of trade shocks and export competitiveness: Evidence from the U.S. BSE event. *Agricultural Economics*. 2020; 51: 941– 957.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12602>

Examines how comparative advantages of major beef exporters changed following the 2003 bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) outbreak, which significantly disrupted the U.S. beef trade until approximately 2007. Using longitudinal data on beef export values and constructed revealed comparative advantage measures, we show that while some measures of the long-run impacts of BSE on U.S. beef export competitiveness have returned to pre-2003 levels, the U.S.'s comparative advantage has not. Long-term trade competitiveness may not simply return to normal even after a short-term disruption.

25. Chiu H, Tsai S, Yang C. Nitrate in drinking water and risk of death from bladder cancer: An ecological case-control study in Taiwan. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A*. 2007;70(12):1000-1004.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17497410>
The association between bladder cancer mortality and nitrate exposure from Taiwan drinking water was investigated in this study. The results showed a significant positive relationship between the levels of nitrates in the drinking water and the risk of death from bladder cancer, indicating that environmental exposure to nitrates plays a role in the development of bladder cancer.
26. Coffey, Brian et al., The Economic Impact of BSE on the U.S. Beef Industry: Product Value Losses, Regulatory Costs, and Consumer Reactions, Kansas State University, April 2000
Link: [Economic Impact of BSE](#)
As BSE spread outside Europe to Japan and, in mid-2003, to Canada, USDA enhanced its surveillance efforts and increased funding for BSE related research. Regulatory efforts to counter the disease were further strengthened when, on December 23, 2003, it was reported that a dairy cow in Washington state had tested positive. Within days of the announcement, 53 countries banned imports of U.S. cattle and beef products. In 2003, U.S. beef exports were valued at \$3.95 billion and accounted for 9.6 percent of U.S. commercial beef production. The import bans caused U.S. beef exports to plummet and exports for the year declined 82 percent below 2003's level.
27. Cordua, William. Town of Rock Elm, Rock Elm Disturbance and Groundwater Question. Email December 4, 2024
Link: [Rock Elm Disturbance and Groundwater Email.pdf](#)
28. Cordua, William. Rock Elm Asteroid Crater Site of Speculation, Study, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, September 13, 2002
Link: https://web.archive.org/web/20120205035616/http://www2.uwrf.edu/news_bureau/0913022.html
29. Akdeniz, N. A review of the animal disease outbreaks and biosecure animal mortality composting systems. *Waste Management*, Volume 90, 2019, Pages 121-131,
Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2019.04.047>
Despite the development of new vaccines and the application of rigorous biosecurity measures, animal diseases pose a continuing threat to animal health, food safety, national economy, and the environment. Intense livestock production, increased travel, and changing climate have increased the risk of catastrophic animal losses due to infectious diseases. In the event of an outbreak, it is essential to properly manage the infected animals to prevent the spread of diseases. The most common disposal methods used during a disease outbreak include burial, landfilling, incineration and composting. Biosecurity, transportation logistics, public perception, and environmental concerns limit the use of some of these methods. During a disease outbreak, the large number of mortalities often exceeds the capacity of local rendering plants and landfills. Transporting mortalities to disposal and incineration facilities outside the production operation introduces biosecurity risks. Burying mortalities is limited by the size and availability of suitable sites and it has the risk of pathogen survival and contamination of groundwater and soil. Portable incinerators are expensive and have the potential to aerosolize infectious particles. Composting, on the other hand, has been recognized as a biosecure disposal method. Although composting has been shown to eliminate HPAI, FMD, PED, and PRRS viruses, no studies have been reported regarding African swine fever. More studies are needed to show the biosecurity of composting in

eliminating infectious diseases and especially microbial DNA, which is often referred to be the reason for reoccurring diseases.

30. Costa, D. Employers increase their profits and put downward pressure on wages and labor standards by exploiting migrant workers. *Economic Policy Institute*, Aug 27, 2019.

Link: [Employers and Migrant Workers](#)

Our current immigration system isn't working for workers. Instead, it benefits low-road employers who exploit the immigration status of unauthorized immigrants and authorized guestworkers through a legal framework that puts downward pressure on wages and leaves migrant workers powerless to enforce their labor rights and hold employers accountable. This hurts both migrants and the U.S. workers—citizens and lawful permanent residents—who work alongside them. Congress needs to reform the U.S. immigration system by granting lawful permanent resident status to the current unauthorized immigrant population; revising temporary work visa program rules; enacting new protections from retaliation for migrant workers; appropriating more funding for labor standards enforcement; and permanently banning employers from hiring through temporary work visa programs if they have violated immigration or labor laws.

31. Cullens, F. Water Use on Dairy Farms. Michigan State University Extension. October 18, 2011.

Link: [Water use on dairy farms - MSU Extension](#)

A reliable, high quality water supply is essential to dairy farms. Water is used for animal consumption, milk cooling, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, cow cooling, irrigating crops, producing value added products, moving manure and cleaning the barns via flush systems.

32. Dee SA, Deen J. Evaluation of an industry-based sanitation protocol for transport vehicles contaminated with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus. *J Swine Health Prod.* 2006;14(3):126-132.

Link: [Evaluation of an industry-based sanitation protocol](#)

Contaminated livestock trailers certainly represent a significant risk for movement of the virus between and within herds. Historically, this disease risk has been effectively mitigated in some cases with the use of trailer washing, disinfection protocols, and thermo-assisted drying and decontamination (TADD) systems. This paper summarizes four studies that evaluated individual aspects of trailer sanitation programs including TADD and multiple disinfectants alone, as well several protocols that include washing, disinfection and TADD. To test a protocol, using conditions found on commercial swine production units, for sanitation of 1:150 scale models of commercial transport vehicles contaminated with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV). High-pressure washing of transport trailers, followed by 90 to 120 minutes exposure to either modified potassium monopersulfate or quaternary ammonium chloride disinfectants applied with a hydrofoamer is likely to eliminate residual infectious PRRSV.

33. Dee, SA, Bauermann, FV, Niederwerder, et. al (2018). Survival of viral pathogens in animal feed ingredients under transboundary shipping models. *PloS one*, 13(3), e0194509.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0194509>

The goal of this study was to evaluate survival of important viral pathogens of livestock in animal feed ingredients imported daily into the United States under simulated transboundary conditions. Eleven viruses were selected based on global significance and impact to the livestock industry, including Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV), Classical Swine Fever Virus (CSFV) and African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV). Surrogate viruses with similar genetic and physical properties were used for 6 viruses. Results support published data on transboundary risk of PEDV in feed, demonstrate survival of certain viruses in specific feed ingredients ("high-risk

combinations") under conditions simulating transport between continents and provide further evidence that contaminated feed ingredients may represent a risk for transport of pathogens at domestic and global levels.

34. Deschuyffeleer, T. P., Tyberghien, L. F., Dickx, V. L., Geens, T., Saelen, J. M., Vanrompay, D. C., & Braeckman, L. A. (2012). Risk assessment and management of Chlamydia psittaci in poultry processing plants. *The Annals of occupational hygiene*, 56(3), 340–349.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1093/annhyg/mer102>

Chlamydia psittaci causes respiratory disease in poultry and can be transmitted to humans. Historical outbreaks of psittacosis in poultry workers indicated the need for higher awareness and an efficient risk assessment and management. This group reviewed relevant previous research, practical guidelines, and European directives. Subsequently, basic suggestions were made on how to assess and manage the risk of psittacosis in poultry processing plants based on a classical four-step approach. Collective and personal protective measures as well as the role of occupational medicine are described. Despite the finding that exposure is found in every branch, abattoir workstations seem to be associated with the highest prevalence of psittacosis. Complete eradication is difficult to achieve. Ventilation, cleaning, hand hygiene, and personal protective equipment are the most important protective measures to limit and control exposure to C. psittaci. Adequate information, communication, and health surveillance belong to the responsibilities of the occupational physician. Future challenges lay in the rigorous reporting of infections in both poultry and poultry workers and in the development of an avian and human vaccine.

35. Donham KJ, Wing S, Osterberg D, et al. Community health and socioeconomic issues surrounding concentrated animal feeding operations. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2007:317-320.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1817697/>

The Workgroup on Community and Socioeconomic Issues examined the impacts of CAFOs on the health of rural communities, using the World Health Organization's definition of health, "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." The workgroup recommended more stringent CAFO permitting, limiting animal density per watershed, improving local control, mandating environmental impact statements and considering bonding for manure storage basins.

36. D'Onofrio, Sarah. Greenwashing "Brown Gold": A Critical Analysis of Anaerobic Digesters and California's Neoliberal Environmental Programs in Wisconsin's Dairyland. *University of Tennessee August 2023 PhD dissertation*

Link: ["Brown Gold": A Critical Analysis of Anaerobic Digesters...](#)

In the state of Wisconsin, which is the second largest dairy producing state in the US behind California, digesters that were used in state sponsored market based programs decades before are now being repurposed to spur on what the dairy industry is calling "a manure gold rush" for programs in California. But if states have been encouraged since the 1980s to "think like a market," who is thinking like a state? In California's marketized environmental program, markets themselves have stepped in as regulator. The outcome of this arrangement is a system that marches forward in the name of climate progress, yet no one can be held accountable for its failures, particularly related to environmental injustice.

37. Dyal JW, Grant MP, Broadwater K, et al. COVID-19 Among Workers in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities — 19 States, April 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020:557-561

Link: [COVID-19 Among Workers in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6909a1.htm)

Congregate work and residential locations are at increased risk for infectious disease transmission including respiratory illness outbreaks. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease

2019 (COVID-19), is primarily spread person to person through respiratory droplets. Nationwide, the meat and poultry processing industry, an essential component of the U.S. food infrastructure, employs approximately 500,000 persons, many of whom work in proximity to other workers (1). Because of reports of initial cases of COVID-19, in some meat processing facilities, states were asked to provide aggregated data concerning the number of meat and poultry processing facilities affected by COVID-19 and the number of workers with COVID-19 in these facilities, including COVID-19–related deaths. Qualitative data gathered by CDC during on-site and remote assessments were analyzed and summarized. During April 9–27, aggregate data on COVID-19 cases among 115 meat or poultry processing facilities in 19 states were reported to CDC.

38. Eastridge, M. Water Usage on Dairy Farms. *Buckeye Dairy News Ohio State University Extension* Volume 8 Issue 1.

Link: [Water Usage on Dairy Farms \(osu.edu\)](https://www.osu.edu/extension/dairy/water-usage-on-dairy-farms)

As we always say "water is the most important nutrient", but all too often it is the most ignored nutrient when we are thinking of nutrition and animal performance. Therefore, we must constantly monitor water quality and quantity on dairy farms for animal health and performance and for protecting the environment.

39. Evans, Thomas, et al. Preliminary Geology of the Buried Bedrock Surface, Pierce County, Wisconsin. *Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey Open-File Report 2007-08*

Link: <https://wgnhs.wisc.edu/pubshare/WOFR2007-08.pdf>

The bedrock surface in Pierce County is typically overlain by Quaternary sediment, including 0 to several tens of feet of glacial sediment over much of the upland areas; several tens of feet to 100 ft of alluvium, colluvium, and glaciofluvial sediment in smaller stream and river valleys; and more than 300 ft of glaciofluvial sediment in the Mississippi River Valley and its larger tributaries.

40. Filice GA, Nyman JA, Lexau C, et al. Excess costs and utilization associated with methicillin resistance for patients with *Staphylococcus aureus* infection. *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*. 2010;31(04):365-373.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20184420>

Healthcare costs of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) infections and methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA) were compared in this study. MRSA infections were found to be independently associated with higher costs, more comorbidities, and higher likelihood of death than MSSA infections.

41. Foltz JD, Jackson-Smith D, Chen L. Do purchasing patterns differ between large and small dairy farms? Econometric evidence from three Wisconsin communities. *Agric Resour Econ*. Rev. 2002;31(1):28–38

Link: [Do Purchasing Patterns Differ Between Large and Small Dairy Farms? \(umn.edu\)](https://www.umn.edu/research/publications/do-purchasing-patterns-differ-between-large-and-small-dairy-farms)

Using farm data from three dairy-dependent communities in Wisconsin, this study addresses the question: Do small farms spend more locally than large farms? The work develops a theoretical model of farm cost functions with transaction costs varying between local and distant input sources. This model is then tested econometrically, describing farm costs and where they were spent as a function of transaction/search costs and farm characteristics. The results suggest that scale does matter to farm spending patterns.

42. Fox, M. A., et. al. (2016). Meeting the public health challenge of protecting private wells: Proceedings and recommendations from an expert panel workshop. *Science of the Total Environment*, 554-555, 113-118.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.02.128>

Private wells serving fewer than 25 people are federally unregulated, and their users may be exposed to naturally occurring agents of concern. This panel assessed current conditions of ground water as a source for private wells, identified emerging threats, critical gaps in knowledge, and public health needs, and recommended strategies to guide future activities to ensure the safety of private drinking water wells.

43. Fry JP, Laestadius LI, Grechis C, Nachman KE, Neff RA. Investigating the role of state permitting and agriculture agencies in addressing public health concerns related to industrial food animal production. *PloS one*. 2014;9(2):e89870.
Link: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0089870>
This study explored how state permitting and agriculture agencies respond to environmental public health concerns regarding industrial food animal production through qualitative interviews with state agency staff in seven states. The study found that the agencies were unable to adequately address these environmental public health concerns due to narrow regulations, limited resources and a lack of public health expertise. When these constraints are considered alongside those faced by health departments, significant gaps in the ability to respond to and prevent public health concerns and issues are revealed.
44. Gomes A, Quinteiro-Filho W, Ribeiro A, et al. Overcrowding stress decreases macrophage activity and increases *Salmonella* enteritidis invasion in broiler chickens. *Avian Pathol*. 2014;43(1):82-90.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24350836>
This study sought to characterize the immunosuppressive effect of overcrowding stress in broiler chickens. Overcrowding was found to compromise the intestinal immune barrier and integrity of the small intestine, resulting in inflammation and decreased nutrient absorption. The study concludes that animal welfare measures and avoiding overcrowding stress factors in maintaining poultry health and decreased susceptibility to *Salmonella* infection.
45. Graham JP, Leibler JH, Price LB, Otte JM, Pfeiffer DU, Tiensin T, et al. The animal-human interface and infectious disease in industrial food animal production: rethinking biosecurity and biocontainment. *Public Health Rep*. 2008;123(3):282-99.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19006971>
Understanding interactions between animals and humans is critical in preventing outbreaks of zoonotic disease. This is particularly important for avian influenza. Food animal production has been transformed since the 1918 influenza pandemic. Poultry and swine production have changed from small-scale methods to industrial-scale operations. There is substantial evidence of pathogen movement between and among these industrial facilities, release to the external environment, and exposure to farm workers, which challenges the assumption that modern poultry production is more biosecure and biocontained as compared with backyard or small holder operations in preventing introduction and release of pathogens. An analysis of data from the Thai government investigation in 2004 indicates that the odds of H5N1 outbreaks and infections were significantly higher in large-scale commercial poultry operations as compared with backyard flocks. These data suggest that successful strategies to prevent or mitigate the emergence of pandemic avian influenza must consider risk factors specific to modern industrialized food animal production.
46. Graham JP, Evans SL, Price LB, Silbergeld EK. Fate of antimicrobial-resistant enterococci and staphylococci and resistance determinants in stored poultry litter. *Environ Res*. 2009;109(6):682-689.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19541298>

This study examined the survival of anti-microbial resistant enterococci and staphylococci and resistance genes in poultry litter to better understand how land application of poultry litter can affect the surrounding population's environment. The study found that poultry litter storage practices do not eliminate drug-resistant bacterial strains, thus allowing the spread of these drug-resistant pathogens into and through the environment via land application of poultry litter.

47. Graham JP, Price LB, Evans SL, Graczyk TK, Silbergeld EK. Antibiotic resistant enterococci and staphylococci isolated from flies collected near confined poultry feeding operations. *Sci Total Environ.* 2009;407(8):2701-2710.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19157515>

This study examined if and how antibiotic resistant bacteria are transferred from poultry operations to nearby communities, and found that flies caught near poultry operations carried the same drug-resistant pathogens as those found in poultry litter. The study concludes that flies may be an important vector in the spread of drug resistant bacteria from poultry operations and may increase human exposure to these resistant pathogens.

48. Graham JP, Nachman KE. Managing waste from confined animal feeding operations in the United States: The need for sanitary reform. *Journal of Water and Health.* 2010;8(4):646-670.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20705978>

Trends affecting food animal waste production, risks associated with food-animal wastes, and differences between food-animal waste and human biosolid management practices were examined in this study. The study found that no standards exist for the 335 million tons of food animal waste applied to land in the US, while human biosolids, which make up just 1% of all land-applied wastes, are subject to standards. Hormones, arsenicals, high nutrient loads, antibiotics, and pathogens, including antibiotic-resistant pathogens, are often present in animal waste. The authors made recommendations for improving management of food-animal waste through existing and new policies.

49. Guberti, V., Khomenko, S., Masiulis, M. & Kerba S. 2019. African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity. *FAO Animal Production and Health Manual No. 22.* Rome, FAO, OIE and EC.

Link: [en-manual-asfinwildboar-2019-web.pdf\(oie.int\)](en-manual-asfinwildboar-2019-web.pdf(oie.int))

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating hemorrhagic viral disease of pigs, affecting domestic and wild pigs of all ages and sexes. The disease is the cause of major economic losses, threatens food security and safe trade, and challenges sustained swine production in affected countries. Since ASF emergence in Georgia in 2007, the disease has spread to many countries in Europe and in 2018 was detected in East Asia, where over 60 percent of global domestic pig inventories are found.

50. Gulis G, Czompolyova M, Cerhan JR. An ecologic study of nitrate in municipal drinking water and cancer incidence in Trnava district, Slovakia. *Environ Res.* 2002;88(3):182-187.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12051796>

This ecologic study was conducted to assess the association between nitrate levels in drinking water with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and cancers of the digestive and urinary tracts in an agricultural district. The study found is that a higher incidence of some cancers was associated with higher levels of nitrate in drinking water. The trend was found in women for overall cancer cases, stomach cancer, colorectal cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and in men for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and colorectal cancer.

51. Guthrie, T. Water Needs of Pigs. Michigan State Extension. May 2011
Link: [Water needs of pigs - MSU Extension](#)
How much water do pigs need? Pigs lose water through four routes: kidneys (urination), intestines (defecation), lungs (respiration) and some through evaporation (skin- sweat glands are largely dormant).
52. Harmon, J. Drip Cooling for Sows in Farrowing House. *Iowa State Extension Store*. October 2008
Link: [Drip Cooling of Sows in Farrowing House \(iastate.edu\)](#)
Research indicates that summer heat stress on sows can be reduced by using a system that continually drips water on the sow's shoulder in hot weather.
53. Heaney CD, et. al. Source tracking swine fecal waste in surface water proximal to swine concentrated animal feeding operations. *Sci Total Environ*. 2015;511:676-683.
Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969714017641>
The microbial quality of surface water proximal to swine CAFOs was investigated in this study to better understand the impact of CAFOs on the surrounding environment. The results demonstrate overall poor water quality in areas with a high density of swine CAFOs, with high fecal indicator bacteria concentrations in waters both up- and down-stream of CAFO lagoon waste land application sites. The swine-specific microbial source tracking markers used in the study were also shown to be useful for tracking off-site conveyance of swine fecal wastes and during rain events.
54. Heederik D, Sigsgaard T, Thorne PS, et al. Health effects of airborne exposures from concentrated animal feeding operations. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2007:298-302.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1817709/>
This report from a Conference on Environmental Health Impacts of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Anticipating Hazards —Searching for Solutions working group states that toxic gases, vapors and particles are emitted from CAFOs into the general environment, and that while these agents are known to be harmful to human health, there are few studies that explore the health risks of exposure to these agents for the people living near CAFOs. While there is evidence that psychophysiologic changes may result from exposure to malodors and that microbial exposures are related to deleterious respiratory health effects, the working group concluded that there is great need to study and evaluate the health effects of community exposure to these CAFO related air pollutants to better understand the impact of CAFOs on the health of community members and farm workers.
55. Heisler J, Glibert PM, Burkholder JM, et al. Eutrophication and harmful algal blooms: A scientific consensus. *Harmful Algae*. 2008;8(1):3-13.
Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1568988308001066>
The US EPA held a roundtable discussion to develop consensus among academic, federal and state agency representatives on the relationship between eutrophication and harmful algal blooms. Seven statements were adopted during the session, which include acknowledgement of the important role of nutrient pollution and degraded water quality in the development and persistence of many harmful algal blooms.
56. Holly, Michael A., et al. Greenhouse Gas and Ammonia Emissions from Digested and Separated Dairy Manure during Storage and after Land Application. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 239:410–19.
Link: [Ranking hazards pertaining to human health concerns from land application...](#)

Manure management at dairy production facilities, including anaerobic digestion (AD) and solid-liquid separation (SLS), has shown strong potential for the abatement of greenhouse gas (GHG) and ammonia (NH₃) emissions. However, previous study results are inconsistent and the combined effect of AD + SLS remains to be quantified. This study evaluated the effects of AD, SLS, and AD + SLS on GHG and NH₃ emissions during manure storage through land application over nine months.

57. Horta, Carmo, João Paulo Carneiro. 2021. Phosphorus Losses to Surface Runoff Waters After Application of Digestate to a Soil Over Fertilized with Phosphorus.” *Water, Air, & Soil Pollution* 232(10):439.

Link: [Phosphorus Losses to Surface Runoff Waters After Application of Digestate...](#)

Digestate can be used as agricultural fertilizers providing recycling nitrogen (N) and other nutrients for crop needs. It is still unclear the impact on phosphorus (P) losses to runoff waters of digestate as sources of N instead of inorganic N fertilizers in over fertilized soils. Therefore, the amount of digestate applied to soil must be calculated considering its N:P ratio in order to not exceed the crop P requirement.

58. Horton RA, Wing S, Marshall SW, Brownley KA. Malodor as a trigger of stress and negative mood in neighbors of industrial hog operations. *Am J Public Health*. 2009;99(S3):S610-S615.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19890165>

The association between malodor and air pollutants from nearby hog CAFOs and reported stress and negative mood was evaluated in this study to better understand the role of CAFOs in human health. The study found that malodor and air pollutants acted as environmental stressors and triggers of negative mood and recommended their inclusion in studies of the health impacts of environmental injustice.

59. Hribar C, Schultz M. Understanding concentrated animal feeding operations and their impact on communities. Bowling Green, OH: *National Association of Local Boards of Health*. 2010.

Link: https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/understanding_cafos_nalboh.pdf

The National Association of Local Boards of Health produced this report with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Environmental Health to assist local board of health members better understand their role in mitigating potential issues with CAFOs. The report concludes that large-scale industrial food animal production can cause numerous public health and environmental problems and should thus be monitored to prevent harm to surrounding communities. Suggested actions include passing ordinances and regulations, and increasing water and air quality monitoring and testing. The report also concludes that local boards of health, in collaboration with state and local agencies, are an appropriate body for instituting these actions due to the local nature of CAFO concerns and risks.

60. Hseu Z-Y, Chen Z-S. Experiences of Mass Pig Carcass Disposal Related to Groundwater Quality Monitoring in Taiwan. *Sustainability*. 2017; 9(1):46.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9010046>

Although burial is widely used to dispose of the large number of pig carcasses generated from FMD outbreaks, this disposal method has not undergone comprehensive scientific investigation. After the burial of culled pigs, dissolved components from carcass decomposition are slowly released into the external environment in the form of leachate, depending on the local environmental conditions. Nevertheless, the properties of groundwater, including total bacterial count, fecal coliform, *Salmonella* spp., nitrite-N, nitrate-N, ammonium-N, sulfate, NPOC, total oil, and TDS, are recognized as indicators of groundwater contamination resulting from the pig carcass burial during the FMD outbreak in Taiwan. Because very few studies have been

performed, there is not enough information on the characteristics of groundwater at the burial sites, duration of pig carcass decomposition, and effects of leachate on groundwater quality worldwide. Although information on the biological and chemical characteristics of leachate is gradually being accumulated from the limited number of studies, guidelines for groundwater quality control should be established for livestock carcass disposal in all modern countries.

