

JFAN

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC.



FARMS, NOT FACTORIES!

A Nonprofit Educational Foundation

Volume 8 ~ SPRING/SUMMER 2011

IOWA LEGISLATURE TRYS TO DISMANTLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS



Iowa Capitol Photo: Colin M.L. Burnett

BY DIANE ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's state legislature challenged many environmental laws, spurred on by the pro-ag industry stance of Governor Terry Branstad and the Republican-dominated State House. With an agenda to fulfill Governor Branstad's campaign promise to double factory farm output by 2050, state legislators introduced several bills to deregulate industrial agriculture that would, in effect, roll back 12 years of environmental gains.

Several bills never made it to the floor, but others are still in play. Here is a rundown of six bills that could significantly impact industrial agriculture and Iowa's environment.

Bills Still In Play

Senate File 500

If passed, SF 500 would shift responsibility for water quality monitoring

from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). Environmental groups oppose the bill because it conflicts with the missions of the two departments. The DNR's job is to protect the environment from industries that pollute water, such as factory farms. IDALS's role is to promote farming, which is the leading cause of water pollution in Iowa.

Opponents point out that IDALS, which is heavily oriented toward industrial agriculture, has neither the expertise nor the motivation to enforce clean water regulations.

"Given...the historical resistance to water quality regulations by some factions of the Iowa agricultural community, moving our water protection programs to IDALS would potentially put politics before sound science. Public perception would be that

LEGISLATION *continued on p. 8*

UPDATE: BUCH CAFO EXPANSION

BY DIANE ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JFAN understands that a small expansion at Jeff Buch's confined animal feeding operation is moving ahead. The 400-head expansion will bring the total to 2150 hogs. The facility, located on 170th Street, borders Maharishi Vedic City's city limits.

Concerned about the expansion, Maharishi Vedic City and Maharishi University of Management asked JFAN for information and support. JFAN extensively reviewed the manure management plan, identifying several potential areas that could cause problems for city residents.

Last October, JFAN organized and mediated a meeting between representatives of Maharishi Vedic City; Maharishi University of Management and Jeff Buch; his father, Nathan Buch; and Nick Biggs of Tri-Oaks, the hog producer with whom Mr. Buch contracts. The meeting was cordial, and many of the City's and University's concerns were addressed reports JFAN President, Jim Rubis, who was present at the meeting.

EXPANSION *continued on p. 5*

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JFAN NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FARMERS & NEIGHBORS, INC

Volume 8 ~ SPRING/SUMMER 2011

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NATIONWIDE STUDY: U.S. MEAT AND POULTRY IS WIDELY CONTAMINATED

BY STEVE YOZWIAK

TGEN SENIOR SCIENCE WRITER

Drug-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacteria linked to a wide range of human diseases, are present at unexpectedly high rates in meat and poultry from U.S. grocery stores, according to a nationwide study by the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen).

Nearly half of the meat and poultry samples – 47 percent – were contaminated with *S. aureus*, and more than half of those bacteria – 52 percent – were resistant to at least three classes of antibiotics, according



to the study published April 15 in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

This is the first national assessment of antibiotic resistant *S. aureus* in the U.S. food supply. DNA testing suggests that the animals themselves were the major source of contamination.

Although Staph should be killed with proper cooking, it may still pose a risk to consumers through improper food handling and cross-contamination in the kitchen.

Researchers collected and analyzed 136 samples – covering 80 brands – of beef, chicken, pork and turkey from 26 retail grocery stores in five U.S. cities: Los Angeles, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Flagstaff and Washington, D.C.

“For the first time, we know how much of our meat and poultry is contaminated with antibiotic-resistant Staph, and it is substantial,” said Lance B. Price, Ph.D., senior author of the study and Director of TGen’s

BACTERIA *continued on p. 5*

In the News.....

RESIDENT SYMPTOMS DIRECTLY TIED TO HOG FARMS STUDY SHOWS

New research on the health effects of hog farm confinements shows that residents living within two miles of CAFOs experience a series of acute physical symptoms including respiratory distress reports Wired.com. The study, led by Steven Wing, associate professor at the University of North Carolina, was posted on the website of the journal *Epidemiology* in March.

The study was conducted over a two-year period with 101 adults in 16 communities. Subjects sat outdoors for 10 minutes twice a day every day for two weeks, then logged their symptoms and measured their lung function with a flow meter.

