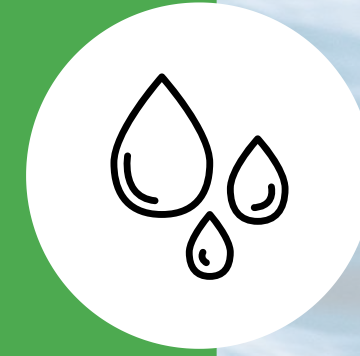


# CAFOs

## Poisoning our Waters

The sheer volume of animals in CAFOs means much more waste is generated than on smaller farms. This waste can enter Missouri waters when manure lagoons leak, spill or manure is overapplied to fields as fertilizer and runs off into surface water.



Industrial agriculture is one of the biggest sources of pollution in MO waterways<sup>1</sup>



Nutrients in animal manure like nitrogen and phosphorus stimulate algae growth, so when CAFO waste enters waterways, it can produce massive algal blooms. Toxic algal blooms often cause die-offs of fish, and even non-toxic algal blooms deplete oxygen content and harm aquatic life.

When animal manure is overapplied on crop fields, it may leach excess nutrients like nitrates through the soil to the groundwater.

Contaminated groundwater will affect any living organism that relies on freshwater bodies fed by the groundwater, thereby threatening the entire ecosystem.



See the "CAFO Policy" fact sheet to learn about the Clean Water Act and CAFOs

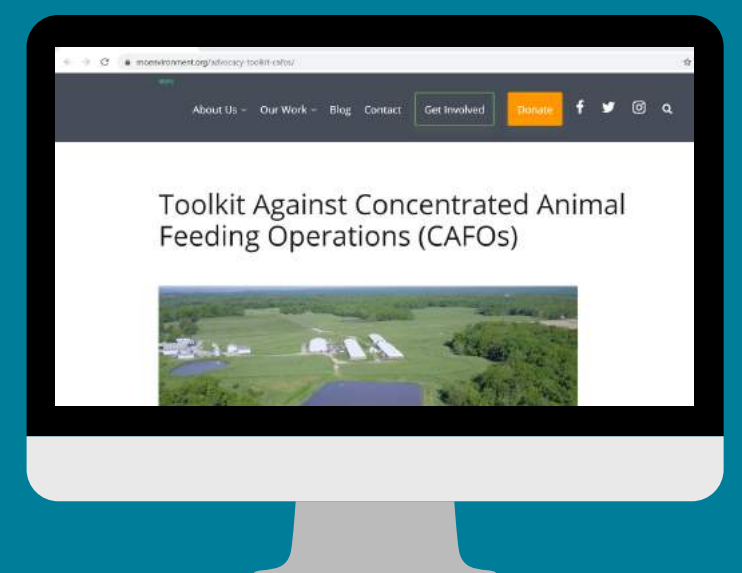


Contact Melissa Vatterott at [mvatterott@moenviron.org](mailto:mvatterott@moenviron.org) for more information.

## What can you do?

Join MCE's CAFO Action Network

Report water pollution concerns to DNR using guidance from MCE's CAFO Toolkit



Find these resources at [moenvironment.org](http://moenvironment.org)

1. MCE Policy and Agriculture Story Map. <https://moenvironment.org/policy-and-agriculture-story-map/>