61. Isakson, Hans R. An analysis of the impact of swine CAFOs on the value of nearby houses. *Agricultural Economics*. November 2008; pages 365-372.
Link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-0862.2008.00339.x>
The impact of 39 swine confined or concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in Black Hawk County, Iowa on 5,822 house sales is explored by introducing a new variable that more accurately captures the effects of prevailing winds, exploring potential adverse effects within concentric circles around each CAFO, managing selection bias, and incorporating spatial correlation into the error term of the empirical model. Large adverse impacts suffered by houses that are within 3 miles and directly downwind from a CAFO are found. Beyond 3 miles, CAFOs have a generally decreasing adverse impact on house prices as distance to the CAFO increases.
62. Jackson, L, Keeney, D, Gilbert, E. Swine manure management plans in North-Central Iowa: Nutrient loading and policy implications. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* April 2000, 55 (2) 205-212.
Link: [Swine manure management plans in North-Central Iowa...](#)
Public record were used to document the manure management practices of CAFOs housing 59,700 finishing hogs in a 1,554 ha area of Hamilton County, Iowa. Together, they generated an estimated 811,500 kg of nitrogen (N) each year, more than 70% of which volatilized into the atmosphere. CAFOs minimized the area required for applying manure by underestimating manure N content, projecting above average crop yields, and applying manure to soybeans. Some fields were claimed by more than one operator, and some field sizes were overestimated. Manure application based on crop demand for phosphorus would require 9,350 ha of cropland, compared to the 990 ha actually used. Several policy changes could alleviate the nutrient management problems...
63. Jahne MA, Rogers SW, Holsen TM, Grimberg SJ, Ramler IP. Emission and dispersion of bioaerosols from dairy manure application sites: Human health risk assessment. *Environ Sci Technol*. 2015; 49(16):9842-9849 .
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26158489>
Understanding interactions between animals and humans is critical in preventing outbreaks of zoonotic disease. This is particularly important for avian influenza. Food animal production has been transformed since the 1918 influenza pandemic. Poultry and swine production have changed from small-scale methods to industrial-scale operations. There is substantial evidence of pathogen movement between and among these industrial facilities, release to the external environment, and exposure to farm workers, which challenges the assumption that modern poultry production is more biosecure and biocontained as compared with backyard or small holder operations in preventing introduction and release of pathogens. An analysis of data from the Thai government investigation in 2004 indicates that the odds of H5N1 outbreaks and infections were significantly higher in large-scale commercial poultry operations as compared with backyard flocks. These data suggest that successful strategies to prevent or mitigate the emergence of pandemic avian influenza must consider risk factors specific to modern industrialized food animal production.

64. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America. January 2008
Link: [Putting-the-meat-on-the-table.pdf \(jhsph.edu\)](#)
One of the most serious unintended consequences of industrial food animal production is their growing public health threat. They can be harmful to workers, neighbors, and even those living far from the facilities through air and water pollution, and via the spread of disease. Workers in and neighbors experience high levels of respiratory problems. In addition, workers can serve as a bridging population, transmitting animal-borne diseases to a wider population. A lack of appropriate treatment of enormous amounts of waste may result in contamination of nearby waters with harmful levels of nutrients and toxins, as well as bacteria, fungi, and viruses.
65. Kemfert, Claudia, et al. Expansion of natural gas infrastructure puts energy transitions at risk. *Nat Energy* 7, 582–587 (2022).
Link: [Expansion of natural gas infrastructure puts energy transitions at risk](#)
Whether additional natural gas infrastructure is needed or would be detrimental to achieving climate protection goals is currently highly controversial. Here we combine five perspectives to argue why expansion of the natural gas infrastructure hinders a renewable energy future and is no bridge technology. We highlight that natural gas is a fossil fuel with a significantly underestimated climate impact that hinders decarbonization through carbon lock-in and stranded assets.
66. Kilpatrick, J. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Proximate Property Values. *The Appraiser Journal*, July 2001 Pages: 301-306.
Link: [Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Proximate Property Values \(state.ar.us\)](#)
Property located near a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) will be negatively impacted by this externality. The degree of impairment depends on proximity and property type and use. Properties with higher unimpaired values are probably impacted more than otherwise lower valued properties.
67. Kilpatrick, J. Animal Operations and Residential Property Values. *The Appraisal Journal*, Winter 2015: 41-50
Link: [animaloperationsJKwinter2015.pdf \(greenfieldadvisors.com\)](#)
Animal feeding and processing operations have grown more concentrated, with each facility handling much larger numbers of animals than traditional farms. The larger concentration of animals impacts the quality of surrounding air and water. In addition, the facilities impact the economic conditions of the communities where they are located. All of these factors can potentially affect the value of nearby houses. This article summarizes the current literature on how animal operations may affect the value of residential properties located near such facilities... Overall, the empirical evidence indicates that residences near Animal Operations are significantly affected, and data seems to suggest a valuation impact of up to 26% for nearby properties, depending on distance, wind direction, and other factors. Further, there has been some suggestion that properties immediately abutting an AO can be diminished as much as 88%. ... Not only are residences affected, but nearby small farms can be impacted by such factors as water degradation and insects.
68. Kikuti, M, Paploski IA, et al. Newly emerging PRRSV Lineage 1C variant nomenclature. *Swine Health Information Center* 2021
Link: [SHMP 2020|21.34 \[Lineage 1C variant nomenclature\].pdf](#)
Recent outbreaks caused by a highly similar PRRSV variant have been reported. As we move forward with investigations of these farm level outbreaks, we continue to confirm that these form a tight genetic cluster not similar (using a 98% nucleotide identity as a cutoff) to any other sequences from our dataset. Because this is such a specific variant and because the common

nomenclature used in the field has been restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) typing, a review of the limitations of different PRRSV classification systems is warranted.

69. Kim, J, Goldsmith P. Using Spatial Econometrics to Assess the Impact of Swine Production on Residential Property Values American Agricultural Economics Association, Denver, July, 2004
Link: [USING SPATIAL ECONOMETRICS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SWINE PRODUCTION ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VALUES \(umn.edu\)](#)
A spatial hedonic model is developed to assess monetary harm of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) on property values, taking explicitly spatial dependence in property values into account. Spatial autocorrelation was found in the form of spatial lag dependence, not spatial error dependence. When spatial lag dependence is explicitly taken into account, on average the impact is reduced by 18%. The magnitude of the spatial autoregressive parameter was about 0.2 for the 1-mile distance band, meaning one-fifth of the house value could be explained by the values of the neighboring houses.
70. Knobeloch L, Salna B, Hogan A, Postle J, Anderson H. Blue babies and nitrate-contaminated well water. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2000;108(7):675-678.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1638204/>
Two cases of infant methemoglobinemia associated with nitrate contaminated private well water were described in this paper. The case studies underscore the danger that this contaminated water poses to infants during the first six months of life, as well as the risks of long-term exposure, which include cancer, thyroid disease and diabetes. Steps to reduce nitrate inputs in groundwater and routine well water testing are recommended to protect health.
71. Knobeloch, L., Gorski, P., Christenson, M., & Anderson, H. (2013). Private drinking water quality in rural Wisconsin. *Journal of environmental health*, 75(7), 16–20.
Link: [Private drinking water quality in rural Wisconsin - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
Between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2010, Wisconsin health departments tested nearly 4,000 rural drinking water supplies for coliform bacteria, nitrate, fluoride, and 13 metals as part of a state-funded program that provides assistance to low-income families. The authors' review of laboratory findings found that 47% of these wells had an exceedance of one or more health-based water quality standards. Test results for iron and coliform bacteria exceeded safe limits in 21% and 18% of these wells, respectively. In addition, 10% of the water samples from these wells were high in nitrate and 11% had an elevated result for aluminum, arsenic, lead, manganese, or strontium. The high percentage of unsafe test results emphasizes the importance of water quality monitoring to the health of nearly one million families including 300,000 Wisconsin children whose drinking water comes from a privately owned well.
72. [Kravchenko J](#), [Rhew S](#), [Akushevich I](#), [Agarwal P](#), [Lyerly, HK](#): Mortality and Health Outcomes in North Carolina Communities Located in Close Proximity to Hog Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. *NC Med J* Sep-Oct 2018;79(5):278-288.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30228132>
Background Life expectancy in southeastern North Carolina communities located in an area with multiple concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) after adjusting for socioeconomic factors remains low. We hypothesized that poor health outcomes in this region may be due to converging demographic, socioeconomic, behavioral, and access-to-care factors and are influenced by the presence of hog CAFOs.
Methods We studied mortality, hospital admissions, and emergency department (ED) usage for health conditions potentially associated with hog CAFOs-anemia, kidney disease, infectious diseases, and low birth weight (LBW)-in North Carolina communities located in zip codes with hog CAFOs (Study group 1), in zip codes with > 215hogs/km² (Study group 2), and without hog CAFOs (Control group). We compared

cause-specific age-adjusted rates, the odds ratios (ORs) of events in multivariable analyses (adjusted for 6 co-factors), and the changes of ORs relative to the distance to hog CAFOs.

Results Residents from Study groups 1 and 2 had higher rates of all-cause mortality, infant mortality, mortality of patients with multimorbidity, mortality from anemia, kidney disease, tuberculosis, and septicemia, and higher rates of ED visits and hospital admissions for LBW infants than the residents in the Control group. In zip codes with > 215 hogs/km², mortality ORs were 1.50 for anemia ($P < 0.0001$), 1.31 for kidney disease ($P < 0.0001$), 2.30 for septicemia ($P < 0.0001$), and 2.22 for tuberculosis ($P = 0.0061$).

Limitations This study included a lack of individual measurements on environmental contaminants, biomarkers of exposures and co-factors, and differences in residential and occupational locations.

Conclusions North Carolina communities located near hog CAFOs had higher all-cause and infant mortality, mortality due to anemia, kidney disease, tuberculosis, septicemia, and higher hospital admissions/ED visits of LBW infants. Although not establishing causality with exposures from hog CAFOs, our findings support the need for future studies to determine factors that influence these outcomes, as well as the need to improve screening and diagnostic strategies for these diseases in North Carolina communities adjacent to hog CAFOs.

73. Lancet Editorial. H5N1: International failures and uncomfortable truths. *The Lancet, Volume 403, Issue 10443, 2455; June 8, 2024*

Link: [H5N1: International failures and uncomfortable truths](#)

An influenza pandemic has long topped the list of global threats to health, and avian influenza poses a particularly serious concern. H5N1 has infected over 800 people since its identification in 1996, with a mortality rate exceeding 50%. Since 2020, it has become endemic in bird populations, triggering an unparalleled animal pandemic, affecting at least 26 mammal species. There is nothing new in influenza strains evolving, shifting their epidemiological habits, and causing infections in people, although human-to-human transmission of H5N1 is rare. Nonetheless, although developments over the past 3 months may or may not signal the start of a global pandemic, they are at the very least a pressing and unwelcome reminder of the caprices of zoonotic influenza and our continued collective complacency about it.

74. Lawley, Chad. Hog Barns and Neighboring House Prices: Anticipation and Post-Establishment Impacts. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 2021 May; Vol. 103. Issue 3: 1099-1121

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12203>

The impact of large-scale hog barns on residential property values is at the forefront of local concerns about livestock development. In this article, I examine the impact of hog barns on house prices in an intensive production region of Manitoba, Canada. Timing of barn establishment and precise locations of houses and barns are used to gain a better understanding of the dynamic impacts of hog barns on house prices. I find that **houses within 2 km of a hog barn sell for 5.7% less** than similar houses located a little farther away from a barn. Quasi-myopic specifications indicate that **house prices fall by 6.2% up to three years prior** to barn establishment, consistent with market anticipation of the future location of hog barns. Accounting for anticipation increases the post-establishment discount to 8%, suggesting that ignoring anticipation of new barn establishment biases estimated post-establishment impacts downwards.

75. Lowe, J., Gauger, P., et.al. (2014). Role of Transportation in Spread of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus Infection, United States. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 20(5), 872-874.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2005.131628>

Harvest facilities serve as a source of contact between many swine farms with different health statuses. This study suggests that collection points, such as harvest facilities and livestock auction markets, can be an efficient source of contamination of transport vehicles that return to pig farms and likely played a role in rapidly disseminating PEDV across vast geographic regions shortly after PEDV was first identified in the United States. These data also suggest that the contamination of transport vehicles leaving the harvest facilities increased as the prevalence of PEDV-positive transport vehicles and virus load coming into the facility increased.

76. Ma W, Lager KM, Vincent AL, Janke BH, Gramer MR, Richt JA. The role of swine in the generation of novel influenza viruses. *Zoonoses Public Health*. 2009 Aug;56(6-7):326-37.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19486316>

The ecology of influenza A viruses is very complicated involving multiple host species and viral genes. Avian species have variable susceptibility to influenza A viruses with wild aquatic birds being the reservoir for this group of pathogens. Occasionally, influenza A viruses are transmitted to mammals from avian species, which can lead to the development of human pandemic strains by direct or indirect transmission to man. Because swine are also susceptible to infection with avian and human influenza viruses, genetic reassortment between these viruses and/or swine influenza viruses can occur. The potential to generate novel influenza viruses has resulted in swine being labelled 'mixing vessels'. The mixing vessel theory is one mechanism by which unique viruses can be transmitted from an avian reservoir to man. Although swine can generate novel influenza viruses capable of infecting man, at present, it is difficult to predict which viruses, if any, will cause a human pandemic. Clearly, the ecology of influenza A viruses is dynamic and can impact human health, companion animals, as well as the health of livestock and poultry for production of valuable protein commodities. For these reasons, influenza is, and will continue to be, a serious threat to the wellbeing of mankind.

77. Malecki, K., Schultz, A. A., Severtson, D. J., Anderson, H. A., & VanDerslice, J. A. (2017). Private-well stewardship among a general population based sample of private well-owners. *The Science of the total environment*, 601-602, 1533–1543.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.05.284>

Private well stewardship, including on-going testing and treatment, can ensure private well users are able to maintain source-water quality and prevent exposures to potentially harmful constituents in primary drinking water supplies. Unlike municipal water supplies, private well users are largely responsible for their own testing and treatment and well stewardship is often minimal. The importance of factors influencing regular testing, and treatment behaviors, including knowledge, risk perception, convenience and social norms, can vary by geography and population characteristics. The primary goals of this study were to survey a general statewide population of private well users in Wisconsin in order to quantify testing and treatment patterns and gather data on motivations and barriers to well stewardship. The majority of respondents reported using and drinking well water daily but only about one half of respondents reported testing their wells in the last ten years and of these, only 10% reported testing in the last 12 months. Bacteria and nitrates were contaminants most often tested; and, a private laboratory most often conducted testing. The most commonly reported water treatment was a water softener. Living in a particular geographic region and income were the most significant predictors of water testing and treatment. Iron and hardness, which influence water aesthetics but not always safety, were the most commonly reported water quality problems. Health concerns or perceived lack thereof were, respectively, motivators and barriers to testing and treatment. Limited knowledge of testing and treatment options were also identified as barriers. Results confirm previous findings that well stewardship practices are minimal and often context specific. Understanding the target

population's perceptions of risk and knowledge are important elements to consider in identifying vulnerable populations and developing education and policy efforts to improve well stewardship.

78. Manassaram DM, Backer LC, Moll DM. A review of nitrates in drinking water: Maternal exposure and adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2006.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1392223/>

The relationship between maternal exposure to nitrates through drinking water and adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes was reviewed in this study. Animal studies support the association between nitrate exposure and adverse reproductive effects, and some studies report an association between nitrates in drinking water and spontaneous abortion, intrauterine growth restriction and various birth defects, though a direct exposure-response relationship remains unclear and there is insufficient evidence to establish a causal relationship.

79. Mathewson P, Evans S, Byrnes T, Joos A, Naidenko O. *Environmental Monitoring Assessment* (2020) 192: 724. Link: Health & economic impact of nitrate pollution in drinking water: a Wisconsin case study

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-020-08652-0>

Nitrate contamination of drinking water, common in agricultural areas, increases the risk of certain cancers and impacts fetal development during pregnancy. Building on previously published methodology, this study evaluates nitrate-attributable disease cases and adverse birth outcomes as well as their economic costs for Wisconsin, USA. Nitrate is the most common contaminant in groundwater in Wisconsin. Two-thirds of the state's residents use groundwater as the primary source of drinking water. Here, we analyze nitrate exposure from drinking water in Wisconsin based on nitrate test results for community water systems for the period of 2010–2017 and a novel methodology for estimating nitrate exposure for the 28% of state's residents who use private wells. We estimate that annually, 111–298 combined cases of colorectal, ovarian, thyroid, bladder, and kidney cancer in Wisconsin may be due to nitrate contamination of drinking water. Each year, up to 137–149 cases of very low birth weight, 72–79 cases of very preterm birth, and two cases of neural tube defects could be due to nitrate exposure from drinking water. The direct medical cost estimates for all nitrate-attributable adverse health outcomes range between \$23 and \$80 million annually. Simulating targeted reductions in the counties with the highest current drinking water nitrate concentrations resulted in similar reductions in adverse health outcomes as statewide reduction efforts, up to nitrate reductions of 20%. Time trend analysis suggests that groundwater nitrate concentrations are overall increasing. Thus, nitrate contamination of water supplies in Wisconsin is a public health problem that needs to be addressed.

80. MacDonald G.J., et.al. (2017). Strategies to Improve Private-Well Water Quality: A North Carolina Perspective. *Environmental health perspectives*, 125(7), 076001.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP890>

Evidence suggests that the 44.5 million U.S. residents drawing their drinking water from private wells face higher risks of waterborne contaminant exposure than those served by regulated community water supplies. These recommendations could improve the health of North Carolinians facing elevated risks of exposure to waterborne contaminants because of their reliance on inadequately monitored and maintained private wells. Because many of the challenges in N.C. are common nationwide, these recommendations could serve as models for other states.

81. Markham, Lynn. et.al. (2022). Wisconsin Anaerobic Digester Operations: Agricultural Industry Case Studies. *Wisconsin: Center for Land Use Education, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point*
- Three case studies focus on digester operations in the Wisconsin agricultural industry. Digesters can be integral to the operation of large dairy farms, providing electricity and heat production for the farm, cow bedding, more versatile separated fertilizers, odor reduction, etc. In 2022, Wisconsin had no small dairy farms producing RNG. The dairy farms producing RNG ranged from 1,700 to 9,100 cows per farm. Farms located farther from injection points on natural gas pipelines may also be less likely to benefit from renewable natural gas production.
82. May, J. Estimating Water Usage on Michigan Swine Farms. Michigan State University Extension.
- Link: [Water Use for Swine Farms](#)
- Swine farms use well water for watering animals, cleaning facilities, animal cooling and in some instances for moving manure from the barn to the storage structure. Most pigs are raised in an all-in/all-out environments where one group of pigs, at the same stage of production, is moved into a location and stays there until that group is ready to move to the next location or on to slaughter. Between groups the facility is thoroughly cleaned by pre-soaking and/or pressure washing.
83. Milligan, W. R., Fuller, Z. L., Agarwal, I., Eisen, M. B., Przeworski, M., & Sella, G. (2021). Impact of essential workers in the context of social distancing for epidemic control. *PloS one*, 16(8), e0255680.
- Link: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0255680>
- New emerging infectious diseases are identified every year, a subset of which become global pandemics like COVID-19. In the case of COVID-19, many governments have responded to the ongoing pandemic by imposing social policies that restrict contacts outside of the home, resulting in a large fraction of the workforce either working from home or not working. To ensure essential services, however, a substantial number of workers are not subject to these limitations, and maintain many of their pre-intervention contacts. To explore how contacts among such "essential" workers, and between essential workers and the rest of the population, impact disease risk and the effectiveness of pandemic control, we evaluated several mathematical models of essential worker contacts within a standard epidemiology framework. The models were designed to correspond to key characteristics of cashiers, factory employees, and healthcare workers. We find in all three models that essential workers are at substantially elevated risk of infection compared to the rest of the population, as has been documented, and that increasing the numbers of essential workers necessitates the imposition of more stringent controls on contacts among the rest of the population to manage the pandemic. Importantly, however, different archetypes of essential workers differ in both their individual probability of infection and impact on the broader pandemic dynamics, highlighting the need to understand and target intervention for the specific risks faced by different groups of essential workers. These findings, especially in light of the massive human costs of the current COVID-19 pandemic, indicate that contingency plans for future epidemics should account for the impacts of essential workers on disease spread.
84. Mirabelli MC, Wing S, Marshall SW, Wilcosky TC. Asthma symptoms among adolescents who attend public schools that are located near confined swine feeding operations. *Pediatrics*. 2006;118(1):e66-75.

Link: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/1/e66/>

The relationship between exposure to airborne effluent from swine CAFOs and asthma symptoms in adolescents age 12-14 years old was assessed in this study to better understand the health effects of living near industrial swine facilities. The study found that estimated exposure to swine CAFO air-pollution was associated with wheezing symptoms in adolescents.

85. Morrow, WE, Ferket, PR. Alternative Methods for the Disposal of Swine Carcasses Factsheet. *North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC* Nov 2001. ANS01-815S

Link: https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/swine_extension/publications/factsheets/815s.pdf

There is probably no one best way to dispose of swine mortality carcasses. The optimum system for any particular farm location would need to be selected based on a number of criteria, including the current state of the protein/oil market, the biosecurity required, the distance to processing sites, the local public's perception, and the government regulations that apply to that location. The tonnage of dead pigs produced annually is substantial. A typical 5000 sow farrow-to-finish farming system (with mortality losses of 7%, 10%, 5%, 1%, and 1% in the sow, neonatal, nursery, growing, and finishing herd, respectively) will produce over 200,000 pounds of dead pigs annually. In many farming systems in the USA, actual losses may be much higher. The integration of swine agriculture has concentrated these mortality losses into smaller and smaller geographic areas.

86. Nag, Rajat, et al. Ranking hazards pertaining to human health concerns from land application of anaerobic digestate. *Science of the Total Environment* 710: 136297.

Link: [Ranking hazards pertaining to human health concerns from land application...](#)

Feedstocks used in digesters may contain many different pathogens which can survive the process and possibly be present in the final digestate. In this study, a semi-quantitative screening tool was developed to rank pathogens of potential health concern emerging from AD digestate. A scoring system was used to categorize likely inactivation during AD, hazard pathways and finally, severity as determined from reported human mortality rates, number of global human-deaths and infections per 100,000 populations.

87. Niederwerder MC, Stoian A, Rowland R, et al. Infectious Dose of African Swine Fever Virus When Consumed Naturally in Liquid or Feed. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2019;25(5):891-897

Link: [Infectious Dose of AFS virus when Consumed Naturally in Liquid or Feed](#)

Although plant-based feed has been identified as a potential route for African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) virus introduction onto swine farms, little is known about the risks for ASFV transmission in feed. We aimed to determine the minimum and median infectious doses of the Georgia 2007 strain of ASFV through oral exposure during natural drinking and feeding behaviors. The minimum infectious dose of ASFV in liquid was 10^0 50% tissue culture infectious dose (TCID₅₀), compared with 10^4 TCID₅₀ in feed. The median infectious dose was $10^{1.0}$ TCID₅₀ for liquid and $10^{6.8}$ TCID₅₀ for feed. Our findings demonstrate that ASFV Georgia 2007 can easily be transmitted orally, although higher doses are required for infection in plant-based feed.

88. Oun A, Kumar A, Harrigan T, Angelakis A, Xagorarakis I. nk: Effects of Biosolids and Manure Application on Microbial Water Quality in Rural Areas in the US. *Water* 2014;6:3701–3723.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.3390/w6123701>

Most of the waterborne disease outbreaks observed in North America are associated with rural drinking water systems. The majority of the reported waterborne outbreaks are related to microbial agents (parasites, bacteria and viruses). Rural areas are characterized by high livestock density and lack of advanced treatment systems for animal and human waste, and wastewater. Animal waste from livestock production facilities is often applied to land without prior treatment. Biosolids (treated municipal wastewater sludge) from large wastewater facilities in urban areas are often transported and applied to land in rural areas. This situation introduces a potential for risk of human exposure to waterborne contaminants such as human and zoonotic pathogens originating from manure, biosolids, and leaking septic systems. This paper focuses on waterborne outbreaks and sources of microbial pollution in rural areas in the US, characterization of the microbial load of biosolids and manure, association of biosolid and manure application with microbial contamination of surface and groundwater, risk assessment and best management practice for biosolids and manure application to protect water quality. Gaps in knowledge are identified, and recommendations to improve the water quality in the rural areas are discussed.

89. Paerl FIW, Fulton RS ,3rd, Moisander PH, Dyble J. Harmful freshwater algal blooms, with an emphasis on cyanobacteria. *Scientific World Journal*. 2001;1:76-113.