Simultaneously, the research team continuously measured air pollution in participating communities.

Of the 2900 responses received, 2600 detailed symptoms that were provoked by the outdoor seating episodes correlated with the air pollution measurements. These symptoms included eye irritation, wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, sore throat and nausea. The communities in which the research occurred contain an average of 42,000 hogs within a two-mile radius of the subjects.

The study also noted the socio-economic status of the communities. In North Carolina, factory farms are clustered in the eastern section of the state, where African-American communities, other communities of color, and high poverty rates predominate.

Wing and his colleagues wrote in their paper, “...in low-income communities of color...there is more potential for exposure to outdoor air pollutants due to older homes that are not air tight and have no air conditioning. Many residents also lack the financial resources to travel and choose activities that could help them avoid high pollution. Exposure to air pollution from hog operations is an environmental injustice in rural areas hosting facilities that supply pork to populations spared the burdens of its production.”

KEEP THE NUMBER OF HOGS LOW IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

**BY DIANE ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

There are less hogs raised in Jefferson County than nearly every other surrounding county, and JFAN wants to keep it that way.

Imagine living in Keokuk County where there are 19 hogs per resident – or Washington County where there are 30! These counties are overrun with factory farms, and their residents are at the mercy of staggering odors, flies, environmental pollution, health problems, and depressed property values.

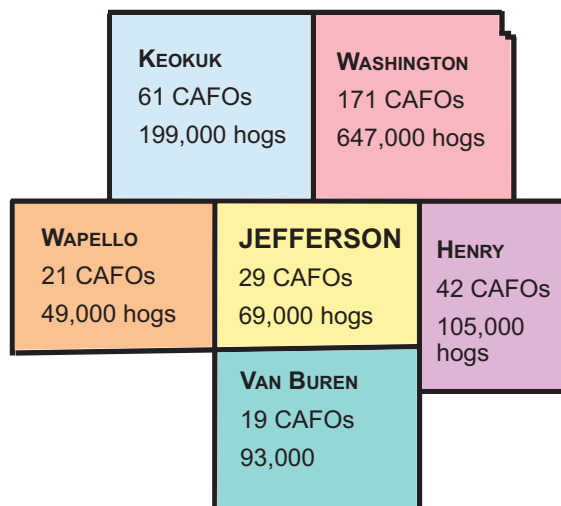
With Jefferson County's CAFOs located in rural, sparsely-populated sections of the county, **and with only four hogs per resident**, Jefferson County has been fortunate to avoid the fate of our neighbors thus far. But JFAN works hard to keep it that way. Whether it's through community education, county-wide monitoring, or neighborhood support when CAFOs intrude, JFAN's efforts play a critical role in keeping the number of hogs low in Jefferson County.

JFAN can't protect Jefferson County alone. Your support is a vital component of our community-wide program to protect Jefferson County's quality of life. It is especially important now, when the Iowa State Legislature is actively trying to deregulate the agricultural industry, that we need to stay vigilant and strong.

Please give generously today to JFAN, your **"quality of life protection policy."** Please consider a regular monthly donation. JFAN is now equipped to take secure credit card donations and can set up a schedule for regular monthly payments.

Be an integral part of JFAN's effort to protect your property values, air, water, health, and quality of life. You'll be glad you did.

Approximate Number of Hogs in Jefferson and Surrounding Counties



Quick Glance – Some Iowa Counties Deluged with CAFOs

COUNTY	# OF CAFOS	# OF HOGS	HOGS PER RESIDENT
Sioux	702	1,197,800	36
Hardin	243	954,000	54
Plymouth	299	785,000	31
Franklin	242	615,000	58
Lyon	492	575,000	50
Palo Alto	185	545,000	58

Note: All livestock statistics, except for Jefferson County, are based on the 2008 USDA Livestock Census. All confinement statistics are compiled from 2010 Iowa DNR reports. Jefferson County's livestock statistics are compiled from the 2010 DNR reports and reflect a 6% increase over its 2008 USDA Livestock Census figure. To provide a more accurate comparison, the 6% increase was applied across the board to the number of hogs in all other counties. The hogs/resident statistics are compiled using 2010 Census figures.

See page 7 for three easy ways to donate and a donation form.

