

# Policy, Politics, & CAFOs

## Federal Policy

A guide to the policies propping up factory farms in Missouri

### Clean Water Act

CAFOs are permitted under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The Clean Water Commission (CWC) implements the CWA at a state level and reviews CAFO permit applications.

#### CWA standards fail to protect Missouri waters from CAFO activities.

- In Missouri, 35% of rivers, 21% of lakes, and 97% of wetlands are unclassified and thus unprotected by the CWA.<sup>1</sup>
- Most CAFOs are not regulated under the CWA as direct sources of pollution even though they may directly discharge into waters.

### Farm Bill

Every five years, Congress rewrites the "Farm Bill"—a key piece of legislation that funds various federal programs, like crop subsidies, SNAP, and conservation programs. The Farm Bill provides large financial incentives to grow commodity crops like corn and soy, which provide cheap livestock feed for CAFOs. Less than 1% of the 2018 Farm Bill's budget goes towards fruit and vegetables.<sup>2</sup>

## Timeline of Missouri CAFO Legislation

Over the past decade, the Missouri legislature has promoted CAFO expansion in our state.

**"Right to Farm"** Constitutional Amendment bars nuisance claims related agricultural operations, such as odors, noise, light pollution, etc., allowing wealthy industrial ag to operate as is, immune from public pressure to address health & environmental concerns

**SB 391** prohibits Missouri counties from implementing health ordinances on CAFOs stricter than state requirements

**"Ag-gag Law" HB 574** restricts inspection of livestock operations to certain federal/state agencies. This is considered an "ag-gag law" because it also prevents members of the public from testifying on conditions or events at agricultural facilities.

2014

2016

2019

2020

2021

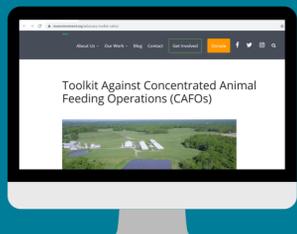
**HB 1713** passes in response to Big Ag's efforts to undermine the CWC and removes any required public representation from the CWC board

**CWC modifies the definition of "groundwater"** as it relates to CAFO construction, allowing CAFOs to build manure lagoons without consideration of their proximity to perched water

### What can you do?

Join [MCE's CAFO Action Network](#)

Make your voice heard in the legislative process by using [MCE's CAFO Toolkit](#)



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



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

1. USDA 2018 Farm Bill Spending. [www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-commodity-policy/projected-spending-under-the-2014-farm-bill](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-commodity-policy/projected-spending-under-the-2014-farm-bill)  
2. MCE Policy and Agriculture Story Map. <https://moenvironment.org/policy-and-agriculture-story-map/>