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1100/tsw.2001.16>

This paper reviews the effects of harmful freshwater algal blooms, resulting from nutrient oversupply and eutrophication, on water quality. Algal blooms contribute to water quality degradation, including malodor and foul taste, fish kills, toxicity, and food web alterations, while algal bloom toxins can adversely affect human and animal health through exposure to contaminated recreational and drinking water. The control and management of blooms, and their negative outcomes, must include nutrient input constraints, particularly on nitrogen and phosphorus.

90. Paploski, IA, Corzo C, Rovira Al, et al. Temporal Dynamics of Co-circulating Lineages of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus. *Frontiers in Microbiology*. 2019 Vol 10: 2486

Link: <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fmicb.2019.02486>

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) is the most important endemic pathogen in the U.S. swine industry. Despite control efforts involving improved biosecurity and different vaccination protocols, the virus continues to circulate and evolve. One of the foremost challenges in its control is high levels of genetic and antigenic diversity. Here, we quantify the co-circulation, emergence and sequential turnover of multiple PRRSV lineages in a single swine-producing region in the United States over a span of 9 years (2009–2017) using the Morrison Swine Health Monitoring Project housed at the University of Minnesota.

91. Polaris Project. Recruitment, Human Trafficking, and Temporary Visa Workers. Sept 2021

Link: [Recruitment, Human Trafficking, and Temporary Visa Workers](#)

This report examines the roles recruitment practices, regulations, and enforcement play in the experiences of trafficking victims who are in the United States on temporary worker visas. Data from the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 4,8163 likely victims from January 1, 2015 – December 31, 20204 who were in the United States and working under any of the visa categories listed at the time of their abuse.

92. Polaris Project. Human Trafficking on Temporary Work Visas: A Data Analysis 2015-2017.

Link: [Human Trafficking on Temporary Work Visas](#)

This report details how human traffickers are using workers under H-2A, H-2B and other temporary work visas and making legitimate businesses, consumers and the U.S. government complicit in the \$150 billion business of global human trafficking.

93. Poulsen, Melissa N.a.,b; Pollak, Jonathana; Sills, Deborah L.c; Casey, Joan A.d; Nachman, Keeve E.a.,e.,f; Cosgrove, Sara E.g.,h; Stewart, Daltonc; Schwartz, Brian S. High-density poultry operations and community-acquired pneumonia in Pennsylvania. *Environmental Epidemiology*: June 2018 - Volume 2 - Issue 2 - p e013
Link: https://journals.lww.com/environepidem/Fulltext/2018/06000/High_density_poultry_operations_and.5.aspx

Background Air pollution from industrial food animal production may increase vulnerability to pneumonia among individuals living in nearby communities. We evaluated the association between individual-level residential proximity to high-density poultry operations and diagnosis with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP).

Methods We conducted a nested case–control study among patients of a large health system in Pennsylvania, USA. We used diagnostic codes for pneumonia and chest imaging from electronic health records from 2004 to 2015 to identify 11,910 child and adult cases of CAP and 59,550 frequency-matched outpatient controls. We estimated exposure to poultry operations using data from nutrient management plans, calculating an inverse-distance squared activity metric based on operation and residential addresses that incorporated number, size, and location of operations. Mixed effects logistic regression models evaluated associations between quartiles of the activity metric and CAP diagnosis. Models controlled for sex, age, race/ethnicity, Medical Assistance (proxy for low socioeconomic status), and smoking status.

Results Individuals living in the highest (versus lowest) quartile of the poultry operation metric had 66% increased odds of CAP diagnosis (adjusted odds ratio [confidence interval]) Q2, 0.98 [0.74, 1.31]; Q3, 1.17 [0.93, 1.46]; Q4, 1.66 [1.27, 2.18]).

Conclusions Findings suggest that living in closer proximity to more and larger poultry operations may increase risk of CAP, contributing to growing concern regarding public health impacts of industrial food animal production.

94. Powlson, David. et.al. (2008) When Does Nitrate Become a Risk for Humans? *J. Environ. Qual.* 37:291–295

Link: [When Does Nitrate Become a Risk for Humans? \(unl.edu\)](#)

Is nitrate harmful to humans? Are the current limits for nitrate concentration in drinking water justified by science? These questions were addressed at a symposium on “The Nitrogen Cycle and Human Health” held at the annual meeting of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). Although they sound like old questions, it became clear there is still substantial disagreement among scientists over the interpretation of evidence on the issue—disagreement that has lasted for more than 50 years.

95. Price LB, Graham JP, Lackey LG, Roess A, Vailes R, Silbergeld E. Elevated risk of carrying gentamicin-resistant *Escherichia coli* among US poultry workers. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2007:17381742.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18087592>

Occupational and environmental pathways of human exposure to antimicrobial-resistant bacteria were explored in this study by comparing the relative risk of antimicrobial-resistant *E. coli* among poultry workers compared with community referents. The study concluded that occupational exposure to antimicrobial-resistant bacteria may be an important route of entry for the bacteria into the community, as poultry workers had 32 times the odds of carrying resistant *E. coli* compared to the community referents.

96. Raff, Zach, and Andrew Meyer. 2022. "CAFOs and Surface Water Quality: Evidence from Wisconsin." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 104(1):161–89.

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3379678>

This research estimates the relationship between the growth in CAFOs and surface water quality using longitudinal data on a large spatial scale. It uses a panel dataset from 1995–2017 that links Wisconsin CAFO intensity with nearby surface water quality readings. Leveraging variation in CAFO intensity within hydrological regions over time, we find that increasing CAFO intensity increases the levels of nutrients, specifically total phosphorus and ammonia, in surface water. Adding one CAFO to a Hydrologic Unit Code-8 (HUC8) region leads to a 1.7% increase in total phosphorus levels and a 2.7% increase in ammonia levels, relative to sample mean levels. Results imply that the marginal CAFO in Wisconsin produces non-market surface water quality damages of at least \$203,541 per year.

97. Rasmussen SG, Casey JA, Bandeen-Roche K, Schwartz BS. Proximity to Industrial Food Animal Production and Asthma Exacerbations in Pennsylvania, 2005–2012. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2017; 14(4):362.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14040362>

The research on industrial food animal production (IFAP) and asthma exacerbations in the United States has relied on small sample sizes and/or self-reported outcomes. We assessed associations of proximity to large-scale and densely stocked swine and dairy/veal IFAP with three types of asthma exacerbations: hospitalizations, emergency encounters, and oral corticosteroid (OCS) medication orders from Geisinger Clinic in Pennsylvania. We used a diagnosis code (*International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification* code 493.x) and medication orders from electronic health records to identify these exacerbations among asthma patients ($n = 35,269$) from 2005–2012. We compared residential proximity to swine or dairy/veal IFAP (dichotomized as <3 miles (4.8 km) or ≥ 3 miles) among asthma patients with and without exacerbations and estimated odds ratios using multilevel logistic regression. In adjusted models, proximity to IFAP was associated (odds ratio (95% confidence interval)) with OCS orders (1.11 (1.04–1.19)) and hospitalizations (1.29 (1.15–1.46)), but not emergency encounters (1.12 (0.91–1.37)). This study contributes to growing evidence that IFAP may impact health, in this case clinically-documented asthma exacerbations. No prior study has evaluated the association of IFAP and clinically-documented asthma exacerbations in the United States.

98. Rinsky JL, Nadimpalli M, Wing S, Hall D, Baron D, Price LB, et al. Livestock-Associated Methicillin and Multidrug Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Is Present among Industrial, Not Antibiotic-Free Livestock Operation Workers in North Carolina. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(7).

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23844044>

Objectives. Administration of antibiotics to food animals may select for drug-resistant pathogens of clinical significance, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). In the United States, studies have examined prevalence of MRSA carriage among individuals exposed to livestock, but prevalence of multidrug-resistant *S. aureus* (MDRSA) carriage and the association with livestock raised with versus without antibiotic selective pressure remains unclear. We aimed to examine prevalence, antibiotic susceptibility, and molecular characteristics of *S. aureus* among industrial livestock operation (ILO) and antibiotic-free livestock operation (AFLO) workers and household members in North Carolina.

Methods. Participants in this cross-sectional study were interviewed and provided a nasal swab for *S. aureus* analysis. Resulting *S. aureus* isolates were assessed for antibiotic susceptibility, multi-locus sequence type, and absence of the *sen* gene (a marker of livestock association).

Results. Among 99 ILO and 105 AFLO participants, *S. aureus* nasal carriage prevalence was 41% and 40%, respectively. Among ILO and AFLO *S. aureus* carriers, MRSA was detected in 7% (3/41) and 7% (3/42), respectively. Thirty seven percent of 41 ILO versus 19% of 42 AFLO *S. aureus*-positive participants carried MDRSA. *S. aureus* clonal complex (CC) 398 was observed only among workers and predominated among ILO (13/34) compared with AFLO (1/35) *S. aureus*-positive workers. Only ILO workers carried scn-negative MRSA CC398 (2/34) and scn-negative MDRSA CC398 (6/34), and all of these isolates were tetracycline resistant.

Conclusions. Despite similar *S. aureus* and MRSA prevalence among ILO and AFLO-exposed individuals, livestock-associated MRSA and MDRSA (tetracycline-resistant, CC398, scn-negative) were only present among ILO-exposed individuals. These findings support growing concern about antibiotics use and confinement in livestock production, raising questions about the potential for occupational exposure to an opportunistic and drug-resistant pathogen, which in other settings including hospitals and the community is of broad public health importance.

99. Rioja-Lang, FC. A Review of Swine Transportation on Priority Welfare Issues. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* February 22, 2019.

Link: [Review of Swine Transportation Research\(frontiersin.org\)](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2019.00022)

Review is to present the best available scientific knowledge on key animal welfare issues during swine transport, such as transport duration and distance, time off feed and water, rest intervals, environmental conditions, loading density, and transport of young animals, based on their impact on stress, injury, fatigue, dehydration, body temperature, mortality, and carcass and meat quality.

100. Roberts RR, Hota B, Ahmad I, et al. Hospital and societal costs of antimicrobial-resistant infections in a Chicago teaching hospital: Implications for antibiotic stewardship. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2009;49(8):1175-1184.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1086/605630>

Medical and societal costs attributable to antimicrobial-resistant infections are considerable, and important factors in understanding the potential benefits of prevention programs. Medical costs attributable to antimicrobial-resistant infections range from \$18,588 to \$29,069 per patient, hospital stay durations from 6.4-12.7 days, and mortality of 6.5%. Societal costs were estimated at \$10.7-\$15 million.

101. Rosov K, Mallin M, Cahoon L: Waste nutrients from U.S. animal feeding operations: Regulations are inconsistent across states and inadequately assess nutrient export risk. *Journal of Environmental Management*, Volume 269, 2020

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2020.110738>

Livestock production in the United States has been transformed over the past several decades, largely as a result of widespread development of industrial-scale mass production facilities, termed Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs). These facilities generate massive amounts of animal waste that can concentrate in small areas. Animal wastes from AFOs have led to high levels of nutrients and other pollutants in nearby surface waters, as well as groundwater. The environmental problems associated with these disposal practices have led to federal and state modifications to the rules and regulations governing waste practices. We summarize the federal guidelines for AFO nutrient management, focusing on swine, and compare the regulations of four AFO-rich states in different regions of the USA. Furthermore, we discuss inconsistencies among regulations and regulatory gaps, and identify issues with waste nutrient management practices that lead to environmental degradation in watersheds hosting AFOs. Finally, we address these

shortcomings and the need to implement policy updates that would alleviate some of these environmental and human concerns.

102. Rostagno MH. Can stress in farm animals increase food safety risk? *Foodborne pathogens and disease*. 2009;6(7):767-776.

Link: <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/pdf/10.1089/fpd.2009.0315>

This study reviewed current knowledge to assess the potential impact of stress—such as that from inadequate nutrition, deprivation of water and/or feed, heat, cold, overcrowding, handling and transport—in farm animals on food safety risk. The review focused on stress mechanisms influencing the colonization and shedding of enteric pathogens in food animals due to the potential for their dissemination into the human food chain, a serious public health and economic concern. The review concluded that there is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates the negative impact of stress on food safety through a variety of potential mechanisms, and recommends additional research to optimize animal welfare and minimize production losses and food safety risks.

103. Rule AM, Evans SL, Silbergeld EK. Food animal transport: A potential source of community exposures to health hazards from industrial farming (CAFOs). *Journal of Infection and Public Health*. 2008;1(1):33-39.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20701843>

The results of this study support the hypothesis that current methods of food animal transport from farm to slaughterhouse result in the transfer of bacteria, including antibiotic-resistant bacteria, to the vehicles travelling the same road. Bacteria were isolated from air and surface samples from vehicles following open poultry trucks, suggesting a new route of exposure to pathogens and the further dissemination of these pathogens to the general environment.

104. Sanhueza, JM, Stevenson, MA, Vilalta, C, Kikuti, M, Corzo, C. Spatial relative risk and factors associated with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome outbreaks in United States breeding herds. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, Volume 183, 2020,

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2020.105128>

Details of incident cases of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in United States breeding herds were obtained from the Morrison's Swine Health Monitoring Project. Herds were classified as cases if they reported an outbreak in a given season of the year and non-cases if they reported it in a season other than the case season or if they did not report a PRRS outbreak in any season. The geographic distribution of cases and non-cases was compared in each season of the year. The density of farms that had a PRRS outbreak during summer was higher in Southern Minnesota and Northwest-central Iowa compared to the density of the underlying population of non-case farms. This does not mean that PRRS outbreaks are more frequent during summer in absolute terms, but that there was a geographical clustering of herds breaking during summer in this area. Similar findings were observed in autumn. In addition, the density of farms reporting spring outbreaks was higher in the Southeast of the United States compared to that of the underlying population of non-case farms. A similar geographical clustering of PRRS outbreaks was observed during winter in the Southeast of the United States. Pig dense areas were associated with a higher incidence rate throughout the year. However, this association tended to be stronger during the summer. Additionally, herds with ≥ 2500 sows had an increased incidence rate during all seasons except spring compared to those with < 2500 sows. PRRS incidence was lower in year-round air-filtered herds compared to non-filtered herds throughout the year. We showed that not only the spatial risk of PRRS varies regionally according to the season of the year, but also that the effect of swine density, herd size and air filtering on PRRS incidence may also vary according to the season of the year. Further studies should investigate regional and seasonal

drivers of disease. Breeding herds should maintain high biosecurity standards throughout the year.

105. Saenz RA, Hethcote HW, Gray GC. Confined animal feeding operations as amplifiers of influenza. *Vector Borne Zoonotic Dis.* 2006;6(4):338-346.

Link: [Confined Animal Feeding Operations as Amplifiers of Influenza \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16111111/)

Influenza pandemics occur when a novel influenza strain, often of animal origin, becomes transmissible between humans. Domestic animal species such as poultry or swine in confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) could serve as local amplifiers for such a new strain of influenza. A mathematical model is used to examine the transmission dynamics of a new influenza virus among three sequentially linked populations: the CAFO species, the CAFO workers (the bridging population), and the rest of the local human population. Using parameters based on swine data, simulations showed that when CAFO workers comprised 15-45% of the community, human influenza cases increased by 42-86%. Successful vaccination of at least 50% of CAFO workers cancelled the amplification. A human influenza epidemic due to a new virus could be locally amplified by the presence of confined animal feeding operations in the community.

106. Sapkota AR, Curriero FC, Gibson KE, Schwab KJ. Antibiotic-resistant enterococci and fecal indicators in surface water and groundwater impacted by a concentrated swine feeding operation. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2007:1040-1045.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1913567/>

Surface and groundwater located up and down gradient from a swine facility was analyzed for the presence of antibiotic-resistant enterococci and other fecal indicators in this study. Both were detected at elevated levels in down gradient water sources relative to the swine facility compared to up-gradient sources, providing evidence that water contaminated with swine manure can contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance.

107. Schinasi L, Horton RA, Guidry VT, Wing S, Marshall SW, Morland KB. Air pollution, lung function, and physical symptoms in communities near concentrated swine feeding operations. *Epidemiology.* 2011; 22(2):208-215.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21228696/>

This study examined the associations between reported malodor and monitored air pollutants with lung function and physical symptoms in people residing within 1.5 miles of hog operations to better understand the effect of CAFO air pollutants on human health. The study reported that acute physical symptoms, including eye irritation, respiratory symptoms, difficulty breathing, wheezing, declined forced expiratory volume, sore throat, chest tightness, and nausea were related to pollutants measured near hog operations.

108. Schmalzried, Hans D., and L. Fleming Fallon Jr. "Proposed Mega-Dairies and Quality-of-Life Concerns: Using Public Health Practices to Engage Neighbors." *Public Health Reports* 125.5 (2010): 754.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2925014/>

This article describes the steps taken by the Henry County Health Department (Ohio) to engage with concerned community members by collaborating in baseline data collection prior to the arrival of a large-scale dairy operation. Data collection included water quality testing of residential wells neighboring the dairy operation, a fly trapping and counting program, and a review of local property values. As a dairy with 690 cows will have average water requirements of 35,000 gallons/day, the Health Department coordinated a pumping test to assess groundwater levels and

found that groundwater volumes were sufficient to supply the needs of the dairy and the surrounding residential wells. Residential wells were tested for coliform bacteria and field-tested for nitrates and hydrogen sulfide gas, and some of the wells tested unsafe for bacteria. In these cases, homeowners were given instructions on how to disinfect their wells and advised to do follow-up testing. The narrative concludes that data obtained prior to operations can be very useful and that local health departments can work with neighbors and facility operators to ensure that appropriate preventive measures are in place before operation to protect the public.

109. Schultz, Amy A, Peppard, Paul, Ron E Gangnon, Kristen M C Malecki: Residential proximity to concentrated animal feeding operations and allergic and respiratory disease. *Environment International* 2019 Volume 130

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2019.104911>

Background: Air emissions from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) have been associated with respiratory and allergic symptoms among farm workers, primarily on swine farms. Despite the increasing pre-valence of CAFOs, few studies have assessed respiratory health implications among residents living near CAFOs and few have looked at the health impacts of dairy CAFOs.

Objectives: The goal of this study was to examine objective and subjective measures of respiratory and allergic health among rural residents living near dairy CAFOs in a general population living in the Upper Midwest of the United States.

Methods: Data were from the 2008–2016 Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) cohort (n= 5338), a re-presentative, population based sample of rural adults (age 18+). The association between distance to the nearest CAFO and the prevalence of self-reported physician-diagnosed allergies, asthma, episodes of asthma in the last 12 months, and asthma medication use was examined using logistic regression, adjusting for covariates and sampling design. Similarly, the association between distance to the nearest CAFO and lung function, measured using spirometry, was examined using multivariate linear regression. Restricted cubic splines accounted for nonlinear relationships between distance to the nearest CAFO and the aforementioned outcomes.

Results: Living 1.5 miles from a CAFO was associated with increased odds of self-reported nasal allergies (OR = 2.08; 95% CI: 1.38, 3.14), lung allergies (OR = 2.72; 95% CI: 1.59, 4.66), asthma (OR = 2.67; 95% CI: 1.39, 5.13), asthma medication (OR = 3.31; 95% CI: 1.65 6.62), and uncontrolled asthma, reported as an asthma episode in last 12 months (OR = 2.34; 95% CI: 1.11, 4.92) when compared to living 5 miles from a CAFO. Predicted FEV1 was 7.72% (95% CI: -14.63, -0.81) lower at a residential distance 1.5 miles from a CAFO when compared with a residence distance of 3 miles from a CAFO.

Conclusions: Results suggest CAFOs may be an important source of adverse air quality associated with reduced respiratory and allergic health among rural residents living in close proximity to a CAFO.

110. Schulz J, Friese A, Klees S, et al. Longitudinal study of the contamination of air and of soil surfaces in the vicinity of pig barns by livestock-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2012;78(16):5666-5671.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22685139/>

This study examined the presence and concentration of MRSA in air and soil downwind from swine CAFOs. The results demonstrate regular transmission and deposition of airborne livestock-associated MRSA to areas up to **at least 300 meters** around pig barns that tested positive for MRSA, suggesting that swine CAFOs can expose other farm animals, wildlife, and people to MRSA.

111. Shaw, K. A., Szablewski, C. M., Kellner, S., Kornegay, L., Bair, P., Brennan, S., Kunkes, A., Davis, M., McGovern, O. L., Winchell, J., Kobayashi, M., Burton, N., de Perio, M. A., Gabel, J., Drenzek, C., Murphy, J., Holsinger, C., & Forlano, L. (2019). Psittacosis Outbreak among Workers at Chicken Slaughter Plants, Virginia and Georgia, USA, 2018. *Emerging infectious diseases*, 25(11), 2143–2145.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2511.190703>

During August-October, 2018, an outbreak of severe respiratory illness was reported among poultry slaughter plant workers in Virginia and Georgia, USA. A multiorganizational team investigated the cause and extent of illness, determined that the illness was psittacosis, and evaluated and recommended controls for health hazards in the workplace to prevent additional cases.

112. Showers, William J., et al. "Nitrate contamination in groundwater on an urbanized dairy farm." *Environmental Science & Technology* 42.13 (2008): 4683-4688.

Link: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es071551t>

Urbanization of rural farmland is a pervasive trend around the globe, and maintaining and protecting adequate water supplies in suburban areas is a growing problem. Identification of the sources of groundwater contamination in urbanized areas is problematic but will become important in areas of rapid population growth and development. The isotopic composition of NO₃(815NNO₃ and M80 NO₃), NH₄ (815NNH₄), groundwater (62Hwt and 8180wt) and chloride/bromide ratios were used to determine the source of nitrate contamination in drinking water wells in a housing development that was built on the site of a dairy farm in the North Carolina Piedmont, U.S. The 615NNO₃ and 6180 NO₃ compositions imply that elevated nitrate levels at this site in drinking well water are the result of waste contamination, and that denitrification has not significantly attenuated the groundwater nitrate concentrations. 615NNO₃ and 6180NO₃ compositions in groundwater could not differentiate between septic effluent and animal waste contamination. Chloride/bromide ratios in the most contaminated drinking water wells were similar to ratios found in animal waste application fields and were higher than Cl/Br ratios observed in septic drain fields in the area. 6180wt was depleted near the site of a buried waste lagoon without an accompanying shift in 62Hwt suggesting water oxygen exchange with CO₂. This water—O₂ exchange resulted from the reduction of buried lagoon organic matter, and oxidation of the released gases in aerobic soils. 6180wt is not depleted in the contaminated drinking water wells, indicating that the buried dairy lagoon is not a source of waste contamination. The isotope and Cl/Br ratios indicate that nitrate contamination in these drinking wells are not from septic systems, but are the result of animal waste leached from pastures into groundwater during 35 years of dairy operations which did not violate any existing regulations. Statutes need to be enacted to protect the health of the homeowners that require well water to be tested prior to the sale of homes built on urbanized farmland.

113. Song D, Moon H, Kang B. Porcine epidemic diarrhea: A review of current epidemiology and available vaccines. *Clin Exp Vaccine Res.* 2015;4(2):166-176. doi:10.7774/cevr.2015.4.2.166

Link: [Porcine epidemic diarrhea: A review \(nih.gov\)](http://nih.gov)

Until 2013, PED was thought to have been restricted to Asian countries. However, an outbreak of PEDV infection occurred in the United States in Iowa in April 2013, and within 1 year, PEDV had spread to Canada and Mexico, which share borders with the United States. Additionally, PED outbreaks occurred in Korea and Japan, across the Pacific Ocean, also within 1 year of the US outbreak. The PEDV strain isolated in the United States was genetically related to the Chinese PEDV strain reported in 2012. Interestingly, the Korean and Taiwanese PEDV strains isolated after the US outbreak were genetically related to the US PEDV strain.

