

A GUIDE TO THE POLICIES PROPPING UP FACTORY FARMS IN MISSOURI

FEDERAL POLICY

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.
- Most CAFOs are not regulated under the CWA as direct sources of pollution even though they may directly discharge.

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.

TIMELINE OF MISSOURI CAFO LEGISLATION

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

HB 650 changes the construction permit requirements so that only earthen basins require construction permits, which CAFOs do not use anymore. As a result, DNR does not require construction permits for most CAFOs.

“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.

2013

2014

2016

2019

2020

2021

SB 9 allows foreign entities to buy Missouri farmland. This has led to over 40,000 acres of Missouri farmland being owned by foreign entities.

HB 1713 removes the requirement that a majority Clean Water Commission (CWC) members represent the public, rather than industry groups.

CWC modifies the definition of “groundwater” under **10 CSR 20-8.300** as it relates to CAFO construction, allowing CAFOs to build manure lagoons without consideration of their proximity to perched water