Thank you for all you do.

JFAN'S GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

www.jfaniowa.org/GoodNeighbor-Guidelines.htm

In the News.....

REPORT: UNREGULATED FACTORY FARM AIR POLLUTION AT SOME SITES NOW DIRTIER THAN AMERICA'S MOST POLLUTED CITIES

New federal and industry data show that the air at some factory farm test sites in the U.S. is dirtier than in America's most polluted cities and exposes workers to concentrations of pollutants far above occupational safety guidelines, according to a new report from the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP). Estimated emission levels for some pollutants were higher at some test sites than amounts reported by large industrial plants according an EIP press release.

The EIP report concludes that the problem is sufficiently grave that a 2008 Bush Administration "backroom deal" that gave concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) amnesty from federal pollution reporting rules should be overturned.

The EIP report states, "Five years ago, EPA suspended enforcement of air pollution laws against CAFOs until the study was complete, and in 2008, EPA exempted CAFOs from most pollution reporting requirements altogether. But the study shows that many CAFOs pollute in quantities large enough to trigger emission reporting laws that have applied to most other large industries for decades, and that Clean Air Act protections may be warranted to protect rural citizens ... [The new] research confirms that the large CAFOs, or factory farms, that dominate the nation's meat industry are major sources of ammonia emissions and other dangerous air pollutants."

EIP's analysis was based on a two year study conducted by Purdue University that monitored 15 livestock confinement sites, 9 livestock waste lagoons, and a dairy corral in nine states. The study measured background concentrations and emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, particulates, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The EPA approved Purdue's methods and supervised the study.

REPORT *continued on p. 5*

ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA FOUND IN FLIES, ROACHES ON HOG FARMS

BY MICK KULIKOWSKI
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

The next time you see a fly landing on your food, you may want to think twice.

New research from North Carolina State University and Kansas State University shows that the common pests that live on these farms acquire antibiotic-resistant bacteria and have the potential to spread these bacteria throughout the farm and to residential settings reports a North Carolina State University press release.

Cockroaches and house flies on swine



farms in North Carolina and Kansas contained many of the same drug-resistant bacteria present in hog feces, suggesting that these common pests acquired the bacteria from contact with swine manure. These drug-resistant bacteria are rarely found in cockroaches and flies collected in urban areas.

The bacteria, different members of a family of common digestive bacteria called enterococci found in the digestive tracts of farm flies and roach feces, contained certain genes that provide resistance to antibiotics, says Dr. Coby Schal, Blanton J. Whitmire Distinguished Professor of Entomology at NC State and a co-author of a paper describing the research. The study was published online in January in the journal *BMC Microbiology*. Some of these bacteria are resistant not only to single common infection-killing antibiotics like tetracycline and streptomycin, but also to combinations of antibiotics, making them multi-drug resistant.

"The big concern is not that humans will acquire drug-resistant bacteria from their

In the News.....

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF FACTORY FARMS

In a major court victory for the agriculture industrial, a federal appeals court ruled in March that the Environmental Protection Agency can't require Clean Water Act permits for factory farms unless the farms actually discharge manure into US waterways, reports KFGO.com.

Prior to the ruling, CAFOs that either discharged or proposed to discharge pollutants into US waters had to apply for a Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES permit limits effluent discharges and provides other requirements to control the amount of animal manure and other CAFO pollutants entering the nation's waters.

The unanimous ruling by the three judges on Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans stated, "We conclude that the CWA (Clean Water Act) provides a comprehensive liability scheme, and the EPA's attempt to supplement this scheme is in excess of its statutory authority...These cases leave no doubt that there must be an actual discharge into navigable waters to trigger the CWA's requirements and the EPA's authority."

This ruling does not penalize CAFOs for "failure to apply" for permit coverage, and when a CAFO does not hold an NPDES permit, they would only face a liability if discharges occur.

properly cooked bacon or sausage, but rather that the bacteria will be transferred to humans from the common pests that live with pigs and then move in with us," Schal says. "It's also possible that these farm flies and farm roaches carry other microbes of great importance to human health."

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria – "superbugs" in the popular parlance – are an increasing problem in the United States, causing increased health-care costs, prolonged hospitalization for infections and higher human mortality rates.

"Pest-management strategies are important – the fly at your picnic or roach scuttling across the living room floor can be more than just a nuisance," Schal adds.