114. Spencer JL, Guan J. Public health implications related to spread of pathogens in manure from livestock and poultry operations. *Public Health Microbiology: Methods and Protocols*. 2004:503-515.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15156064>
Objectionable odors, flies, excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorus and the potential spread of human pathogens are among the public concerns with the disposal of animal manure and the spread of dust and manure blown from powerful building fans. The study also finds that importance of animal manure in the spread of infectious pathogens is often underestimated despite the linkages between livestock operations and gastroenteritis in humans.
115. Steinmann J. (2004). Surrogate viruses for testing virucidal efficacy of chemical disinfectants. *The Journal of hospital infection*, 56 Suppl 2, S49–S54.
Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2003.12.030>
Since important agents of viral nosocomial infections like hepatitis B and C viruses and norovirus do not replicate sufficiently in cell culture systems, disinfectants with suspected efficacy against these viruses must be evaluated by different methods. Besides molecular approaches and indirect tests, the use of surrogate viruses with similar biophysical properties and genomic structure allows the assessment of virucidal efficacy of chemical disinfectants in quantitative suspension tests. Furthermore, insights into the survival of these viruses in the environment are possible.
116. Thomas, C. Estimating Water Usage on Michigan Dairy Farms. Michigan State University Extension
Link: [Water Use for Large Dairies \(ashland.wi.us\)](http://www.ashland.wi.us/Water_Use_for_Large_Dairies)
Water usage on dairy farms can be divided into two general categories: 1) direct usage by dairy animals, and 2) indirect usage required for the general operation of the dairy facility.
117. Thomas, PR, et. al. (2015) Methods for Inactivating PEDV in Hog Trailers. *Animal Industry Report*: AS 661, ASL R3028.
Link: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ans_air/vol661/iss1/91
Contaminated livestock trailers certainly represent a significant risk for movement of the virus between and within herds. Historically, this disease risk has been effectively mitigated in some cases with the use of trailer washing, disinfection protocols, and thermo-assisted drying and decontamination (TADD) systems. This paper summarizes four studies that evaluated individual aspects of trailer sanitation programs including TADD and multiple disinfectants alone, as well several protocols that include washing, disinfection and TADD.
118. Thompson, RW. (2001) Transmission of pathogens via transportation vehicles. Retrieved from the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy.
Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/147436>
Outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) in Europe and the United Kingdom, have raised our awareness of disease transmission. Realizing how rapidly these diseases spread, industry must restrict pathogen transmission at all production levels. Our focus in this presentation will be on transportation. Because of the increasing movement of pigs in multisite production, the economics of finishing pigs in the Midwest, plus location of the US packing industry, the chances of transmission of respiratory or enteric organisms have increased. All trucks, trailers, and other vehicles used for transporting animals, animal products, products, feed, offal, and contaminated equipment are a potential risk in the spread of disease.
119. Ting-Hui Lin *et al.* A single mutation in bovine influenza H5N1 hemagglutinin switches specificity to human receptors. *Science* **386**,1128-1134(2024).
Link: [A single mutation in bovine influenza H5N1 hemagglutinin switches specificity](#)

In 2021, a highly pathogenic influenza H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b virus was detected in North America that is capable of infecting a diversity of avian species, marine mammals, and humans. In 2024, clade 2.3.4.4b virus spread widely in dairy cattle in the US, causing a few mild human cases, but retaining specificity for avian receptors. Historically, this virus has caused up to 30% fatality in humans, so Lin *et al.* performed a genetic and structural analysis of the mutations necessary to fully switch host receptor recognition. A single glutamine to leucine mutation at residue 226 of the virus hemagglutinin was sufficient to enact the change from avian to human specificity. In nature, the occurrence of this single mutation could be an indicator of human pandemic risk.

120. Ueijo, C. K., et. al. (2014). Drinking water systems, hydrology, and childhood gastrointestinal illness in central and northern Wisconsin. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(4):639- 646.
Link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4025711/>
121. United Egg Producers. 2022 Fire Prevention and Mitigation on Farm in Egg Industry
Link: [Fire-Mitigation-Report 2.3.2022.pdf](#)
122. US Meat Export Federation. FAQ: How do Red Meat Exports Benefit the Industry?
Link: [FAQ : U.S. Meat Export Federation \(usmef.org\)](#)
123. van Midden, Christina, et al. The Impact of Anaerobic Digestion on Soil Life. *Applied Soil Ecology Volume 191, November 2023, 105066*
Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0929139323002640>
Generalized understanding of the effect by digestates on soil biota is made difficult by differences in digestate properties caused by varying feedstock and production methods and the inherent heterogeneity of soil. There is a lack of research investigating the impact of repeated digestate application on soil biota and subsequently soil health. This information would give end users more confidence to substitute mineral fertilizers with digestate.
124. Ward MH. Too much of a good thing? Nitrate from nitrogen fertilizers and cancer. *Rev Environ Health*. 2009;24(4):357-363.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3068045/>
Nitrate, the breakdown product of nitrogen fertilizers, accumulates in groundwater under agricultural land and can spread through waterways due to agricultural field runoff. Nitrates are associated with a range of adverse health effects, including methemoglobinemia, various cancers, negative reproductive outcomes, diabetes, and thyroid conditions. Additional research is needed to further evaluate the health effects of nitrate exposure, especially as environmental exposure to nitrates has increased over the last 50 years and 90% of rural Americans depend on groundwater for drinking water, many relying on private wells, which are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act.
125. Ward MH, Kilfoy BA, Weyer PJ, Anderson KE, Folsom AR, Cerhan JR. Nitrate intake and the risk of thyroid cancer and thyroid disease. *Epidemiology*. 2010;21(3):389-395.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2879161/>
This study examined the association between nitrate intake through public water and diet with the risk of thyroid cancer and hypo- and hyperthyroidism. The study found an increased risk of thyroid cancer with high water nitrate levels and with longer consumption of water containing nitrates. The increased intake of dietary nitrate was associated with an increased risk of thyroid cancer, and with the prevalence of hypothyroidism.
126. Weyer, P.J., J.R. Cerhan, B.C. Kross , G.R. Hallberb, J. Kantamneni, G. Breuer, M.P. Jones, W. Zheng, C.F. Lynch. 2001. *Epidemiology*, 11(3):327-338. Municipal Drinking Water Nitrate Level

and Cancer Risk in Older Women: The Iowa Women's Health Study, *Epidemiology*: May 2001 - Volume 12 - Issue 3 - p 327-338

Link: [Municipal Drinking Water Nitrate Level and Cancer Risk](#)

Nitrate contamination of drinking water may increase cancer risk, because nitrate is endogenously reduced to nitrite and subsequent nitrosation reactions give rise to N-nitroso compounds; these compounds are highly carcinogenic and can act systemically. We analyzed cancer incidence in a cohort of 21,977 Iowa women who were 55–69 years of age at baseline in 1986 and had used the same water supply more than 10 years (87% >20 years); 16,541 of these women were on a municipal supply, and the remainder used a private well. We assessed nitrate exposure from 1955 through 1988 using public databases for municipal water supplies in Iowa (quartile cutpoints: 0.36, 1.01, and 2.46 mg per liter nitrate-nitrogen). As no individual water consumption data were available, we assigned each woman an average level of exposure calculated on a community basis; no nitrate data were available for women using private wells. Cancer incidence (N = 3,150 cases) from 1986 through 1998 was determined by linkage to the Iowa Cancer Registry. For all cancers, there was no association with increasing nitrate in drinking water, nor were there clear and consistent associations for non-Hodgkin lymphoma; leukemia; melanoma; or cancers of the colon, breast, lung, pancreas, or kidney. There were positive associations for bladder cancer [relative risks (RRs) across nitrate quartiles = 1, 1.69, 1.10, and 2.83] and ovarian cancer (RR = 1, 1.52, 1.81, and 1.84), and inverse associations for uterine cancer (RR = 1, 0.86, 0.86, and 0.55) and rectal cancer (RR = 1, 0.72, 0.95, and 0.47) after adjustment for a variety of cancer risk/protective factors, agents that affect nitrosation (smoking, vitamin C, and vitamin E intake), dietary nitrate, and water source. Similar results were obtained when analyses were restricted to nitrate level in drinking water from 1955 through 1964. The positive association for bladder cancer is consistent with some previous data; the associations for ovarian, uterine, and rectal cancer were unexpected.

127. Wichmann F, Udikovic-Kolic N, Andrew S, Handelsman J. Diverse antibiotic resistance genes in dairy cow manure. *MBio*. 2014; 5(2):e01017-13.

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3993861/>

Application of manure from antibiotic-treated animals to crops facilitates the dissemination of antibiotic resistance determinants into the environment. However, our knowledge of the identity, diversity, and patterns of distribution of these antibiotic resistance determinants remains limited. We used a new combination of methods to examine the resistome of dairy cow manure, a common soil amendment. Metagenomic libraries constructed with DNA extracted from manure were screened for resistance to beta-lactams, phenicols, aminoglycosides, and tetracyclines. Functional screening of fosmid and small-insert libraries identified 80 different antibiotic resistance genes whose deduced protein sequences were on average 50 to 60% identical to sequences deposited in GenBank. The resistance genes were frequently found in clusters and originated from a taxonomically diverse set of species, suggesting that some microorganisms in manure harbor multiple resistance genes. Furthermore, amid the great genetic diversity in manure, we discovered a novel Glade of chloramphenicol acetyltransferases. Our study combined functional metagenomics with third-generation PacBio sequencing to significantly extend the roster of functional antibiotic resistance genes found in animal gut bacteria, providing a particularly broad resource for understanding the origins and dispersal of antibiotic resistance genes in agriculture and clinical settings. The increasing prevalence of antibiotic resistance among bacteria is one of the most intractable challenges in 21st-century public health. The origins of resistance are complex, and a better understanding of the impacts of antibiotics used on farms would produce a more robust platform for public policy. Microbiomes of farm animals are reservoirs of antibiotic resistance genes, which may affect distribution of antibiotic resistance genes in human pathogens. Previous studies have focused on antibiotic resistance genes in manures of animals subjected to intensive antibiotic use, such as pigs and chickens. Cow manure has received less attention, although it is commonly used in crop production. Here, we report the

discovery of novel and diverse antibiotic resistance genes in the cow microbiome, demonstrating that it is a significant reservoir of antibiotic resistance genes. The genomic resource presented here lays the groundwork for understanding the dispersal of antibiotic resistance from the agroecosystem to other settings.

128. Wilson SM, Serre ML. Examination of atmospheric ammonia levels near hog CAFOs, homes, and schools in eastern North Carolina. *Atmos Environ* 41(23):4977–4987 (2007)
Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2006.12.055>
Hog concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) release ammonia (NH₃) in Eastern North Carolina (NC) to the atmosphere which is potentially hazardous for nearby human populations at community locations particularly homes and schools. We present NH₃ weekly average concentrations that were collected using passive diffusion tubes from October 2003 to May 2004 (20 sites) and from July 2004 to October 2004 (23 sites) near community locations in close proximity to hog CAFOs. The data for each phase of sampling was stratified by distance from the nearest hog CAFO. The mean Phase I levels were 16, 8, 7 and 5 ppb for distances <0.5, 0.5-1, 1-2, and 2 km or more, respectively. The mean levels for Phase II were 29, 16, and 11 ppb for distances <0.5, 0.5-1, and 1 km or more, respectively. The results of the distance stratification are the best results of this study and provide the strongest evidence that distance to one or more CAFOs is the key variable in controlling weekly NH₃ atmospheric concentration at the community level in Eastern NC. Statistical analyses confirmed that source terms such as distance to a hog CAFO and live weight per operation, as well as temperature, wind speed and wind direction were important predictors of atmospheric NH₃ at community locations. The results indicate potential zones of exposure for human populations who live or go to school near hog CAFOs.
129. Wing S. Intensive livestock operations, health, and quality of life among eastern North Carolina residents. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2000;108(3):233-238.
Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1637983/>
Reports of decreased health and quality of life from people who live near industrial animal operations were explored in this study through community surveys in three rural communities, one located near a large swine operation, one near two intensive cattle operations, and one area without nearby livestock operations using liquid waste management systems. Residents near the swine operation reported increased occurrences of poor health, such as headaches, diarrhea, sore throat, excessive coughing and burning eyes and reduced quality of life compared to those in the other two communities.
130. Wing S, Horton RA, Rose KM. Air pollution from industrial swine operations and blood pressure of neighboring residents. *Environmental Health Perspectives (Online)*. 2013;121(1):92.
Link: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1205109/>
The association of air pollution and malodor with stress and blood pressure were assessed in this study to improve understanding of the effects of industrial swine operations on human health. Malodor and some air pollutants were found to be associated with blood pressure increases and reported stress, which could contribute to the development of chronic hypertension.
131. Woods, J. et.al. (2008). Fatigue: a major cause of commercial livestock truck accidents. *Veterinaria italiana*, 44(1), 259–262.
Link: [Woods 259-262.doc \(izs.it\)](#)
Accident reports on 415 commercial livestock truck accidents were tabulated between 1994 and June 2007 in the United States and Canada. Data was collected from Google internet searches of newspaper and television news reports, unpublished industry sources and Alberta government

agencies. Fifty-nine percent of the accidents occurred during the early morning hours from midnight to 9:00 am and 80% involved a single vehicle. Driver error was blamed for 85% of the wrecks. In 83% of the accidents, the vehicle rolled over and 84% of the truckers tipped over on their right side. In North America, vehicles travel on the right-hand side of the road and if a driver falls asleep at the wheel he usually drifts off toward the right. Driver fatigue is the most likely explanation for many of these accidents.

132. Zhang, Yu. et al. Characterization of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions from Swine Manure Biogas Digestate Storage. *Atmosphere* 2019, 10, 411.

Link: [Characterization of Volatile Organic Compound \(VOC\) Emissions from Swine Manure...](#)

Livestock manure is one of the major sources of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions; however, characteristics of VOCs emitted from digestate storage, which is a common manure practice, remain unclear. The objective of this study was to characterize VOC emissions during storage through the dynamic emission vessel method, to identify the VOC emissions that have potential odor and/or toxic effects. The results revealed the detection of 49 VOCs with seven classes.

University Programs

133. Chippewa Valley Technical College. Schwartz, Mark. Course Questions. *Email: September 20, 2024*

Link: [Schwartz, Mike email on firefighting training.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)

134. Drake University Agricultural Law Center. Manure Agreement Decision Making Tool

Link: [Drake Decision Making Tool](#)

135. Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University. Prepare for animal disease threats.

Link: [CFSPH - Center for Food Security and Public Health \(iastate.edu\)](#)

African Swine Fever was confirmed for the first time in recent years in samples from pigs in the Dominican Republic on July 28. Keeping this transboundary disease out is key.

136. Iowa State University, Center for Food Security and Public Health, 2021 *Protecting Your Herd/Flock Biosecurity Tip Sheet*.

Link: <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Assets/tip-sheet-protecting-your-herd-flock.pdf>

This sheet describes basic biosecurity practices to keep disease out of a facility, and to avoid transport of disease within a facility or to the outside of a facility

137. Mississippi State University Extension. Composting Poultry Mortality: A Critical Daily Management Chore. Publication 2960 (POD-05-19)

Link: [Compositing Poultry Mortality: A Critical Daily Management Chore](#)

In most cases, daily mortality losses are small but continuous throughout the flock grow-out period. Therefore, dead bird disposal is a daily chore associated with chicken production. In

addition to producing a usable end product, composting this daily mortality is cost-effective, environmentally sound, and bio secure.

138. Penn State Extension. Anaerobic Digestion: Biogas Production and Odor Reduction. March 9, 2023a

Link: [Anaerobic Digestion: Biogas Production and Odor Reduction](#)

Under the right conditions, liquid manure will break down into biogas and a low-odor effluent. If most of the following statements describe your farm, anaerobic digestion may be compatible:

1. Manure is currently handled as a liquid. Very little bedding or frozen manure is handled and the manure in the handling system is free from high levels of copper sulfate and antibiotics.
2. Odor control is a major concern.
3. There is space on the farm to expand the manure handling system with the possibility for gravity flow from a barn to an anaerobic digester or from a digester to manure storage.
4. Someone on the farm has the interest, time, and technical skills to learn about the anaerobic digestion process, make repairs, and perform general maintenance on equipment.
5. Resources are available to finance an anaerobic digestion system.
6. Adhering to recommended safety practices is standard procedure on the farm.

139. [Penn State Extension. Fate of Nutrients and Pathogens during Anaerobic Digestion of Dairy Manure March 9, 2023b](#)

Link: [Fate of Nutrients and Pathogens during Anaerobic Digestion of Dairy Manure](#)

On farm anaerobic digestion of dairy manure is being used for power production and odor reduction. During the digestion process, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are transformed by microbial processes, but these nutrients are not destroyed. Some nutrients, like sulphur, are converted into different compounds during the digestion process; in this case, hydrogen sulfide gas is produced.

140. University of Georgia Extension. An Overview of Poultry Management.

Link: [An Overview of Poultry Mortality Management | Poultry Environmental Quality Handbook](#)

Growers have several choices when it comes to a mortality disposal method and how they apply the chosen method to their unique farming operation, keeping in mind there are advantages and disadvantages to every system. Mass die-offs such as in the case of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak or catastrophic losses caused by a power failure or severe storm damage create additional challenges. Mass mortalities in large numbers quickly overwhelm daily mortality methods and often require outside assistance to manage.

141. University of Minnesota. Pitkin, A. Biosecurity protocols for the prevention of spread of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. Swine Disease Eradication Center.

Link: [Biosecurity protocols for the prevention of PRRS](#)

Preventing the spread of PRRSV within and between pig populations is a critical component of a farm's disease control program. To aid in controlling the spread of this agent, this manual provides a summary of data from experiments conducted from our group at the University of Minnesota that were specifically designed to identify the routes of PRRSV transmission and to develop protocols of biosecurity to reduce this risk. All protocols have been, and continue to be validated during an ongoing experiment that has been in process over the past 2 years at our Swine Disease Eradication Center (SDEC) production region model farm.

142. University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. *Episode 165 Osterholm Update: Frustrating Times: H5N1, Mpox & Vectorborne Disease. September 5, 2024*
Link: [Episode 165 Osterholm Update: Frustrating Times](#)
"And we continue to see the dairy industry largely ignore this situation. They refuse to have testing done, and they often refuse to even consider protective equipment for their workers. This really has been a challenge. I think on a scale of 1 to 10, if we're to be graded on how our response has been in this country, it surely is going to be in the lower part of the scale. 2 or 3. So I think until we have more willingness by the industry and the ability of the USDA to actually really address this in a much more vigorous way, everybody's just kind of hoping it's going to burn out. And it might, but it might not. And if it doesn't, we will all be asked the question, what did we do to actually address this? And I can tell you, and I say this very carefully and very thoughtfully, I worry that one day we could wake up and have everyone look to us and say, if you thought they did a bad job in Wuhan with COVID, look what you guys did. And they would be right. I know this is harsh, but I really feel very strongly that this, in fact, is a real challenge before us that we need to get off the dime and provide a much different approach."
143. University of Minnesota. Enhanced Passive Surveillance for ASF and CSF. *Swine in Minnesota. September 24, 2021*
Link: [Enhanced Passive Surveillance for ASF and CSF](#)
Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota shares preliminary results regarding a project looking at enhanced surveillance for two Foreign Animal Diseases: African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever.
144. University of Minnesota. Operation Guidance Manual for Harvest Facilities during FAD/EDI Investigations. October 2015
Link: [Operation Guidance Manual for Harvest Facilities](#)
This document provides guidance for livestock harvesting facilities operating during a foreign animal disease (FAD) or an emerging disease incident (EDI) investigation. Includes Issues for Consideration and General Recommendations for Facilities. Outlines actions that a facility can take to better prepare for a potential FAD/EDI, while considering individual facility needs and continuity of business concerns, as well as concerns about potential disease spread.
145. University of Minnesota. Risk Assessment for the Transmission of Foot and Mouth Disease via Movement of Swine and Cattle Carcasses from FMD-infected Premises to a Disposal Site. February 18, 2014.
Link: [Carcass Movement RA Final UMN](#)
Time for disease detection was estimated by a disease spread model to be between 4-10 days for swine and beef cattle and 3-9 days for dairy cattle premises of different sizes. Total time from infection to depopulation (including detection and confirmation) for the first FMD infected case was estimated to be between 10-15 days for swine, 8-12 days for dairy and 10-14 days for beef cattle premises. The average concentration of FMDv in a carcass in experimental inoculation studies was 103 Plaque Forming Unit per gram (PFU/g) for a pig carcass and 106 PFU/g for a cattle carcass. The total amount of infected carcasses moved to the disposal site (relative to the size of the animal carcass and the capacity of the truck trailer) was between 23-390 cattle carcasses and 117-780 pig carcasses per truck. Any small amount of body fluids (1 mL) would contain virus that is equal and greatly exceeds the infective dose by oral and inhalation route for pigs and cattle. The likelihood that swine and cattle carcasses moved from FMD positive premises will contain an infective dose was high. The use of a Bio-Zip™ bag in a standard rendering truck (tailgate sealed and tarp cover) reduces the likelihood of leakage, spillage and aerosolization to negligible.

146. University of Minnesota. Newly funded: Investigating swine industry biocontainment strategies for airborne diseases. August 27, 2021
Link: [Swine industry biocontainment strategies for airborne diseases](#)
Airborne animal diseases in today's agricultural settings are difficult to contain. Let's say a pig raised in confinement with other swine contracts porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRS); more than likely, the swine are in a controlled ventilated environment, where exhaust fans move airborne particles to the outdoors. In short order, air containing PRRS virus will flow into the environment and potentially to the swine farm across the road, causing an outbreak. How could the outbreak have been contained?
147. University of Minnesota Extension. Odor From Feedlots Estimation Tool (OFFSET).
Link: [offset-users-guide.pdf](#)
The amount of odor emitted from a particular farm is a function of animal species, housing types, manure storage and handling methods, the size of the odor sources, and the implementation of odor control technologies. However, the impact of these odors on the surrounding neighborhood or community is a function of both the amount of odor emitted and the weather conditions. Weather conditions strongly influence the movement and dilution of odors. Odor impact includes the strength of the odors and the frequency and duration of the odor events. OFFSET combines odor emission measurements with the average weather conditions to estimate the strength and frequency of odor events at various distances from a given farm.
148. University of Missouri. Securing Manure Spreading Rights through Easements. *Agricultural MU Guide*. G-361
Link: [G0361_03.qxd \(missouri.edu\)](#)
Several trends in modern animal agriculture are causing people to look at easements as a legal tool to help them meet their business objectives. Animal feeding operations are getting larger, and animals are housed in facilities engineered to capture and store manure. These larger animal feeding operations are highly specialized, sometimes owning less land than would be necessary to use the manure agronomically. Another trend is an increase in environmental regulation affecting many of these animal feeding operations. Recent concerns over the environmental impacts of animal feeding operations have led to new regulations. These trends often create a need to regularly export manure to neighboring farms; easements can be used to formalize this arrangement.
149. University of Wisconsin. Soil Nutrient Application Planner (SnapPlus)
Link: [SnapPlus – Wisconsin's Nutrient Management Planning Software](#)
SnapPlus is a Nutrient Management Planning software program designed for the preparation of nutrient management plans in accordance with Wisconsin's Nutrient Management Standard Code 590. SnapPlus will calculate:
- Crop nutrient (N, P₂O₅, K₂O) recommendations for all fields on a farm taking into account legume N and manure nutrient credits consistent with University of Wisconsin recommendations
 - A RUSLE2-based soil loss assessment that will allow producers to determine whether fields that receive fertilizer or manure applications meet tolerable soil loss (T) requirements.
 - A rotational Phosphorus Index value for all fields as required for using the P Index for phosphorus management.
 - A rotational P balance for using soil test P as the criteria for phosphorus management.

150. University of California Davis. Smith, Aaron. The Value of Methane from Cow Manure. April 14, 2023

Link: [The Value of Methane from Cow Manure](#)

California is targeting a reduction in statewide methane emissions of 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. It is very difficult to reduce cattle burps, so the state has focused on manure emissions, mostly by subsidizing the installation and operation of anaerobic digesters. Dairy farmers wash manure into lagoons, where microbes feed on the contents and emit methane. Anaerobic digesters capture the methane BS captured gas can be used in place of natural gas for transportation or electricity generation. Are California's subsidies for digesters set at the right value? In this article, I answer that question. In the process, I make three points.

1. The cost of an anaerobic digester is 10 times the market value of the gas it produces
2. Anaerobic digesters are valuable because they prevent methane emissions, but they are expensive
3. Profit from digesters changes dramatically over time due to fluctuations in the value of credits in California's low carbon fuel standard

151. Washington State University. *Dairy Cow Mortality Management: The dairy cow certificate of death* December 21, 2023

Link: [Dairy cow mortality data management](#)

Dairy cow mortality levels in the United States have been increasing over time. This is both a financial concern and an important animal welfare issue. Summary studies of dairy cow removal have been in the literature for decades but information specifically related to dairy cow mortality has been sparse. The increase in dairy cow mortality has generated concern within the industry, yet no standard exists by which to define what might be considered the 'natural' or 'normal' level of mortality in dairy cow production. Historical data suggest that dairy cow mortality ranged between 1 and 5% of rolling herd inventory per year into the 1970's, while current estimates suggest an average of 8 to 10% mortality in dairy herds across the U.S. with a range between 2 and 15%.

Regulatory & Court Documents

152. California Department of Food and Agriculture. Proposition 12 Implementation Plan.

Link: [CDFA - Proposition 12 Implementation \(ca.gov\)](#)

153. California Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 2010, *Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy Central Valley Region "Roadmap"*

Link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/groundwater_quality/2010aug_gwq_protect_strat_approved.pdf

Section 4.1 Confined Animal Facilities Page 34-35, Dairy General Order established a schedule for dischargers to develop and implement measures protective of water quality and confirm protection of groundwater quality through monitoring. Requirements of the General Order were phased to allow a systematic approach for implementation of regulatory measures recognizing available resources on behalf of dischargers, consultants, and the Central Valley Water Board. Measures required by the General Order are for both the dairy production area and land application area and include development of a Nutrient Management Plan by July 2009 with full implementation by 2012 and development of a Waste Management Plan by July 2010 and full implementation by 2012. The Dairy General Order requires each Discharger to immediately begin sampling each of the domestic and agricultural wells present at the dairy and discharges from any subsurface (tile) drains. Groundwater monitoring at existing dairies is necessary to: determine background groundwater quality; determine existing groundwater conditions near

retention ponds, corrals, and land application areas; determine the effect of the improved management practices required in the Dairy General Order On groundwater quality.

154. Food & Water Watch. Octo 26, 2021. *Petition to Rescind the Air Consent Agreement and Enforce Clean Air Laws Against Animal Feeding Operations.*

Link: [FINAL EPA Petition re 2005 Air Consent Agreement.docx \(foodandwaterwatch.org\)](#)

Over sixteen years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced an Agreement and Final Order it had secretly negotiated with the National Pork Producers Council. In the agreement, EPA refrained from enforcing key air pollution control and public disclosure laws against any animal feeding operation (AFO) that agreed to pay a nominal penalty to fund a nationwide air monitoring program to establish Emission Estimating Methodologies (EEMs) for AFOs. Nearly 14,000 AFOs signed up for this deal, known as the Air Consent Agreement. We ask that you rescind the Air Consent Agreement, enforce all applicable laws against AFOs, and prioritize environmental justice in enforcement and climate actions.

155. Minnesota Department of Transportation Research Services & Library. August 2014, *Assessing the Effects of Heavy Vehicles on Local Roadways.*

Link: <https://www.lrrb.org/pdf/201432.pdf>

This report documents the development of an analysis procedure and an associated computation tool to estimate the impact of heavy vehicles on local agency pavements. The heavy vehicles of interest are those which were not anticipated at the time the pavement structure was designed, but which cause additional damage and thus create the need for rehabilitation or reconstruction sooner than expected, including pork farms. The tool described in this report implements the procedure, and provides users with the ability to analyze a single roadway segment (for detailed impacts estimates) or an agency's entire network (for summary statistics over the system). The tool is contained in a macro-enabled Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and does not need additional files or external functionality to conduct an analysis.

156. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Lake Pepin and Mississippi River Eutrophication Total Maximum Daily Load Report (TMDL) April 2021

Link: [Lake Pepin and Mississippi River TMDL](#)

The TMDLs developed and presented in this report are consistent with other large scale projects in Minnesota calling for point source and nonpoint source pollutant loading reductions... The selected model scenario that results in Lake Pepin meeting water quality standards calls for the following annual average TP load reductions from the major subbasins: 20% reduction in the Mississippi River at Ford Dam (Lock and Dam 1, Minneapolis); 50% reduction in the Minnesota River; 20% reduction in the St. Croix River; 50% reduction in the Cannon River; 20% reduction in other tributaries

157. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Implementation Plan for the Lake St, Croix Nutrient TMDL. February 2013 Appendix B Polk County Page 1

Link: [Implementation Plan Lake St. Croix TMDL \(state.mn.us\)](#)

The TMDL allows for 108,000 lbs/yr of phosphorus to be loaded to the St. Croix River from Polk County. This requires 53,000 lbs/yr of reduction from the estimated TMDL baseline load of 161,000 lbs/yr in the early 1990s. Polk County's required reduction ranks 1st largest among the 19 counties in the basin. To achieve the St. Croix Basin Partners' goal of 20% reduction by 2020, Polk County needs to reduce loadings by 39,000 lbs/yr by the year 2020. To attain this goal, activities must be implemented that achieve an average annual rate of phosphorus reduction of 1,300 lbs/yr over 30 yrs, or 3,900 lbs/yr over 10 yrs.

158. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Lake St. Croix Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) May 2012
Link: [Lake St Croix TMDLFinalReport.pdf](#)
The St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix are highly valued resources that provide exceptional recreational opportunities and support a highly diverse ecology of aquatic and terrestrial species. However, over the years eutrophication, or nutrient enrichment, has occurred in Lake St. Croix due to excess phosphorus loading. This loading drives nuisance algae blooms which diminish the enjoyment and use of the lake. This report represents an important step in the improvement of Lake St. Croix by focusing on establishing the needed reduction in the loading of phosphorus from its contributing basin in order to achieve water quality standards.
159. National Fire Protection Agency. Hawes, Meredith. Questions about Fire Training and CAFOS, Manure Digesters. *Email: April 5, 2023*
Link: [Hawes, Meredith NPFA fire fighting.pdf](#)
160. National Fire Protection Association. NFPA 1141 Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas. 2017
Link: [NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection for Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas](#)
Provides requirements for the development of fire protection and emergency services infrastructure to make sure that wildland, rural, and suburban areas undergoing land use changes or land development have the resources and strategies in place to protect people and property from fire dangers, and allow fire fighters to do their jobs safety and effectively.
161. National Fire Protection Association. NFPA 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting. 2022
Link: [NFPA 1142: Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Firefighting](#)
An adequate and reliable municipal-type water supply is sufficient every day of the year to control and extinguish anticipated fires in the jurisdiction. NFPA 1142 identifies minimum standards to assist rural and suburban fire departments in developing sufficient water supplies where no in-ground hydrant system, or an inadequate one, exists. Provides methods for determining water supply requirements based on occupancy and construction classifications. Also provides information regarding apparatus construction for water tankers.
162. National Fire Protection Association. NFPA 1144 Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fires. 2018
Link: [NFPA 1144: Standard for Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire](#)
This standard provides a methodology to assess wildland fire ignition hazards around existing structures and new structures located in wildland interface areas. Also provides minimum requirements for new construction to reduce the potential of structure ignition from wildland fires.
163. National Fire Protection Association. NFPA 150 Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Code. 2022
Link: <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=150>
This code provides the minimum requirements for the design, construction, fire protection, and classification of animal housing facilities.

164. North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Title VI: Increasing Equity, Transparency, and Environmental Protection in the Permitting of Swine Operations. Attachment C: Updated Odor Control Checklist May 4, 2020
Link: [Updated Odor Control Checklist.pdf](#)
165. Pierce County, Wisconsin - Land Use Permit Required Information Form.
Link: [Pierce County - Land Use Permit Required Information Form](#)
166. Polk County Extension - University of Wisconsin. Sample Manure Management Agreement.
Link: [Manure Management Agreement \(wisc.edu\)](#)
167. Polk County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors. Resolution 39-21 Urging the State of Wisconsin to Adequately Fund State Agencies Regarding CAFO Regulations to Protect Groundwater and Air Quality. August 21, 2021.
Link: [Polk County Resolution No 39-21](#)
The Polk County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the State of Wisconsin to adequately fund the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection so they can vigorously monitor and regulate all of the existing and future CAFOs to the fullest extent of its authority. Supervisors urge the State Legislature and the Governor to fully fund the various regulatory agencies so that they have the resources they need to adequately monitor and regulate CAFOs.
168. Polk County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors. Resolution 03-20 Extending Moratorium on Swine CAFOs. February 20, 2020.
Link: [Resolution 03-20 Extending CAFO Moratorium](#)
Limits research into making swine CAFOs a conditional use for areas subject to the Shoreland Use Ordinance. Includes no Findings of Facts.
169. Polk County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors. Resolution 37-20 Swine CAFO Amendment. September 15, 2020
Link: [Resolution 37-20 Amended Polk County Comprehensive Land Use](#)
Targets swine CAFO development in towns with areas zoned Agriculture-20 and non-shoreland lands in un-zoned towns such as Laketown. CAFO developments with 2,499 hogs or less (1,000 animal units) in zoned towns also have no restrictions. Developers interested in non-shoreland areas of Laketown have no county siting restrictions. Manure from CAFOs in un-zoned areas can be spread in shoreland areas throughout the county.
- Developers planning more than 2,499 hogs (1,000 animal units) in zoned towns must be in areas zoned Agriculture-20. In addition, they are required to get a conditional use permit through the county's Environmental Services Committee that will include at least the following provisions:
- a. **Setbacks** - 200' setback for waste storage and housing for an infinite number of hogs.
100' setback for driveway entrance.
 - b. **Waste** - Requires nutrient and mortality management plans.
 - c. **Overweight Loads** - Requires town approval during spring break-up.
 - d. **Spills** - Developers shall notify the town and county of spills within 24 hours. The county will publically notice the spill.
 - e. **Previous livestock violations** - Violations by the owner/parent company must be reported

- f. Suspected hazards** - Environmental or human health hazards must be referred to the county.
- g. Residency** - Owner or operator must live within five (5) miles of the development.
- h. Plans** - Professionally designed and drafted plans required for the main facility.

This swine CAFO ordinance was developed during a 12-month moratorium that required the county to study a wide range of environmental and health issues. This was supposed to be done because Wisconsin law requires ordinances to be based on "reasonable and scientifically defensible findings." However, the county did not do the needed work and provided no findings. As a result, [DATCP staff issued a letter](#) to the county that the ordinance is vulnerable to legal challenge.

170. St. Croix County, Wisconsin Community Development Committee (CDC). February 20, 2020 letter to Wisconsin DNR

Link: [SCC-CDC-letter-to-DNR-ESD-2020.pdf](#)

The documented violations and citizen concerns together are the reason this letter was prepared. Along with close scrutiny of the WPDES re-authorization application, CDC asks that additional measures and accountability be included in WPDES Permit 00593315-04-0 if the DNR chooses to re-issue the permit to Emerald Sky Dairy. The CDC requests full and quick enforcement of manure application rules and statutes for CAFO's located in St. Croix County. According to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, loss of nutrients from cropland and pastures is the largest source of nonpoint source nutrient pollution in surface and groundwater in Wisconsin.

171. St. Croix County, Wisconsin Zoning Board of Adjustment. Findings, Conclusions and decisions. September 26, 2019

Link: [Findings Of Fact Pleasant Valley Digester.pdf](#)

Denial of a Conditional Use Permit to a digester developer in 2019 based on nine reasons it would be substantially adverse to property values in the neighborhood affected.

172. Town of Laketown, Polk County, Wisconsin. Town of Laketown Comprehensive Plan. October 27, 2009

Link: [Town of Laketown Comprehensive Plan](#)

In July of 2007 Polk County, along with twenty-five of its municipalities, was awarded a multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Administration to develop Comprehensive Plans. The Town of Laketown participated in the grant and began working on the plan in September of 2007. In order to review the issues and opportunities unique to the Town of Laketown, the following will be addresses.

173. Town of Laketown, Polk County, Wisconsin. Moratorium on Livestock Facility Licensing Committee Report. December 22, 2020

Link: [Laketown Livestock Facility Report](#)

Study, review, consider and determine whether amendments to the Large Scale Development Ordinance or the creation of a Livestock Facilities Licensing Ordinance or other ordinances are required to protect the environment, public health or safety and property in Laketown Township in light of the unique environment and the key concerns identified in the Town of Laketown Comprehensive Plan.

174. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. 2020 Global control of African swine fever - 2020 to 2025. Paris

Link: [Global control of African swine fever \(fao.org\)](http://fao.org)

175. United States Center for Disease Control. *Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Situation Summary for Mammals*

Link: [Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\) Situation Summary for Mammals](#)

This site provides regular updates and information on the impact of avian flu on humans, dairy cows and other mammals. There are also safety factsheets in English, Spanish, K'iche', and Nahuati for the largely immigrant dairy workers.

176. United States Department of Agriculture. Mass Depopulation & Euthanasia- Swine Euthanasia. *Powerpoint slide show*

Link: [mde_swine_presentation.pptx \(live.com\)](#)

177. United States Department of Agriculture. Mass Depopulation & Euthanasia- Avian Euthanasia. *Powerpoint slide show*

Link: [mde_avian_presentation.pptx \(live.com\)](#)

178. United States Department of Agriculture. Depopulation, Disposal and Decontamination Consideration for African Swine Fever. August 13, 2019.

Link: [Depopulation, et al for African Swine Fever](#)

This webinar began with a discussion of lessons learned from past outbreaks presented by Mike Starkey of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Lori Miller of USDA then presented an overview of depopulation, disposal, and decontamination considerations and tools related to African swine fever. Dr. Mike Neault of North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer services wrapped up the webinar with a presentation regarding activities that have occurred, our readiness at present, and what still needs to be accomplished.

179. United States Department of Agriculture. African Swine Fever Information

Link: [USDA APHIS | African Swine Fever \(ASF\) Information](#)

African swine fever is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. It is not a food safety issue. ASF is found in countries around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, it has spread through China, Mongolia and Vietnam, as well the European Union, Dominican Republic and Haiti.

180. United States Department of Agriculture. African Swine Fever Herd Plan: Euthanasia, Depopulation, Disposal, & Virus Elimination Procedures. November 2020

Link: [ASF Domestic Herd Plan](#)

This African Swine Fever Herd Plan template is intended to serve as a guide. It must be amended as necessary to be specific to the single premises identified below.

181. United States Department of Agriculture. ASF Action Week September 2021.

Link: [USDA APHIS | ASF Action Week Webinar](#)

The USDA invites you to join us September 13-17, 2021 for daily webinars to learn more about African swine fever and its global spread, actions being taken to safeguard the United States, and biosecurity measures you can implement now to protect the U.S. herd. Recorded sessions are available.

182. United States Department of Agriculture. African Swine Fever- An Unwelcome Arrival in Germany. *Foreign Agricultural Service Report*. Number: GM2020-0052. September 10, 2020.

Link: [FAS Report GM2020-0052](#)

On September 10, Germany's Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture confirmed a case of ASF in a wild boar found near the German-Polish border in the village of Sebtlem, Spree-Neiße district. This is the first ASF case in Germany and it was only a matter of time especially given the recent rise of cases in Western Poland. The risk of introducing the pathogen into Germany was rated as high according due to the proximity to the border of the latest Polish cases. However, an introduction by humans via contaminated food cannot be excluded. On-site ASF control measures are being conducted by the general veterinary authorities and the Provincial Crisis Management Center. A fence is now being erected around a 4 km radius of the site where the infected wild boar was found. Samples taken from bones of the decomposing carcass of the wild boar suggest that ASF entered Germany several weeks ago, indicating that additional ASF detections are likely. Search parties are looking for more dead boar carcasses in the area.

183. United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service. 2020 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook.

Link: [2020-ag-export-yearbook.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)

Provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world. The 16 product groups or commodity aggregations, displayed in the Yearbook, are based on the United States' largest export categories. The United States' top 15 export destinations are included as well as a page for the United Kingdom (UK). The European Union (EU27+UK), a customs union comprised of 28 member states, is included as a single trading partner. The only exception is that the UK has its own yearbook page given the importance of its withdrawal from the EU-28. The top 14 export markets represent 80 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports in 2020.

184. United States Department of Agriculture - Secretary Vilsack Message on African Swine Fever.

Link: [African Swine Fever Message from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack](#)

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages. ASF has never been found in the United States – and we want to keep it that way. ASF is a devastating, deadly disease that would have a significant impact on U.S. livestock producers, their communities and the economy if it were found here. There is no treatment or vaccine available for this disease.

185. United States Department of Agriculture - *HPAI Response, Cleaning and Disinfecting Basics* October 5, 2022

Link: [Cleaning & Disinfection Basics \(Virus Elimination\)](#)

All previously highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) Infected Premises must be both CLEANED and DISINFECTED. Cleaning and disinfection practices during an outbreak will focus on virus elimination in a cost-effective manner.

186. United States Department of Agriculture - *2024 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) - Michigan Dairy Herd and Poultry Flock Summary* June 9, 2024

Link: [2024 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(H5N1\)](#)

In early April 2024, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) invited a USDA Epidemiological Strike Team into Michigan to investigate the links between HPAI affected dairy premises and evidence of spillover into poultry premises. This report summarizes the findings from field epidemiological investigations of disease spread between premises for 15 dairy herds and 8 poultry flocks confirmed with HPAI genotype B3.13 in Michigan.

187. United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *Developing Safety Plans, A Manual for Local Rural Road Owners*. March 2012

Link: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwasa12017/

Over three-fourths of all road miles in the U.S. are in rural areas. Of those three million miles of rural roads, almost 80 percent are owned and operated by local entities. In 2009, rural roads accounted for approximately 33 percent of the vehicle miles traveled in the U.S., but 56 percent of fatalities. Local roads in rural areas may have design elements that increase the risk of fatalities or serious injuries, such as inappropriately high speed limits, narrow lane widths and shoulders, steep ditches, or trees close to the roadway. Additionally, the low population density and sparse land use of rural communities can increase detection, response, and travel times for emergency services, reducing key factors in crash survivability. It typically takes more than twice as long for emergency services to arrive at a crash scene in a rural community compared to an urban community. Recommendations for developing a Local Road Safety Plan include: defining specific areas of emphasis to evaluate: eg, intersection safety, speed management, hazardous locations, and roadway/lane departures. Evaluation of specific hazards may include engineering evaluation to be sure the roads will meet the needs of heavier and more frequent truck traffic related to the CAFO.

188. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *AgSTAR Technical Resources for Anaerobic Digesters*.

Link: [AgSTAR Technical Resources for Anaerobic Digesters](#)

The AgSTAR program provides a wide variety of resources and tools for stakeholders interested in exploring the use of anaerobic digester systems. Outreach materials and project development tools, information on funding resources, and information on digesters operating within the United States are listed.

189. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Carcass Management of Non-Diseased Animals*.

Link: [Carcass Management of Non-Diseased Animals](#)

This document is intended to help producers and facilities with non-diseased carcass management during significant public health incidents, such as pandemics. During these times, animal production and processing facilities may encounter challenges associated with certain livestock and poultry processing plant closures due to workforce and staffing issues related to an outbreak at those plants. As a result of these shutdowns, and other factors, some animal production facilities may need to depopulate by euthanizing animals. Unlike mortalities at normal rates, large-scale mortalities present challenges that are not part of the typical operation of these facilities. Operators are typically advised to have plans for emergency large-scale mortalities; for example, due to extreme weather, disease, or epidemics and pandemics.

190. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Decision Document for the Lake Pepin and Mississippi River Watershed TMDLs. MN. May 19, 2021*

Link: [Decision Document for the Lake Pepin and Mississippi River Watershed TMDLs. MN](#)

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 130 describe the statutory and regulatory requirements for approvable Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Additional information is generally necessary for EPA to determine if a submitted TMDL fulfills the legal requirements for approval under Section 303(d) and EPA regulations, and should be included in the submittal package. Wisconsin lands that directly discharge to Lake Pepin were included in the TMDL modeling effort; however, the allocations were separated from the Minnesota allocations and are found in Appendix E of the TMDL. Wisconsin are specifically excluded from this the EPA's TMDL approval.

191. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Sept 2017. *Eleven Years After Agreement, EPA Has Not Developed Reliable Emission Estimation Methods to Determine Whether Animal Feeding Operations Comply With Clean Air Act and Other Statutes*. 7-P-0396
Link: [Eleven Years After Agreement](#)
Until the EPA develops sound methods to estimate emissions, the agency cannot reliably determine whether animal feeding operations comply with applicable Clean Air Act requirements.
192. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Exposure Assessment of Livestock Carcass Management Options During a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak*. April 2018
Link: [Exposure Assessment of Livestock Carcass Management](#)
Evaluation of livestock carcass management options following a foreign animal disease outbreak. This assessment helps to inform a scientifically-based selection of environmentally protective methods. If carcasses cannot be managed immediately after death, the temporary carcass storage pile appears to be the most likely source to possibly expose nearby livestock. This assessment estimates livestock exposure to FMDv released from a temporary storage pile where carcasses are placed for 48 hours while further management is prepared. The assessment also considers seven well-established carcass management options with sufficient capacity for a large-scale mortality: on-site open burning (pyre), on-site air-curtain burning, on-site unlined burial, on-site composting, off-site fixed-facility incineration, off-site landfilling, and off-site carcass rendering
193. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Handbook Groundwater and Well Head Protection*. EPA1625/R-94/001 September 1994
Link: [30004NCA.PDF \(epa.gov\)](#)
Anyone responsible for delineating the boundaries of a wellhead protection area, Identifying and evaluating potential contaminants, and Identifying wellhead management options Will find the handbook useful. Most of this handbook does not require specialized training in hydrogeology. Basic math skills, including high school-level algebra, are required.
194. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Handbook Groundwater and Well Head Protection*. EPA1625/R-94/001 September 1994
Link: [30004NCA.PDF \(epa.gov\)](#)
Anyone responsible for delineating the boundaries of a wellhead protection area, Identifying and evaluating potential contaminants, and Identifying wellhead management options Will find the handbook useful. Most of this handbook does not require specialized training in hydrogeology. Basic math skills, including high school-level algebra, are required.
195. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019*.
Link: [Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2015 | US EPA](#)
View the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2015* (published 2017), developed by the U.S. Government to meet U.S. commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
196. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Literature review of contaminants in livestock and poultry manure and implications for water quality*. July 2013:1-137.
Link: <http://ow.ly/mTDw308qwbZ>
This EPA report on the environmental occurrence and potential effects of livestock and poultry manure related contaminants on water quality found that 60-70% of manure nitrogen and phosphorus may not be assimilated by the farmland where it was generated due to the increasing

concentration of industrial animal production. The report also notes the variety of pathogens contained in livestock and poultry manure, as well as the potential for their spread to humans when surface and groundwater and food crops come into contact with manure through runoff, spills, and land-application of manure. It also refers to research indicating that antimicrobial use in livestock and poultry production has contributed to the occurrence of anti-microbial resistant pathogens in animal operations and nearby environments. The report also presents that manure discharge to surface waters can occur by various means and have deleterious effects on aquatic life and contribute to toxic algal blooms harmful to animals, and to humans when exposed via contact with contaminated drinking water or recreational use of contaminated water.

197. United States Environmental Protection Agency, *National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Agriculture*, EPA 841-B-004, July 2003

Link: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/monitoring-guidance-determining-effectiveness-nonpoint-source-controls>.

This Guidance addresses design of water quality monitoring programs to assess impacts from nonpoint source pollution (including agriculture) and evaluate success of control practices and management measures. Since each situation is different, this guidance presents the theory and information needed to design monitoring programs tailored to particular situations.

198. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *NPDES Permit Writers' Manual for CAFOs*. February 2021

Link: [NPDES Permit Writers' Manual for CAFOs](#)

Provides information to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit writers on permitting requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The information in the Manual may also be useful for inspectors, facility operators, and the general public. Under the Clean Water Act (CWA), it is unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source without an NPDES permit. The CWA defines point source to include “any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any ... concentrated animal feeding operation ... from which pollutants are or may be discharged.” Under the NPDES CAFO regulations, a CAFO that discharges must seek NPDES permit coverage.

199. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Relation between nitrates in water wells and potential sources in the lower Yakima Valley, Washington state*. Washington, D.C., 2012.

Link: [Relation between Nitrates in Water Wells and Potential Sources in the Lower Yakima Valley, Washington \(epa.gov\)](#)

This study examined the effectiveness of various techniques to identify specific sources of high nitrate levels in residential drinking water well. Dairy waste was concluded to be a likely source of nitrate contamination in the wells due to isotopic data and contextual evidence such as the historical and current volumes of dairy waste in the area, lack of other potential sources of nitrogen in the area, and soil indicators.

200. United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Risk Assessment Evaluation for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*. May 2004: 1-124.

Link: [US EPA Risk Management Evaluation For Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations](#)

The National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL) developed a Risk Management Evaluation (RME) to provide information to help plan research dealing with the environmental impact of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Methods of animal production in the U.S. have undergone fundamental changes in the last 30 years. The majority of meat, dairy, and poultry production has been concentrated into large facilities. Dairies with more than 2,000 cows

and swine operations with more than 10,000 hogs are not unusual. Broiler houses with 50,000 birds are common. With the concentration of animals has come a concomitant concentration of manure production. One animal facility with a large population of animals can easily equal a small city in terms of waste production. Current practices of waste handling often include minimal or no treatment before the wastes are disseminated into the environment. The RME was developed to provide characterization of the waste problem, and a description of common environmental stressors and their movement including the air transport of pollutants. Current risk management practices in the animal industry are described, along with treatment approaches such as anaerobic/aerobic digestion, constructed wetlands, and disturbed land reclamation. Finally, suggested areas for future research are presented to help focus planning for the near future.