NEW FACTORY FARM MAP CHARTS HUGE INCREASE IN IOWA CAFOs

The total number of livestock raised in Iowa has grown by over 51% according to an analysis by Food and Water Watch, a national consumer advocacy organization.

The organization's updated Factory Farm Map (www.factoryfarmmap.org) charts the concentration of factory farms across the country and reveals that livestock units in Iowa increased from 2.2 million units in 2002 to 3.3 million units in 2007. These numbers place Iowa second only to Texas in the number of factory farm livestock raised.

Food & Water Watch analyzed U.S. Department of Agriculture Census data from 1997, 2002, and 2007 for beef and dairy cattle, hogs, broiler meat chickens, and egg-laying operations and found that Iowa leads all other states in factory-farmed pork and egg production. The number of hogs on factory farms in Iowa grew by 75 percent between 1997 and 2007, from 10.2 million to 17.9 million. Similarly, the number of egg-laying chickens on factory farms increased in that time to 52 million, up 174 percent from 19 million in 1997. The average size of egg farms in the state almost tripled in that time to nearly 1.3 million hens per operation in 2007.

This updated Factory Farm Map shows the proliferation and concentration of factory farms in Iowa since 1997," said Matt Ohloff, Iowa-based Organizer for Food & Water Watch. "Coincidentally, in 1995 the state of Iowa revoked counties' local control over the siting of factory farms, taking away their ability to slow the onslaught of corporate-backed factory farms from moving into the state."

Food & Water Watch also released a companion report, "Factory Farm Nation", which explains the forces driving factory farms throughout the U.S., as well as the environmental, public health, and economic consequences of this type of animal production. The report also examines the causes for industrial-scale livestock and the demise of small and medium farms.

OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

JFAN WORKING HARD FOR YOU

BY DIANE ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New CAFO to Be Built in Jefferson County

According to the Iowa DNR, a new confinement was approved in February for Liberty Township. The CAFO, owned by Nathan Porter, is in a rural area in the southeast section of Jefferson County. The swine grow-to-finish operation will house 2480 hogs.

JFAN has a policy to routinely alert neighbors within a two-mile radius of a proposed CAFO or expansion, and we notified sixty neighbors about the new operation. None of the neighbors voiced any concerns about the facility, and JFAN did not pursue any further action.

Mr. Porter owns three other CAFOs totaling 7200 hogs in the south central part of Jefferson County.

JFAN monitors CAFO development with the DNR on a weekly basis.

BACTERIA *continued from p. 2*

Center for Food Microbiology and Environmental Health.

"The fact that drug-resistant *S. aureus* was so prevalent, and likely came from the food animals themselves, is troubling, and demands attention to how antibiotics are used in food-animal production today," Dr. Price said.

Densely-stocked industrial farms, where food animals are steadily fed low doses of antibiotics, are ideal breeding grounds for drug-resistant bacteria that move from animals to humans, the report says.

The U.S. government routinely surveys retail meat and poultry for four types of drug-resistant bacteria, but *S. aureus* is not among them. The paper suggests that a more comprehensive inspection program is needed.

S. aureus can cause a range of illnesses from minor skin infections to life-threatening diseases, such as pneumonia, endocarditis and sepsis.

JFAN's Mission Reaches a Large National Audience

JFAN President Jim Rubis and Board Member Francis Thicke reached an audience of about 500,000 listeners to share JFAN's mission and activities on *Surviving the 21st Century*, a weekly webcast hosted by award-winning authors Mannie Barling and Ashley Brooks. Their first appearance on the March 23 webcast was so successful, they were invited back for an encore on April 30.

Barling and Brooks have an active interest in sustainable agriculture and factory farming and sought out JFAN for the show after discovering the JFAN website. They have authored several books on health, nutrition, and organic foods.

During the two lively discussions, Rubis and Thicke covered a wide range of topics, including JFAN's activities, Iowa legislation that could undo many years of CAFO regulations, a new study that links hog farm pollution with respiratory problems, and health concerns with CAFO-produced meat.

Barling and Brooks plan to have Rubis and Thicke on their show on a regular basis.

Listen to the archived broadcasts here:
May 23: <http://tinyurl.com/3lotbca>
April 30: <http://tinyurl.com/3lgcgl>

SAVE THE DATE!