201. United States Environmental Protection Agency. April 19, 2013. *SAB Review of Emissions-Estimating Methodologies for Broiler Animal Feeding Operations and for Lagoons and Basins at Swine and Dairy Animal Feeding Operations*.
Link: [EPA-SAB-13-003](#)
This Science Advisory Board (SAB) report responds to a request from the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) to review and provide advice on scientific issues associated with development of Emissions-Estimating Methodologies (EEMs) at two types of animal feeding operations (AFOs): EEMs for barns or buildings at confined broiler AFO facilities and an EEM for open lagoons and basins at swine and dairy AFO facilities. EEMs are tools for estimating air pollutant emissions from industries where site-specific emissions data are not available.
202. United State House of Representatives - Select Subcommittee on Coronavirus Crisis. Coronavirus Infections and Deaths Among Meatpacking Workers at Top Five Companies Were Nearly Three Times Higher than Previous Estimate. October 27, 2021
Link: [2021.10.27 Meatpacking Report.Final_.pdf \(house.gov\)](#)
Newly obtained documents from five of the largest meatpacking conglomerates, which represent over 80 percent of the market for beef and over 60 percent of the market for pork in the United States—JBS USA Food Company (JBS), Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson), Smithfield Foods (Smithfield), Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation (Cargill), and National Beef Packing Company, LLC (National Beef)—reveal that coronavirus infections and deaths among their meatpacking workers were substantially higher than previously estimated.
203. Wisconsin Attorney General. AG Kaul Announces \$86,000 Agreement with Jon-De Capital, Inc. for Violations of Wisconsin's Wastewater Laws. October 1, 2021
Link: [AG Kaul Announces \\$86,000 Agreement with Jon-De Capital](#)
204. Wisconsin Circuit Court - St. Croix County Case no. 2019-000002. State of Wisconsin vs Emerald Sky Dairy. May 3, 2019.
Link: [Circuit court St. Croix 2019-000002](#)
205. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Livestock Facility Siting Technical Expert Committee Four-Year Review of ATCP 51, April 23, 2019
Link: [LivestockSitingTECReport2019.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#)
The 2019 Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was convened as part of the Department of Agriculture Trade, and Consumer Protection's required four year review of the livestock facility siting standards under ch. ATCP 51, Wis. Admin. Code. The recommendations in this report reflect the consensus of the TEC on the issues presented for their consideration. The committee's recommendations are arranged according to the following issues: Odor Management and

Setbacks, Manure and Other Waste Storage, Runoff Management, Monitoring, Completeness Determinations and Permit Modifications, and Groundwater Protections.

206. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Chapter ATCP 10. Animal Disease and Movement.
Link: [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter ATCP 10](#)
207. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Chapter ATCP 93.90 Livestock Facility Siting and Expansion
Link: [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter ATCP 93.90](#)
208. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Wi Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 51
Link: [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter ATCP 51](#)
209. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Animal Movement
Link: [DATCP Animal Movement \(wi.gov\)](#)
This information provides general rules for importing any animal into Wisconsin. Species-specific information and other references regarding the movement of animals are listed.
210. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast.
Link: [Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast \(wi.gov\)](#)
The tool helps determine the potential for manure runoff from a field depending on weather conditions and soil temperature. Spreading manure when there is an elevated risk of runoff can send manure into streams and threaten water quality.
211. Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting Rule modifies Wis. Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 51 (Final Draft Rule), October 24, 2019.
Link: [ProposedATCP51FinalDraftRulePacket.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#)
- Reflects revisions necessary to address the technical and implementation issues raised through three 4-year technical committee review processes, twelve statewide public hearings including verbal testimony from over 160 Wisconsin citizens and 465 written comments submitted to the department, as well as dozens of conversations with interested and potentially impacted parties to arrive at workable compromise to achieve multiple, diverse goals.
 - Updates the water quality standards, including related Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards, to ensure consistency with provisions in NR 151 and ATCP 50, including incorporation of the 2017 NRCS standard for waste storage structures, 2015 NRCS standard for nutrient management, the 2017 NRCS standard for waste treatment, and the 2016 NRCS standard for vegetated treatment areas.
 - Modifies standards (subch. II of ATCP 51) consistent with the requirements in Wis. Stat. § 93.90(2), based on the technical recommendations of the 2014 and 2018 Technical Expert Committees and public input. Key changes include modifications to setback and odor standards.
 - Modifies the procedures (subchs. I and III of ATCP 51) that local governments must follow in issuing a siting permit under a zoning or licensing ordinance including application completeness determinations, permit modifications, and the use of checklists to monitor facility compliance.
 - Modifies local permit application forms and worksheets to reflect changes in requirements and to ensure that they are clear, complete, and elicit information that documents compliance with applicable siting standards.

- Makes other changes, clarifications and updates as necessary to improve implementation of the siting rule, consistent with the requirements in Wis. Stat. § 93.90(2).
212. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. Memo on Polk County Swine CAFO ordinance. August 2020
Link: [f3e1b58a-f0a9-42be-a7e5-023bb772e8a7.pdf](https://www.dacs.wisconsin.gov/air-quality/polk-county-cafo-ordinance-2020-08-20.pdf)
Wis. Stats 93.90(3) does not grant the authority to political subdivisions to disapprove a permit based on species. Therefore, it cannot regulate only those livestock facilities that house swine... The proposed ordinance requires compliance with several more stringent local standards, identified as Section 10.4.6(C)(2) criteria; a, b, c, d, e, g, i, j, k, l, m, p. These more stringent standards do not meet all of the conditions laid out by ATCP 51.10(3). If the county wishes to adopt more stringent local standards than those included in ATCP 51, it must base those standards on reasonable and scientifically defensible findings of fact adopted by the county's governing authority and clearly show that those standards are needed to protect public health or safety.
 213. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Drinking Water: Nitrate.
Link: [Drinking Water: Nitrate | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/DrinkingWater/Nitrate.htm)
 214. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Beneficial Management Practices for Mitigating Hazardous Air Emissions. December 13, 2010
Link: [Recommended Beneficial Management Practices](https://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/publications/2010/10-001.pdf)
Report from the Agricultural Waste Air Emissions Advisory Group identifies and recommends suitable best management practices (BMPs) for the reduction of emissions of hazardous air pollutants from various types of livestock operations in Wisconsin. Report focuses on two hazardous air contaminants: ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. As part of the development of 30 BMPs specific to ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, air quality co-benefits and potential impacts to water quality were identified.
 215. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. CAFO Applications within Surface Water Quality Management Areas (SWQMA) NR 243 – CAFO Factsheet #1
Link: [NR 243 – CAFO Factsheet #1](https://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/publications/2010/10-001.pdf)
CAFO permits do not prohibit applications of manure and process wastewater within the SWQMA. However, CAFOs must take additional precautions when applying manure or process wastewater within the SWQMA. One option when applying manure within the SWQMA is to maintain a 100-foot setback from navigable waters and their conduits. Another option is to implement practices equal to or better than the 100-foot setback. There are other options which an operation can use to reduce the 100-foot setback to 25 feet on fields that have been in long-term no-till.
 216. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Employee - Runoff Management Northwest Team
Link: [Contact Details](#)
 217. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Fisheries Survey Report for Rush River, Pierce and St. Croix County, Wisconsin 2021
Link: [Rush River 2021 Rotation Survey.pdf](#)
The Rush River watershed encompasses approximately 290 sq. miles in St. Croix and Pierce counties. There are 31.8 miles of Class I trout water and 6.1 miles of Class II trout water. Fourteen stations were sampled on the Rush River from upstream of the town of Centerville in St. Croix County downstream to Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. The Rush River supports a high-quality, high-density Brown Trout population fully supported by natural reproduction. Stocking was

discontinued in 2007 because of increased natural reproduction. Natural reproduction and adult survival remain strong today, and densities are some of the highest within the state.

218. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Impaired Water Condition List
Link: [Impaired Water Condition List](#)
Every two years, Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) require states to publish a list of all waters not meeting water quality standards and an overall report on surface water quality status of all waters in the state.
219. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Impaired Water Condition List - Eau Galle River
Link: [Impaired Waters Detail - Eau Galle River](#)
220. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Impaired Water Condition List - Missouri Creek
Link: [Impaired Waters Detail - Missouri Creek](#)
221. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Impaired Water Condition List - Missouri Creek
Link: [Water Detail - Plum Creek, Plum Creek Watershed \(LC02\)](#)
222. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. NR 151
Link: [NR 151 rule](#)
223. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. NR 151 Rule Changes for Nitrate
Link: [NR 151 rule changes for nitrate](#)
224. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR 243 CAFOs, Water Permits and NR 243
Link: [CAFOs, water permits and NR 243](#)
225. Wisconsin Department of Revenue Case No: 16-76-01
Link: [WI-DOR-Tax-Appeal-Findings-and-Order](#)
Property taxes were lowered by 27% (\$60,000) for a Green County, Wisconsin neighbor to a 2,400-head hog finisher (just under 1000 animal units). This is shown in the Findings of Fact and Order from Todd Knutson's property tax appeal in Green County, Oct 2016.
226. Wisconsin's Green Fire. High Capacity Well Impacts on Wisconsin Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands. June 3, 2020
Link: [High Capacity Wells](#)
Wells pump groundwater. In Wisconsin, groundwater is usually well-connected to local lakes, streams, and wetlands, so when groundwater is pumped from wells, water levels in aquifers (the geology that holds groundwater) drop, as do the levels of connected lakes and wetlands and the flows of connected streams. The effects of pumping on fish, wildlife, and public water rights are a matter of degree: a little pumping may have a barely perceptible impact, but larger amounts can be devastating. A high capacity well as defined in Wisconsin statutes is one with a "... capacity to withdraw more than 100,000 gallons [of groundwater] per day..." or that "... together with all other wells on the same property, has a capacity of more than 100,000 gallons per day."
Wisconsin has some 9500 wells capable of pumping more than 100,000 gallons per day, and only a handful were evaluated for their impacts on lakes, streams, and wetlands before receiving regulatory approval. High capacity well pumpage is typically about 250 billion gallons per year (reported for 2013, a fairly average weather year), with roughly 40% attributable each for

agricultural irrigation and municipal use, and lesser amounts for industry, stock watering, mining, and others.

227. Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council. Report to the Legislature - August 31, 2024
Link: [GCC 2024 Report.pdf \(widen.net\)](#)
The Report is intended to alert Wisconsin leaders to the state of our groundwater resource and its management and to provide recommendations for its protection. Our groundwater is an invaluable resource, and its proper management and protection requires the coordinated efforts of our leaders
228. Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. Wastewater Permitting and Enforcement, Report 16-6, June 2016.
Link: [Wastewater Permitting and Enforcement DNR June 2016](#)
The Wisconsin DNR struggles to keep up with the growth of CAFOs in Wisconsin from 135 in 2005 to 319 in 2020. For example, a 2016 study by the Legislative Audit Bureau of the WPDES program found that one-third of the CAFOs were operating under expired permits. In 2020, 91 (28%) CAFOs are operating under expired permits.
229. Wisconsin State Legislature. Chapter NR 151 Runoff Management
Link: [Wisconsin Legislature: Chapter NR 151](#)
230. Wisconsin Supreme Court Case No.: 2018AP59, July 8, 2021
Link: [WI Supreme Court - Clean WI vs WI DNR - High Capacity Wells](#)
Court ruled that the DNR must exercise its authority to protect Wisconsin's water resources. Case looked at the impact of a controversial 2011 law known as Act 21 on the DNR's ability to use its permitting process to protect water resources. Centered around eight high-capacity well permits issued by the DNR in the Central Sands region of the state for large-scale agriculture irrigation. Clean Wisconsin and co-litigant Pleasant Lake Management District challenged those permits, pointing to DNR's own statements that the wells would harm nearby lakes and streams. The Wisconsin Legislature and industry groups intervened, arguing that Act 21 prevented the DNR from taking steps through its permitting process to keep groundwater and waterways from harm. DNR changed its position shortly after the election of Governor Tony Evers to support Clean Wisconsin's challenges.
231. Wisconsin Supreme Court Case No.: 2016AP1688, July 8, 2021
Link: [WI Supreme Court - Clean WI & MEA vs WI DNR & Kinnard - Groundwater Monitoring](#)
Court ruled that the DNR must exercise its authority to protect Wisconsin's water resources. Case looked at the impact of a controversial 2011 law known as Act 21 on the DNR's ability to use its permitting process to protect water resources. Case involved a wastewater discharge permit issued by the DNR in 2012 for Kinnard Farms, a large dairy operation in Kewaunee County. Clean Wisconsin and co-litigant Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA) argued the DNR should have required offsite groundwater monitoring and imposed an animal unit limit as conditions of its wastewater permit renewal to reduce the risk of manure contamination of nearby drinking water wells. The Wisconsin Legislature and Kinnard Farms dairy intervened, arguing that Act 21 prevented the DNR from taking steps through its permitting process to keep groundwater and waterways from harm. DNR changed its position shortly after the election of Governor Tony Evers to support Clean Wisconsin and MEA's challenges.
232. Wisconsin Supreme Court Case No.: 2016AP1688, July 8, 2021

Link: [WI Supreme Court - Clean WI & MEA vs Wi DNR & Kinnard - Groundwater Monitoring](#)

233. Wisconsin Towns Association. Comments on Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting – Draft Rule ATCP 51. 2019 pages 1-8.

Link: [DATCP Documents](#)

The proposed rules bring consistency and clarity to the law and ensure that standards are based on current scientific research and findings. We applaud the Board for demonstrating a willingness to engage the public and for its efforts at serving the broad needs of all Wisconsinites.

Media Articles

234. Agweek TV. JBS Pork Plant Euthanizing Market Hogs. April 29, 2020

Link: [AgweekTV: JBS Pork Plant Euthanizing Market Hogs - YouTube](#)

235. Ballentine, Summer. Midwest chicken farmers struggle to feed flocks after sudden processor closure. *AP News* Oct 17, 2024

Link: [Local farmers hung out to dry after poultry company closes](#)

Dozens of poultry factories in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin are scrambling to feed their flocks after Pure Prairie Poultry abruptly closed their processing plant a year after getting a \$39 million federal loan.

236. Barrett, Rick. Wisconsin farmers forces to dump milk as coronavirus slams fragile dairy economy. *MJS Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* April 1, 2020

Link: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/money/2020/04/01/coronavirus-forces-dairy-farmers-dump-milk-wisconsin-covid-19/5108609002/>

About 7 o'clock Tuesday night, Golden E Dairy got the call that any dairy farmer would dread. They were being asked to dump 25,000 gallons of fresh milk a day because there was no place for it to go as the marketplace for dairy products has been gutted by the closure of restaurants, schools, hotels and food-service businesses.

237. Buntjer, Julie. JBS begins euthanizing hogs. *AgWeek* April 29, 2020

Link: [JBS begins euthanizing hogs at Worthington plant | Agweek](#)

The process of euthanizing market-weight hogs began Wednesday morning, April 29, at the JBS pork processing facility in Worthington, but at a far lower capacity than the 13,000 estimated to be handled by the plant.

238. Champrix. Mortality in broilers and laying hens. August 8, 2022

Link: [Mortality in Broilers and Laying Hens](#)

Mortality is the percentage of deaths present on a farm. An increase in mortality, particularly if it happens suddenly, is a major cause of alarm. It has a major impact on the performance of broilers and laying hens, and also on the profitability of the farm.

239. Clemons, Michelle. About 4,000 swine killed in barn fire near Mondovi. *WEAU-13*. March 13, 2019

Link: [About 4,000 swine killed in barn fire near Mondovi](#)

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at about 5:40AM the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office received a report of a large hog barn on fire at Holden Farms, located at W20 Gonty Road in the Town of Naples, east of Mondovi.

240. Cohen, Jon. Bird flu appears entrenched in U.S. dairy herd. *Science* May, 2024

Link: <https://www.science.org/doi/epdf/10.1126/science.adq1771>

Too little and too late—that’s how many scientists see a set of measures ordered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to slow the unprecedented outbreak of the H5N1 avian influenza virus in dairy cows. The order, which took effect on 29 April, 1 month after the first reported cases, bans the transport of infected cows from state to state. But with the virus already infecting farms in at least nine states, “It’s a drop in the bucket,” says evolutionary biologist Mike Worobey of the University of Arizona.

241. Dairy News. Controversial Eastern Oregon Mega-Dairy to be Decommissioned. *July 11, 2024*
Link: [Controversial Eastern Oregon Mega-Dairy to Be Decommissioned](#)

Canyon Farms, has initiated the decommissioning process of the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) facilities. This move follows the site’s troubled past under previous ownership, which culminated in a bankruptcy filing after accruing \$187,000 in fines for manure management failures and other environmental breaches.

242. Douglas, Leah. et al. US farmers call for vaccine option to fight bird flu as wildfowl migration begins. *Reuters September 27, 2024*

Link: [US farmers call for vaccine option to fight bird flu as wildfowl migration begins.](#)

U.S. farmers are increasing pressure on the Biden administration to allow vaccinations for chickens, turkeys and cows to protect them from bird flu infections that have devastated flocks for three years... However, USDA Secretary Vilsack said in a previously unreported March letter to members of Congress that a vaccine campaign would face challenges including potential barriers to exports. Many countries ban imports of vaccinated poultry because of concerns that the vaccine could mask the presence of the virus.

243. Egan, Dan. Changes in America's dairy land foul the waters of Green Bay. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. September 2, 2021

Link: [Changes in America's Dairyland foul the waters of Green Bay \(jsonline.com\)](#)

244. Figuerosa, Alejandro. Controversial mega-dairy in Eastern Oregon Decommissioned. *OPB July 8, 2024*

Link: [Controversial mega-dairy in Eastern Oregon decommissioned](#)

Six years after Lost Valley Farm in Eastern Oregon shut down following more than 200 violations, the farm’s current owner, Canyon Farms, has asked to decommission the site as a Confined Animal Feeding Operation, or CAFO. But the area still remains contaminated, and agriculture regulators are seeking public comment as they look to remediate the site.

245. Goldstein, Bennet. Wisconsin landowners criticize plans to spread pig manure *Wisconsin Watch* December 13, 2023

Link: [Wisconsin landowners criticize plans to spread pig manure](#)

State rules require CAFO owners to have a sufficient land base on which to apply livestock manure, but several property owners, who had permitted use of their fields for farming, discovered their property had been designated for manure spreading without their consent. They informed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources they opposed the proposed fertilizer source.

In March, Wisconsin Watch verified the discrepancies were more pronounced than opponents initially understood. Owners of more than 11% of the designated spreading acres forbid the use of their properties. Several Cumberland critics called the inclusion of

unauthorized land in the plan the latest deception they have encountered since the farm was pitched. The practice might extend beyond Cumberland.

246. Goldstein, Nora. Insights into AD Developer Acquisition. *Biocycle* August 9, 2022
Link: [Insights into AD Developer Acquisition](#)
BlackRock Real Assets acquired Vanguard Renewables from Vision Ridge Partners in 2022. The deal, valued at \$700 million, will lead to BlackRock investing an estimated \$2 billion in growing Vanguard's portfolio of facilities.
247. Jarvis, Rick. In Texas, nearly 18,000 cows in a single barn fire. Here's how it happened. *USA Today* December 27, 2023
Link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2023/12/27/18000-cows-dead-fire-south-fork-dairy-dimmit-texas/72005659007/fire>
CASTRO COUNTY, Texas – The aroma of cow manure rode the spring breeze, as it always does in this stretch of Texas panhandle, where the wind lifts an endless fog of microscopic particles that infuse every mile with an earthy scent, the smell of business. The vast barn stood at 2 million square feet, larger than two Amazon fulfillment centers end over end, a footprint almost twice the size of the Pentagon. Even by Texas' standards, it was considered big.
248. Kirwin, Hope. Wisconsin Supreme Court Affirms DNR Authority *WPR* July 8, 2021
Link: [Wisconsin Supreme Court Affirms DNR Authority To Restrict, Deny Farm Permits](#)
The Wisconsin Supreme Court has affirmed the state Department of Natural Resources has the authority to place permit restrictions on large livestock farms and high-capacity wells in order to protect the state's water.
249. Kaeding, Danielle. Report: Digesters encourage farm expansion and make pollution worse in Kewaunee County. *Wisconsin State Farmer* June 13, 2024
Link: [Digesters encourage farm expansion and make pollution worse](#)
A new report claims manure digesters are encouraging farm expansion and making pollution worse in Kewaunee County. But supporters argue manure digesters help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide renewable energy.
250. Kremer, R. DNR Investigating 'Large' Manure Spill at St. Croix CAFO, Spill Wasn't Reported Until 3 Months After Leak. *WPR*. Apr 13, 2017
Link: [DNR Investigating 'Large' Manure Spill At St. Croix CAFO](#)
The Department of Natural Resources says it's investigating a large manure spill in St. Croix County that happened in December but wasn't reported until March 29.
251. Landgrebe, Jeremy. Local farmers hung out to dry after poultry company closes. *WQOW* Oct 14, 2024
Link: [Local farmers hung out to dry after poultry company closes](#)
In a story spanning multiple states, poultry factory operators in Western Wisconsin contracting with Pure Prairie Poultry can no longer feed tens of thousands of chickens after Pure Prairie goes bankrupt and stops reimbursing factory operators for expenses. Pure Prairie wants state taxpayers

to assume liability for the birds. Factory operators use social media to plead with people to come take the birds for a donation.