JFAN Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 5

EXPANSION *continued from p. 1*

Following several months of communications and discussions facilitated by JFAN, it is JFAN's understanding that Maharishi Vedic City and M.U.M. are sufficiently satisfied that the small expansion will not have a noticeable impact. City representatives have indicated that they are not pursuing any further action to stop the expansion at this time.

REPORT *continued from p. 3*

Among the EIP report's key findings:

- Fine particle pollution can damage the lungs and heart and cause premature death. The EPA/industry study measured levels of particle pollution well above the Clean Air Act's health-based limits at some sites. On the worst days, it was higher than the federal 24-hour exposure limit.

- Ammonia can damage the respiratory system and is life-threatening at high concentrations. Based on sampling results, 11 of 14 CAFOs in the study emit more than 100 pounds of ammonia on average days, which triggers pollution reporting requirements for non-livestock industries. Some CAFOs emitted thousands of pounds on their worst days.

- Hydrogen sulfide also causes respiratory symptoms, damages the eyes, and is fatal at high concentrations. Federal right-to-know laws also require companies to report hydrogen sulfide emissions that exceed 100 pounds per day. While oil refineries are a recognized source of hydrogen sulfide, the data suggest that some large hog and dairy CAFOs release comparable amounts of the same pollutant.

The EIP report spells out a number of steps needed to remedy CAFO pollution problems:

- Rescind the 2008 rule that arbitrarily exempted CAFOs from most of the pollution reporting requirements in two federal environmental laws.

- Contract with independent experts to peer-review the industry's analysis and establish an independent committee to oversee the emission-estimating methodology process.

- Re-calculate daily and overall emissions averages with all negative values and other clearly erroneous data points removed. Use the resulting total emissions to determine whether CAFOs of a certain size should be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

- Use the study's minute-by-minute monitoring data to calculate short-term pollution levels as well as 24-hour averages, and determine whether spikes in pollution in either emissions or the air surrounding CAFOs pose a threat to public health.

- Draft regulations necessary to use the Clean Air Act to protect public health from ammonia, volatile organic compounds, and other factory farm pollution.

The full EIP report is available online at www.environmentalintegrity.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM IOWA, THE US AND BEYOND

DNR Loses One Tenth of Employees to Budget Cuts

Facing \$2 million in budget cuts this year, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will lay off over 100 employees in July reports the May 11 *Des Moines Register*.

The agency is losing three full-time members of the Geologic and Water Survey Bureau and 13 contract employees from the University of Iowa. State swimming beaches will still be monitored, says DNR spokesperson Kevin Baskins, but watershed assessments and the DNR's Iowa's impaired waterways list will be affected. "We'll still have a list, but we will have less data. We'll have to cut back on the number of waterways tested and the number of times we test. But right now it's early and we still have to see," Baskins said.

Thirty-nine full-time vacancies across the agency also will go unfilled as well as 116 full- and part-time seasonal jobs in parks, fisheries, wildlife, and law enforcement.

"This is a significant hit. This is definitely going to impact our ability to do data management and lake monitoring," said DNR stream monitoring coordinator Mary Skopec in the *Register* article. "We don't know how we are going to cover our work. There are things we won't be able to do, but we still need to figure that out."

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement says this is a backdoor approach to deregulate environmental protections. Several bills that would have weakened environmental laws were defeated in the state legislative system. "They don't need to deregulate our environmental protections if they can cripple the DNR's ability to do its job by gutting its budget," ICCI online organizer Matt Denner wrote in an email.

Last year, exiting DNR director Richard Leopold said the agency was already "woefully and shamefully under funded."

Master Matrix Approved in 88 Counties

Eighty-eight Iowa counties, including Jefferson County, approved the 2011 Master Matrix this January, according to an Iowa DNR press release. The master matrix is a 44-question evaluation that

counties use to recommend proposed CAFO construction permit applications and locations to the DNR. Counties must vote to readopt the Matrix each year.

Animal producers in these counties must meet somewhat higher standards than other confinement producers counties without the Master Matrix. They must earn a minimum of 50% of the points on the evaluation by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on air, water, and the community. The Matrix affects only producers who must get a construction permit (2500 hogs or higher).

Counties that adopt the Master Matrix can provide more input to producers on site selection, proposed structures, and proposed facility management. Participating counties can also join in DNR site visits to a proposed CAFO location.