252. Levin, Michael H. The IRA Revolutionizes AD Tax Credits. *Biocycle* August 23, 2022
Link: [The IRA Revolutionizes AD Tax Credits](#)
The IRA aims to expand access to tax credits (plus billions of dollars in complementary funding) for biofuel and other renewable energy projects. It's widely expected to surge new capital across the renewable energy space. These provisions include: \$2 billion for USDA's Rural Energy for America (REAP) program to promote rural or agriculture-related renewable energy.
253. Moran, Tim. 12,000 Pigs Killed In Minnesota Barn Fire a 'Tragedy'. *Patch* May 20, 2021
Link: [12,000 Pigs Killed In Minnesota Barn Fire A 'Tragedy'](#)
Trucks from nine fire departments responded to the Woodville Pork farm on 368th Avenue in Waseca Sunday night, taking several hours to fully put out the barn fire that killed the pigs, KEYC and others have reported. Waseca Fire Chief Jason Forshee told the news station about 9,000 piglets and about 3,000 sows died in the fire. The cause of the fire hadn't been determined by Thursday, and Marshall Radio said it could be several days before it's determined. Farming experts in the area have said the lack of rain, coupled with high winds, have caused other farm building fires, KEYC reported.
254. Narishkin, A, Cameron, S, Barranco, V. Why 1 million pigs could be euthanized due to COVID-19-related supply chain issues. *Business Insider*. June 25, 2020
Link: [Why 1 Million Pigs May Be Euthanized](#)
Beginning in April 2020, the US experienced a meat shortage and unprecedented meat prices. That's because COVID-19 outbreaks in at least 167 meat-processing plants forced almost 40 plants to close. In an already compact industry, any one plant closure strands millions of pigs at farms. Could this break in the supply chain be avoided? Agricultural economist Jayson Lusk says automation in meat-processing plants could be one solution. Another? Smaller, vertically integrated farms, like Belcampo Meat Co. in Northern California.
255. National Pork Producers Council. Statement on Implementation of Defense Production Act. April 29, 2020.
Link: [NPPC Statement on Implementation of Defense Production Act](#)
President Trump last night invoked the Defense Production Act (DPA) to extend much-needed federal support to the U.S. pork production system. By triggering the DPA, the federal government will prioritize the continuity of pork processing plant operations. Howard "A.V." Roth, NPPC president and a producer from Wauzeka, Wisconsin.
256. Neeley, Todd. Farms Exempt from Emissions Reporting. *Ohio Country Journal* June 5, 2019
Link: [Farms Exempt From Emissions Reporting – Ohio Ag Net](#)
Farms are now exempt from reporting air emissions from animal waste after the EPA on Tuesday finalized a new rule amending the emergency release notification regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, or EPCRA.
257. Physician's Weekly. Second Health Care Worker Linked to Missouri Bird Flu Case Also Had Symptoms: CDC. *Physician's Weekly* September 24, 2024
Link: [Second health Care Worker Linked to Missouri Bird Flu Case Also Had Symptoms: CDC](#)
Another health care worker who was exposed to a Missouri patient who tested positive for bird flu developed respiratory symptoms but wasn't tested for the flu, U.S. health officials reported Friday. The news is rekindling worries of person-to-person transmission of the H5N1 bird flu strain

258. Redman, Harry. DNR sends back CAFO expansion application after accusations of false manure spreading agreements. *Wisconsin Examiner* August 26, 2024
Link: [DNR sends back CAFO expansion application after accusations of false...](#)
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has sent back a factory farming operation's application to expand a Pierce County farm after local residents raised concerns that properties listed in the application as sites where manure would be spread on fields had never agreed to that arrangement.
259. Steenson, Bob. Iowa culls over a million chickens *Charles City Press* Oct 26, 2024
Link: [Iowa culls over a million chickens in aftermath of Pure Prairie Poultry closure](#)
The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has confirmed the euthanizing of about 1.3 million broiler chickens left stranded on 13 Iowa farms following the closure of Pure Prairie Poultry in Charles City earlier this month. This marks the latest chapter in a month-long saga that began when the company notified state officials on Sept. 30 that it could no longer afford to purchase feed for the birds, followed by the abrupt shutdown of its Charles City processing plant and the layoff of its workers on Oct. 2.
260. Swine Cast, Persistent PRRS in Finishing Pigs Raises Concerns. September 3, 2021
Link: [SwineCast 1168, Persistent PRRS in Finishing Pigs Raises Concerns](#)
Various PRRS strains, including 144 lineage C, remain dangerously active in the Midwest pig production belt, despite a hot, dry summer. Three veterinarians describe what they are seeing and doing to reverse PRRS-driven losses. Dr. Deb Murray (New Fashion Pork), Dr. Kat Wood (Christensen Farms), and Dr. Ryan Strobel (Swine Vet Center), have a lively and timely discussion with the At the Meeting team (Dr. Montserrat Torremorell - College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, Dr. Gordon Spronk - Pipestone Veterinary Services, and Dr. Tom Wetzell - Swine Veterinary Consultant).
261. WBAY TV Ag. Secretary Visits Local Farmers *WBAY TV* May 23, 2024
Link: [Ag Secretary Visits Local Farmers](#)
USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack visits Dairy Dream in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. This Pagell Family Business owns 11,000 cows and is getting a grant to finance what Vilsack calls a nutrient concentration systems - the future of farming in America.
262. Weingarten D, Davis T: A Minnesota mega-dairy is transforming Arizona's aquifer and farming lifestyles. *High Country News*. August 4, 2021
Link: [A mega-dairy is transforming Arizona's aquifer and farming lifestyles \(Sucked Dry\) \(hcn.org\)](#)
Minnesota's Riverview Dairy has deep pockets and long straws. Hundreds of people, mostly low- to middle-income, living in Arizona's high-desert landscape whose groundwater is rapidly disappearing as water is pumped to grow alfalfa, corn, nuts, wheat and barley. Kerkhoven, Minnesota, farmers Jim and LeeAnn VanDerPol have watched as their community lost many of its residents following decades of shrinking agricultural margins and increased corporate consolidation in the livestock sectors. Their former neighbors have been replaced by the five huge Riverview facilities within 10 miles of their house. In Chokio, Minnesota, about an hour away, locals successfully fought to keep Riverview from building a 9,200-cow dairy, citing concerns about pollution and groundwater decline.
263. Ziemba, L. Yakima Case a Bellwether of Future Challenges Ahead. June 15, 2015 *Hoards*
Link: [Yakima case a bellwether of future challenges ahead \(hoards.com\)](#)

For decades CAFOs thought the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), applied to garbage landfills. That changed in 2015, when a federal judge in Washington State ruled that RCRA did apply to CAFO waste as part of a lawsuit against the 7,000 head Cow Palace. Settlement required mitigation measures including manure storage liners, monitoring wells, compliance monitoring and a reduction in the use of manure as fertilizer.

**TOWN OF ROCK ELM
PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-XX

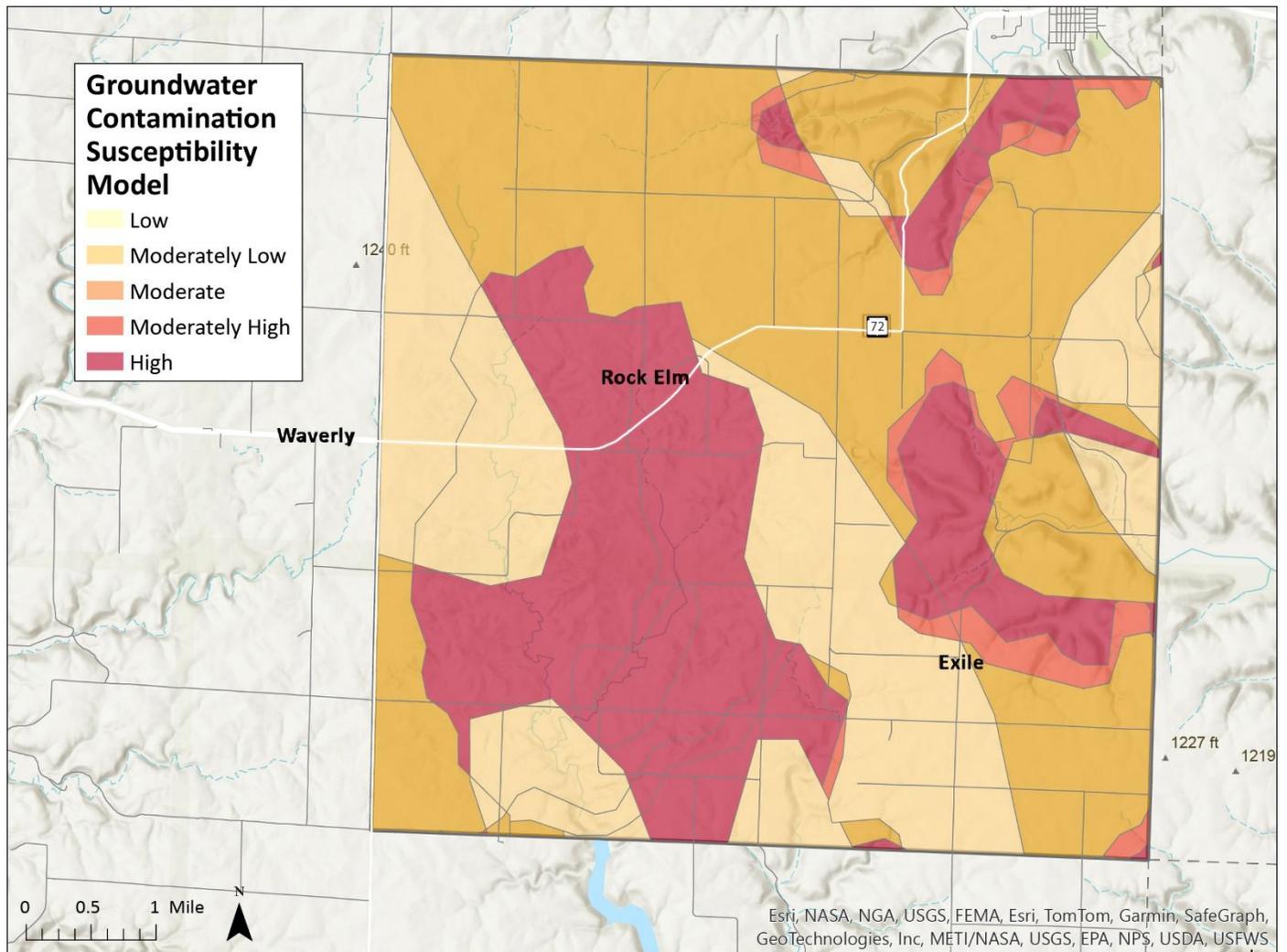
**CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO)
ORDINANCE**

APPENDIX B.

Map 1. Groundwater Susceptibility to Contamination Model - Local Finding 9

Five factors contribute to groundwater susceptibility, including: type of soil, bedrock and materials between soil and bedrock; depth to bedrock; and depth to groundwater. Data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Groundwater Susceptibility Model was divided into five evenly spread categories ranging from high to low. Of the town's total acreage approximately 28% is ranked high susceptibility to contamination, 4% moderately high, 41% moderate, 28% moderately low, and 0% ranked low susceptibility.

Groundwater Susceptibility to Contamination	Percent of Total
High	28%
Moderately High	4%
Moderate	41%
Moderately Low	28%
Low	0%



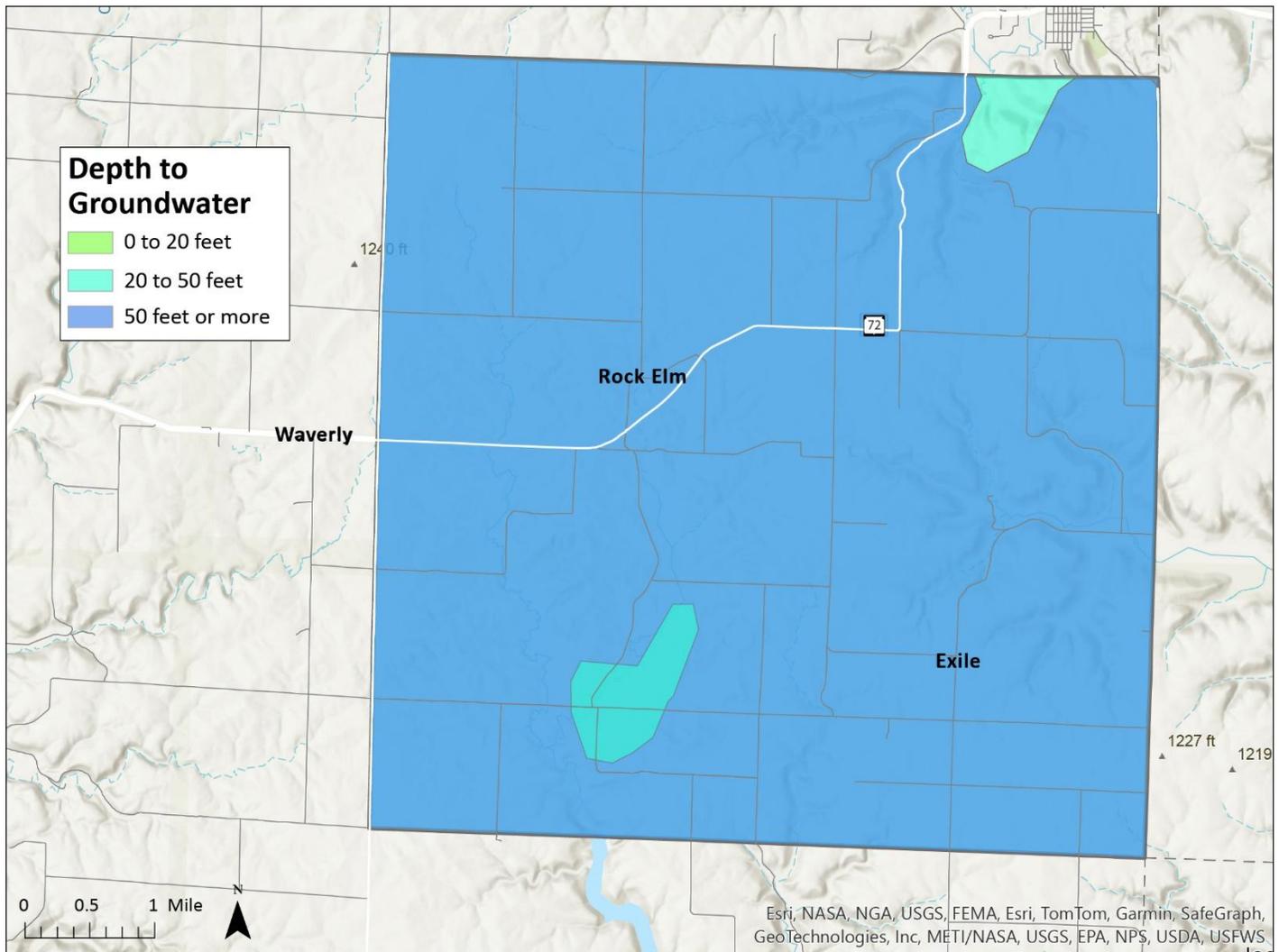
Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

<https://geodata.wisc.edu/catalog/CF9E8298-63E5-43C7-9E8A-DEDCB93C1519>

Map 2. Depth to Groundwater - Local Finding 10

Approximately 0% of Rock Elm's total acres have groundwater within 20 feet of the land surface, 3% is 20 to 50 feet and 97% is over 50 feet from the land surface.

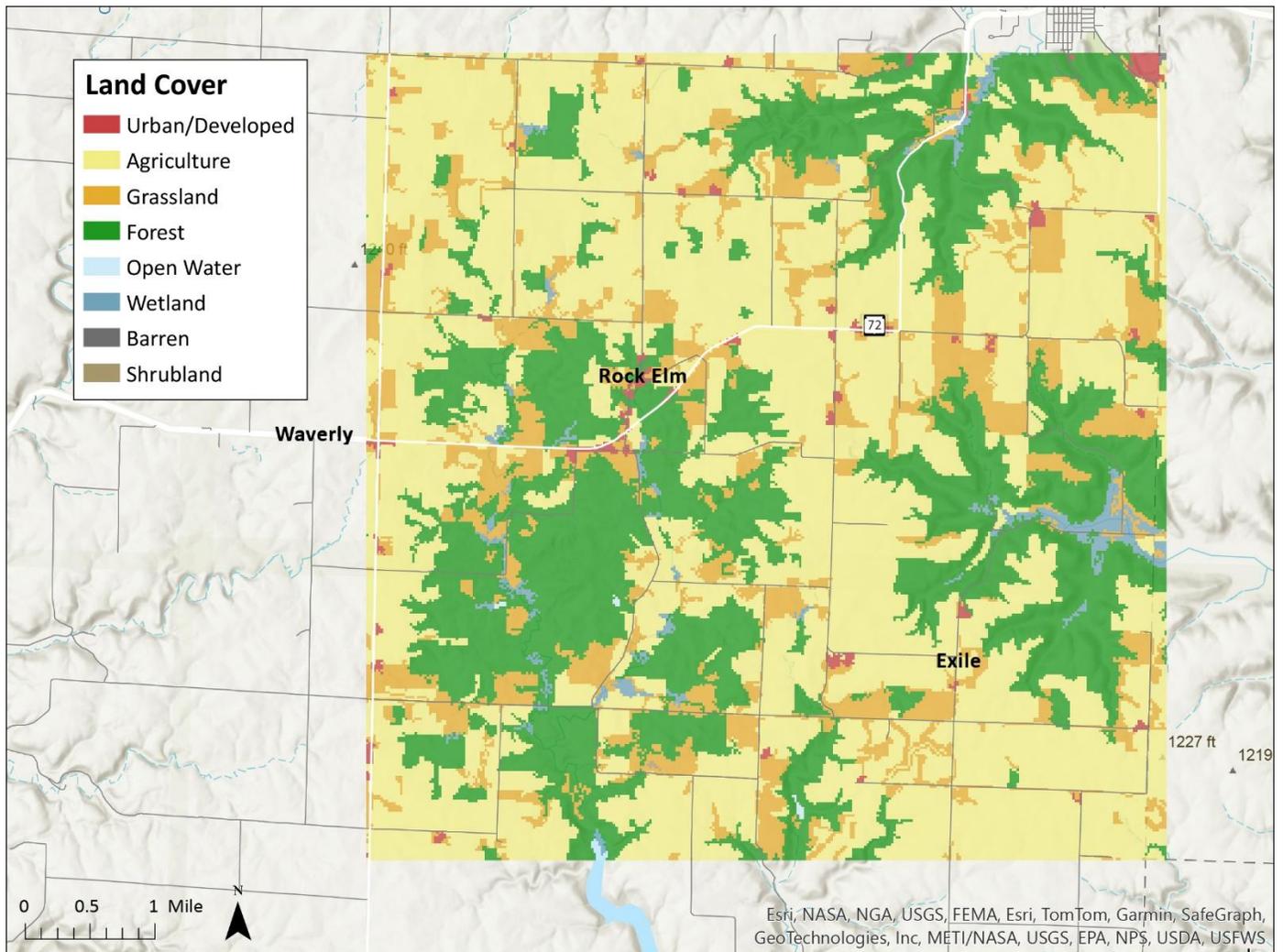
Depth to Groundwater	
1-20ft	0%
20ft - 50ft	3%
Over 50ft	97%



Source: Wisconsin DNR Groundwater Susceptibility Model, Depth to Groundwater
<https://data-wi-dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/wi-dnr::gcs-m-water-table-depth/about>

Map 3. Land Cover - Local Finding 11

Land Cover - WiscLand (Not land use)	Percent
Agriculture	53%
Barren	0%
Forest	30%
Grassland	15%
Open Water	<1%
Shrubland	0%
Urban/Developed	1%
Wetland	1%

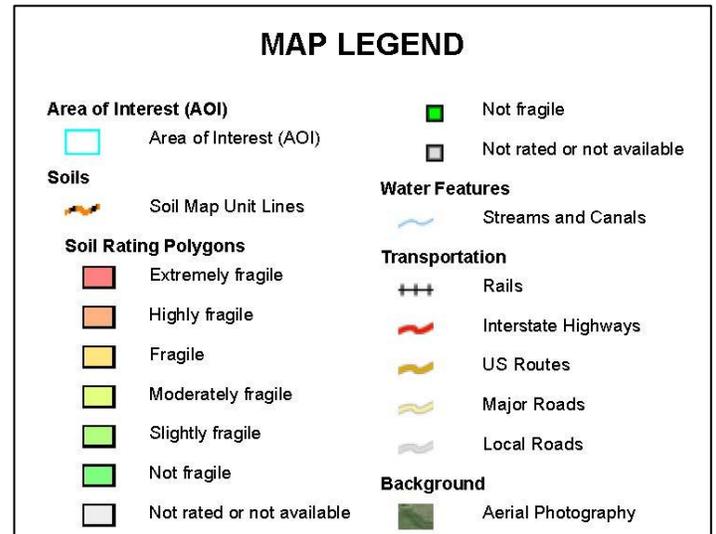


Source: Wisconsin Land Cover Data (WISCLAND 2.0)

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/maps/WISCLAND>

Map 4. Fragile Soil Index - Local Finding 12

Fragile soils are those that are most vulnerable to degradation. They are easily degraded and are highly susceptible to erosion with low resilience. They are characterized as having low organic matter contents, low water-stable aggregates and low soil structure. Fragile soils are generally located on sloping ground, have sparse plant cover and tend to be in arid and semiarid regions. A fragile soil index interpretation was developed to rate soils based on their fragility. The index can be used in conservation and watershed planning to assist in identifying soils and areas with greater vulnerability to degradation.



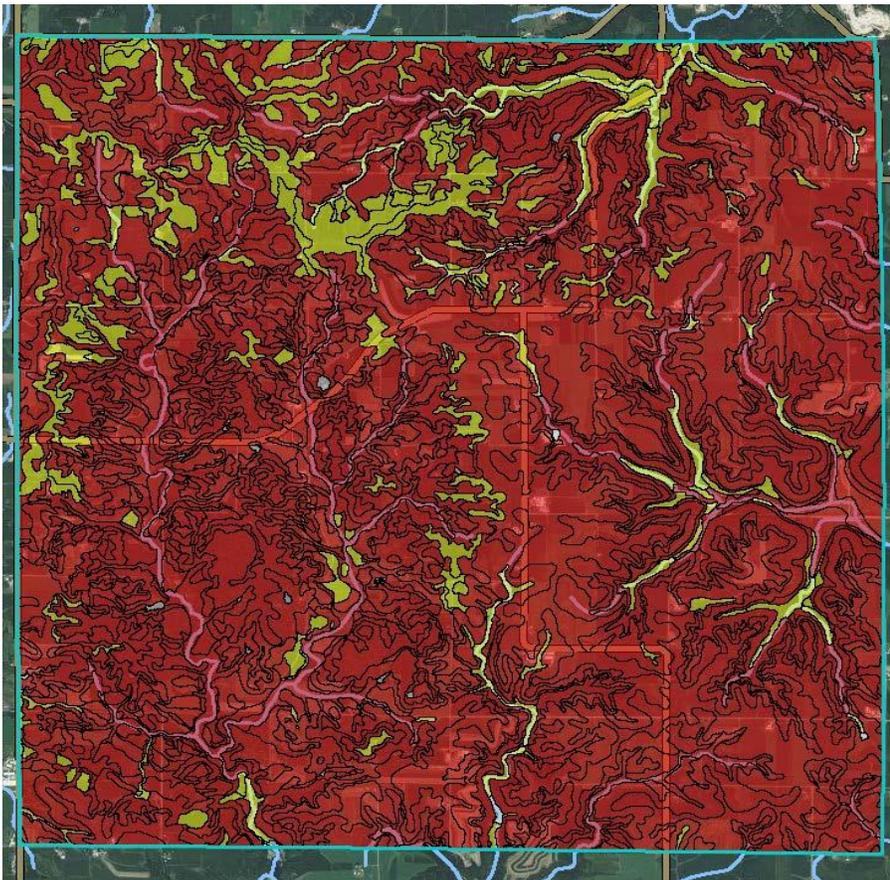
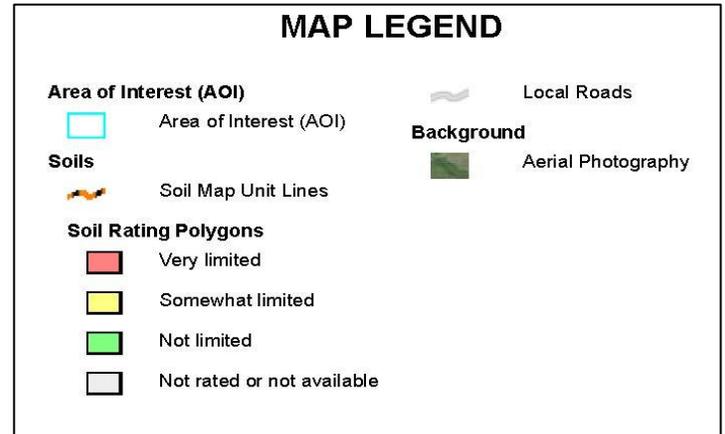
Fragile Soils	
Moderately Fragile	81%
Fragile	6%
Slightly Fragile	4%
Null or Not Rated	9%

Source: National Cooperative Soil Survey, USDA – NRCS
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Map 5. Manure and Food-Processing Waste - Local Finding 13

These ratings are based on the soil properties that affect absorption, plant growth, microbial activity, erodibility, the rate at which the waste is applied, and the method by which the waste is applied. The properties that affect absorption include saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat), depth to a water table, ponding, the sodium adsorption ratio, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, and available water capacity. The properties that affect plant growth and microbial activity include reaction, the sodium adsorption ratio, salinity, and bulk density. The wind erodibility group, soil erosion factor K, and slope are considered in estimating the likelihood that wind erosion or water erosion will transport the waste material from the application site. Stones, cobbles, a water table, ponding, and flooding can hinder the application of waste. Permanently frozen soils are unsuitable for waste treatment.

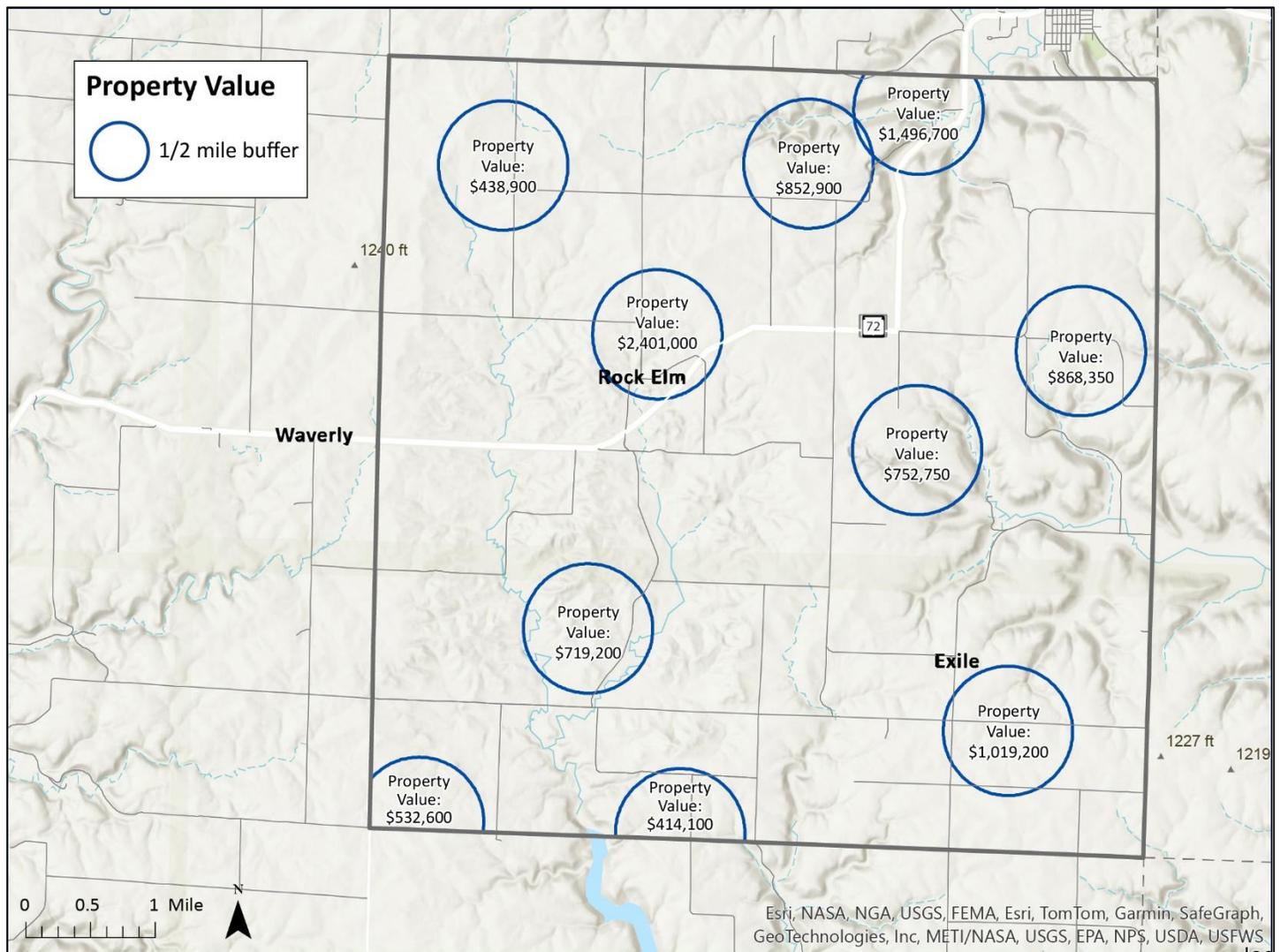
- **89% Very Limited** – indicates that soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specific use. Limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.
- **11% Somewhat Limited** – indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for specified use. Limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation.
- **<1% Not Limited or Not Rated**



Source: National Cooperative Soil Survey, USDA <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Map 6. Property Tax Values Within 1/2-mile radius of 10 theoretical CAFO Sites Local Finding 20

Property values within 1/2 mile of 10 sites range in value from \$414,100 to \$2.4 million.

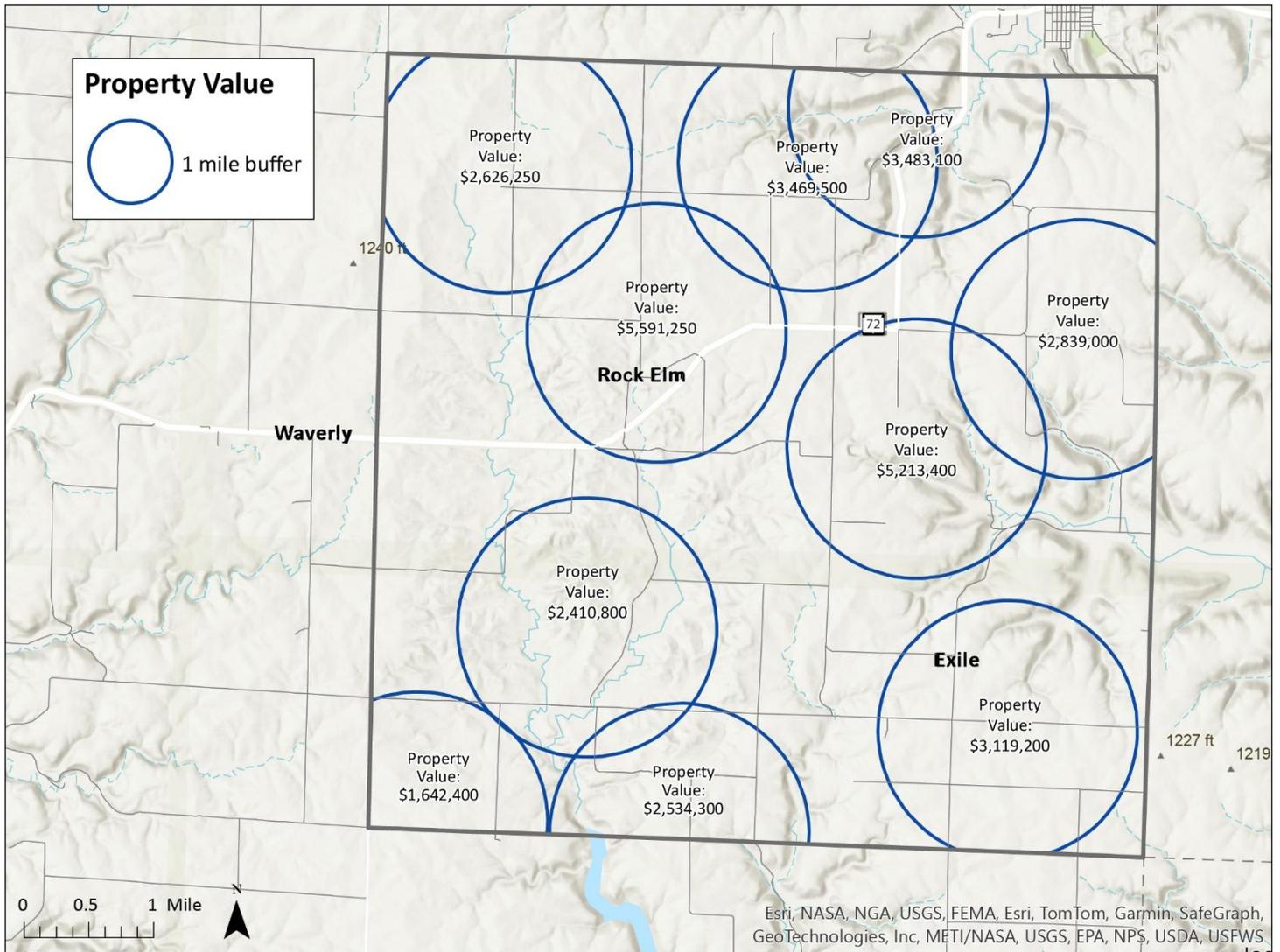


Source: 2023 Wisconsin County Parcel Data Pierce County, WI

<https://www.sco.wisc.edu/parcels/data-county/>

Map 7. Property Tax Values Within 1-mile radius of 10 theoretical CAFO Sites Local Finding 20

Property values within 1-mile of 8 randomly selected sites would range in value of \$1.6 million and \$5.5 million.



Source: 2023 Wisconsin County Parcel Data – Pierce County, WI

<https://www.sco.wisc.edu/parcels/data-county/>

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)
Permit Application
Town of Rock Elm, Pierce County, Wisconsin
Appendix C**

Authority

The Applicant submitting this Application must be an owner of the entity proposing to operate the CAFO and sign the Application. The Application must also be signed by the property owner, who agrees to be bound by the same standards as the operator, and by one or more qualified and professionally licensed third party engineers or geoscientists who attest that they have prepared or have reviewed the plans and certify that the plans will meet the performance requirements in Section 8: Application Procedure.

Town Compensation

Upon executing and submitting a CAFO Permit Application to the Town Clerk, the Applicant shall include and sign a statement that the Applicant agrees to fully compensate the Town for all legal services, expert consulting services, and other expenses which may be reasonably incurred by the Town in reviewing and considering the Application, regardless of whether or not the Application for a permit is subsequently approved, with or without conditions, or denied by the Town Board. The Applicant statement shall also state that the Applicant agrees to fully compensate the Town for all legal services, expert consulting services and other expenses, for verifying and enforcing compliance with the terms of the permit, with or without conditions, if approved by the Town Board,

Application Fee

A non-refundable application fee of Three Dollars (\$3) per proposed animal unit up to 1,000 animal units and Five Dollars (\$5.00) per proposed animal unit thereafter payable to the Town of Rock Elm shall accompany an application for the purpose of offsetting the Town's costs to review and process the application. The Town may reevaluate and adjust accordingly the amount of the application fee on an annual basis.

Application Fee, Legal Name & Type of Business

Application Filing Fee: # _____ of Animal Units x \$1.00 per Animal Unit =
\$ _____ (CAFO Ordinance Section 3.1 & Section 7.)

Date of Application: _____

Application for _____ New, _____ Modification, _____ Expanded animal housing or waste storage.

**Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)
Permit Application**

Legal Name of Individual or Organization Operating CAFO:

Type of Business:

Individual Corporation Partnership Cooperative LLC Trust Other

Describe businesss _____

Include Other Names, if any, under which the Applicant does business:

Principal Owners

Name _____ Title _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Add additional Owners and Officers on separate sheet, as necessary.

Signature of Owner:

Name and Contact Information of Individual Completing Application:

Position of Individual Completing Application: _____

Federal Employer ID#: _____ State Employer ID# _____

**Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)
Permit Application**

Authorized Contact Person

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Print or type operator's name:

Legal Name of company:

Legal address of company:

Street _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Owner Signature

_____ Date: _____

Note: Signature of the Applicant authorizes the Town and its designees to enter upon the property to perform needed inspections at any time and on as many occasions as the town or it's a designee deems necessary without prior notice to Applicant.

Property Owner Signature

_____ Date: _____

Third Party Reviewer of Plans Signature:

_____ Date: _____

**Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)
Permit Application**

Property Identification

Facilities and Storage

Provide the owner(s) name, contact information and legal description for each parcel of the land at which CAFO facilities such as barns, waste and feed storage, composting, etc. will be located.

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Legal Description

_____ ¼ of _____ ¼, Section _____ Township _____ N. Range _____ W. Town of _____

Tax Parcel ID Number: _____ Acreage _____ Name and Address of Land Owner: _____

If any of the above facilities or land is rented include a copy of the lease agreement or other document demonstrating permission to use the land and/or facilities as proposed.

Manure Application

Provide the owner's name, contact information and legal description for each parcel of land to which the CAFO will be applying manure.

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Legal Description

_____ ¼ of _____ ¼, Section _____ Township _____ N. Range _____ W. Town of _____

Tax Parcel ID Number: _____ Acreage _____

Manure Land Application Agreement with Land Owners (CAFO Ordinance - Section 10.2.b.ii.)

For each parcel of rented land include a Manure Land Application Agreement demonstrating permission to use the land for a minimum contract period of five (5) years.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

Land use

Describe current land uses within and immediately adjacent to the proposed CAFO site, including aerial photographs. For lands being used for crop production, include a description of crops currently being grown with an estimate of acreage of each crop.

Permits

The Applicant must obtain all required state and county permits and attach them to this Application. The Town will not proceed with Application procedure until all required state and county permits are complete.

Required Financial Assurance (CAFO Ordinance Section 9.)

1. Attach documentation, as detailed in the CAFO Ordinance - Section 9, that the Applicant and all contractors, subcontractors, agents and representatives can assure sufficient funds will be available for pollution clean-up, nuisance abatement, and proper closure of the operation if it is abandoned or otherwise ceases to operate.

Required Plans (CAFO Ordinance Section 8.)

The Application must be signed by the property owner, who agrees to be held by the same standards as the operator, and by one or more qualified and professionally licensed third party engineers or geoscientists who attest that they have prepared or have reviewed the plans and certify that they will meet the following performance requirements.

A. Infectious Disease Plan to prevent the spread to other animals, livestock and humans.

B. Waste Management Plan to detail how storage and management of waste and nutrients will prevent contamination of surface and groundwater. At a minimum, it must include:

1. Scientifically significant baseline data on the water quality of local human drinking and agricultural wells. (CAFO Ordinance Section 10.2.a.)
2. If applicable, an existing Nutrient Management Plan.
3. Explain how the waste management plan will attain state requirements under [Wis. Stat. 281.16 \(3\)](#)
 - a. No overflow of manure storage structures.
 - b. No unconfined manure pile in a water quality management area.
 - c. No direct runoff from a feedlot or stored manure into the waters of the state.
 - d. Limited access by livestock to waters of the state in a location where high concentrations of animals prevent the maintenance of adequate sod cover.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

4. Animal waste storage to attain zero-discharge of contaminated runoff to surface water or seepage to groundwater using engineered berms, tanks and liners, equivalent or better, to prevent:
 - a. Leaking of underground liners through corrosion, cracks or gaps;
 - b. Leaking of tank systems from corrosion or cracks.
5. Animal waste management to attain zero-discharge of contaminated runoff to surface or groundwater water.
6. Amount of land used to spread waste will be based on spreadable acres, not total acres. (CAFO Ordinance Section 10.2.b.i.)
7. Manure Land Application Agreements with land owner. (CAFO Ordinance 10.2.b.ii.)
8. Depth to groundwater below all waste management areas with borings.
9. Soil types and pre-operation, site-specific infiltration tests to below root zone.
10. Land cover, groundwater susceptibility, fragile soil index, manure and food processing waste rating,
11. Quantity, location, timetable and frequency of testing for monitoring wells.

C. Animal Population Control and Depopulation Plan must provide for and demonstrate:

1. Daily recording and reporting of animal counts and mortality.
2. Reporting to the Town-designated local authority within 24 hours of any unusual mortality.
3. Methods used for euthanasia of diseased animals.
4. Management of the movement and transportation of livestock, containment and treatment of bodily fluids from and safe disposal of carcasses to prevent spread of disease to other livestock, animals, workers and humans.

D. Biosecurity and Animal Health Plan must provide for and demonstrate:

1. Healthy and humane treatment of all animals.
2. Routine observation and testing for diseases of concern.
3. Separation and quarantine of diseased animals and animals in contact with diseased animals.
4. Euthanasia, handling, and disposal of diseased animals sufficient to prevent the spread of disease to workers, other livestock, animals and humans.
5. Quarterly reporting of animal testing results and enforceable metrics.
6. Confirmation that the livestock and conditions at the facility, based on plan-identified metrics, are healthy by a third-party inspector
7. Any deviations from the metrics and any detection of diseases of concern will be immediately reported to Pierce County Health Department and Town authority.
8. Testing of workers and contractors who come into contact with diseased animals.
9. Other emergency measures in the event of an outbreak of disease, based on the latest authoritative disease containment guidance.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

E. Animal Transportation Plan in combination with Biosecurity and Animal Health plan, must provide for and demonstrate:

1. Safe transportation of all livestock to and from the CAFO in compliance with the USDA "28-hour rule under [49 USC Ch. 805](#).
2. Disinfection of transport trailers prior to loading and treatment of water used to disinfect trailers. All vehicles leaving CAFO premises must be thoroughly sanitized.
3. Ability to contact drivers and owners of previous livestock shipments.
4. Coordination with local traffic and road authorities to assure safe transport of the animals to prevent traffic accidents and provide the necessary emergency response measures in the event of an accident.
5. Traffic study that includes:
 - a. Identification of all roads used for delivery of supplies, food, and livestock to the facility including interstate, federal, state and county highways, town roads and private roads.
 - b. Traffic counts on all local non-interstate roads/highways, and projected traffic counts with special attention to less used roads.
 - c. Identification and evaluation of impact on congestion points, risk factors such as school traffic and high risk times of day.
 - d. Identification of tight turns that may need additional signage or improvements for safety.

F. Water Use Plan based on hydrogeological characterization study, including:

1. Estimated water use for drinking, cleaning, cooling and manure movement.
2. Pumping tests to assess whether groundwater levels and volumes are sufficient.
3. Identification of all onsite and nearby wells:
 - a. Identify and locate on a map all wells within five (5) miles of proposed facility.
 - b. Depth, date of installation of each well.
 - c. Pump rates, and hydraulic unit pumped from for each well.
4. Identification of all springs and artesian fed streams and water bodies within five (5) miles, including:
 - a. ponds
 - b. wetlands
 - c. single source aquifers
 - d. regional aquifers
 - e. lakes
5. Location on a map and characterization of artesian features, including:
 - a. size
 - b. depth
 - c. estimated flow rates for springs
 - d. geological formation(s) water comes from and is found in
6. Identification of the drainage basin(s) in the area.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

7. Identification of any 100-year flood plains in the area.
8. Identification of any recharge zones for a sole-source aquifer.
9. Demonstration by calculation, modeling, and hydrology that the planned use of water will have no impact, considering projected 50-year growth of population in the area, and the flow rate.
10. Extent, volume, and storage capacity for any existing well, spring or artesian-fed water body within 2 miles.
11. Quarterly reporting of water use to the local authority or their designated hydrogeologist.

G. Odor and Toxic Air Pollution Prevention Plan must provide for and demonstrate:

1. Point, fugitive and dust emissions and monitoring requirements for all facilities.
2. Prevention of odiferous smells noticeable to human olfactory senses.
3. Prevention of toxic air pollutants along property boundaries.
4. Adequate offsets, waste containment, air and odor emission control devices, including particulate filters to:
 - a. Prevent air pollution
 - b. Transmission of disease particles from the CAFO or offsite CAFO waste management areas.

H. Community Economic Land Use, Property Value Assessment and Impact Study performed by a licensed appraiser and qualified land use planner with scientifically sound measures to provide for and demonstrate:

1. Identification of land use and property owners within ten (10) miles of proposed facility.
2. No negative impact to properties within one (10) miles of proposed CAFO.
3. Net positive benefits to the Town including consideration of risk on public health.

I. Construction, Fire and Road Plans must provide for and demonstrate:

1. **Construction Plan** to include signed engineered drawings for the measures needed to meet the performance requirements and the measures specified in the following:
 - a. Fire Safety Needs Analysis
 - b. Fire Water Supply Needs Analysis
 - c. Road plan
2. **Fire Safety Needs Analysis** to include an evaluation of local rural fire departments (RFD) ability to respond to and effectively contain fires. (See NFPA Standard 1141 Capacity of Fire Protection Services.)
 - a. Analysis of all RFDs in the county as well as the two nearest adjacent counties.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

- b. Meetings shall be held with these RFDs to discuss the current availability and future requirements necessary to fight a fire. At a minimum, discussion and documentation of the following items will be completed. Other items should be addressed if either the owner/operator or the rural fire departments identify a need:
 - i. Dispatching - Ability of current system and staff able to handle the increased call volume likely to be generated by the CAFO.
 - ii. Fire Station Locations - Current fire stations distribution, design and ability to service the changing demands related to the CAFO building and operations.
 - iii. Personnel - Any increased need for positions.
 - iv. Equipment - Ability of trucks, pumps, ladder trucks, etc. to address CAFO fires.
 - v. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
 - Portable Radios - enough to equip all responders on a shift.
 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
 - Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) Devices as needed in an Immediately Dangerous to Health or Life (IDHL) environment
 - Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) - percentage of fire fighters equipped with PPC and what percentage over 10 years old?
 - c. Review of RFD's Community Risk Reduction Capacity:
 - Fire Prevention or Code Enforcement Program.
 - Inspections performance and permit approval process.
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning and Risk Assessment.
 - d. Potential funding needed to address items identified in number a. to c.
 - e. Coordination agreements as needed between RFDs.
- 3. Fire Water Supply Needs Analysis** to determine and ensure that there will be sufficient water supply to effectively contain a structural fire at the CAFO facility. The [NFPA 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting, 2017](#) requirements are incorporated by reference. These requirements are summarized below.
- a. Determine minimum requirements for alternative water supplies for structural fire-fighting purposes in areas where the Town determines that adequate and reliable water supply systems for fire-fighting purposes do not otherwise exist.
 - b. Define an adequate and reliable municipal-type water supply as one that is sufficient every day of the year to control and extinguish anticipated fires.
 - c. Survey CAFO structures to obtain the following information:
 - Occupancy hazard
 - Type of construction (Per NFSA 150, 7.2.2 animal housing facilities will be Type II construction)
 - Structure length, width, and height dimensions

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

- d. Calculate minimum water supplies. Changes made in structural design, dimensions, occupancy, or contents that affect the occupancy hazard or the construction type require that the structure be resurveyed to determine if changes are necessary in the minimum water supply required.
- e. If there are changes in automatic fire suppression systems in a structure that would affect the protection afforded, the owner/operator shall notify the Town in writing of such changes, including temporary impairment.
- f. The minimum requirements shall be subject to increase to compensate for particular conditions such as the following:
 - Limited RFD resources or extended RFD response times as identified in Fire Safety Needs Analysis
 - Potential for delayed discovery of the fire
 - Limited access
 - Hazardous vegetation or unusual terrain
 - Structural attachments
 - Special uses and occupancy
- g. For the purpose of calculating minimum water supply requirement, a structure shall be considered an exposure hazard under the following conditions:
 - It is 100 ft² or larger in area and is within 50 feet of another structure
 - The structure, regardless of size is of occupancy hazard classification 3 or 4 as determined in NFPA 1143 - Chapter 5 and is within 50 feet of another structure.
- h. Unattached structures exposure hazards require a minimum water supply, in gallons, to be determined by calculating the total enclosed volume, in cubic feet, of the structure, dividing by the occupancy hazard number as determined from NFPA 1143 - Chapter 5, multiplying by the construction classification number as determined from NFPA - Chapter 6 and multiplying by 1.5 as follows:
 - $WS_{min} = (VS_{tot} / OHC) \times CC \times 1.5$
 - Where:
 - WS_{min} = minimum water supply in gallons
 - VS_{tot} = total volume of structure in ft³
 - OHC = occupancy hazard classification number
 - CC = construction classification number
 - The minimum water supply required for a structure with exposure hazards shall not be less than 3000 gallons.
- i. Structures with automatic sprinkler protection shall be permitted to reduce the water supply required for manual fire-fighting purposes when a structure is protected by an automatic sprinkler system that fully meets the requirements of NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, or NFPA 13R (See Annex F of NFPA 1142)

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

- j. Automatic sprinkler systems that do not fully meet the requirements of NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, or NFPA 13R shall provide a water supply in accordance with Section 16.3.5.1.1 of the NFPA 150 Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code.
- k. Minimum water supply shall be delivered in accordance with Table 9-1.
- l. Water delivery rate may be adjusted by the Town giving consideration to local conditions and need. The minimum water delivery rate shall not be less than 250 gpm (950 L/min).

Table 9-1 Minimum Water Delivery Rate to Fire Scene

Total Water Supply Required		Water Delivery Rate	
Gallons	Liters	GPM	L/min
<2,500	9,459	250	950
2,500-9,999	9,460-37,849	500	1,900
10,000-19,999	37,850-75,699	750	2,850
>20,000	>75,000	1,000	3,850

- m. Water supplies developed to meet this standard shall be permitted to be used for fighting fires in other structures or for use during other emergency activities.

- 4. Road Plan** - Traffic study and road improvement needs analysis and road improvement construction plans will include:
- a. Identification of all roads used for delivery of supplies, food, and livestock to the facility including interstate, federal, state and county highways, town roads and private roads.
 - b. Traffic counts on all local non-interstate roads/highways, and projected traffic counts with special attention to less used roads.
 - c. Identification and evaluation of impact on congestion points as well as weight restrictions due to thawing.
 - d. Identification of tight turns that may need additional signage or improvements for safety.
 - e. Improvement needs analysis and road traffic and roadway improvement plans.
 - f. Signed engineering approval for a. to f.
 - g. Letters of conformance, on agency letterhead, stating that Application-submitted plans are complementary with and are in conformance with the associated traffic and road plans and requirements of and from the local, regional, state and federal road and transportation authorities.

Rock Elm Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Permit Application

J. Compliance Assurance Testing, Sampling and Monitoring Plan shall provide and demonstrate chain-of-command for reporting and correction of deviations from all the plans' metrics, including:

1. Daily monitoring of all operations for compliance.
2. Inspection and sampling of storm water discharges.
3. Quarterly groundwater monitoring to allow for corrective actions and containment to prevent offsite or vertical migration.
4. Verification of testing method efficacy and quality assurance.
5. Reporting within 24 hours of deviations to the owner, corrective measures contractor and identified Town authorities.

K. Compliance Assurance Plan shall provide and demonstrate:

1. Prepared plans and procedures are based on sound science and include an updated review of best practices, technologies and test methods.
2. Specific compliance metrics to assure that the performance requirements of the plans are met and the permit approval conditions are satisfied.
3. Specific emergency measures for deviation from the plan's metrics.
4. Annual audits, inspections, and certification by qualified, experienced, and licensed third parties approved by the Town demonstrate compliance with the procedures and provisions of the various operational plans, including with the identified metrics.