While all counties may submit comments to the DNR during the review process for permit applications, counties that adopt the Master Matrix can also appeal a preliminary permit approval to the Environmental Protection Commission.

Neighboring Wapello and Washington counties are among those 11 counties that didn't approve the Master Matrix.

More Fed Protection Proposed for Nation's Waterways

New EPA guidelines propose expanding federal protection of wetlands and streams, reports *The Washington Post*. Waters that feed into swimming holes, fishing grounds, and drinking water sources would be protected from industrial pollutants and mining wastes.

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson says, "this is not some massive increase, as far as we can tell," but it's estimated that millions of acres of wetlands and tens of thousands of miles of streams will enjoy greater federal protection.

Environmental groups welcome the decision, but industrial agriculture, homebuilders, and other industrial groups say the guidelines will have a financial burden.

The EPA will take comments on the new guidelines until July 1. To comment on the proposal, visit www.regulations.gov or call (202) 566-2426.

Smithfield Backs Down on Gestation Crate Promise

Smithfield, the largest pork producer and processor in the United States, reneged on a 2007 pledge to phase out gestation crates within 10 years, according to a Humane Society press release. While Smithfield says it still intends to eliminate gestation crates, the company claims it removed the deadline because of economic concerns.



Photo: Farm Sanctuary

In March, Smithfield reported record third quarter net profits of \$203 million from \$3.2 billion in sales according to Feedstuffs.com. This is over five times its net earnings of \$37 million from \$2.9 billion in sales one year ago. The company says it projects a strong fiscal 2011 and 2012 because of higher hog and pork prices.

Smithfield competitor Maxwell Foods is now 100% gestation crate free, and Cargill has phased out 50% of its crates.

DNR: Polluted Waterways Again Increase

Iowa's impaired waterways number over 600 and affect all 99 counties, according to the DNR's latest list of impaired waters. In total, 604 impairments affect 446 water bodies throughout the state.

This is 97 more impairments since 2009's assessment and double the amount of impaired waters from four years ago. Pollutants include bacteria, mercury, turbidity, algae, and heavy metals.

Runoff from livestock confinements and industrial crop farming plus leakage from underground fuel tanks and septic sewage systems top the list of pollution sources. Underground municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities also add to the degradation.

Locally, Walton Reservoir, a source of drinking water, recorded high levels of atrazine, an agricultural herbicide. Other

area waterways affected include Cedar Creek (bacteria), Lake Darling (bacteria), Skunk River (bacteria, nitrates, heavy metals), Lake Geode (bacteria, mercury, ph levels), Coralville Reservoir (turbidity) and Lake Macbride (bacteria, algae, ph).

To view the entire list, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/3p935xd>.

To protect public health, the DNR monitors water at Iowa's beaches throughout the summer. To check out your favorite swimming beach, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3yw7rvj> and click under Beach Monitoring Results. Both state beaches and locally managed beaches, such as Waterworks Park in Fairfield, are monitored. Monitoring results can fluctuate depending on the amount of rainfall.

Pig Business Captures Capital Hill Attention

Robert Kennedy, Jr. was guest speaker at the Washington, D.C. screening of *Pig Business*, a British documentary by Tracey Worcester that chronicles the expansion of multi-national Smithfield Foods. The standing room only event drew members of Congress, environmental and animal welfare organizations, and independent farmers according to the film's press release.

Pig Business documents how large corporations, such as Smithfield, effectively control the global meat market, providing

cheap meat to supermarkets and forcing small, independent farms out of business. It addresses the human and environmental toll of factory farms in the US and documents industrial agriculture's expansion into the European Union market in Poland.

The screening was sponsored by Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and organized by the Center for Food Safety.

Pig Business drew the wrath of Smithfield Foods, which threatened legal action for libel and defamation, reports Grist.org. As a result, the United Kingdom's Channel 4 originally refused to broadcast the film when it was released in 2009. In the US, insurers also would not underwrite the film because of litigation fears. In response, Worcester posted *Pig Business* on YouTube in several segments.

A downloadable version of the film is available online at www.pigbusiness.co.uk/.

FDA Report Sheds Light on Antibiotic Use

The FDA's first-ever report on the amount of antibiotics used in livestock production nearly doubles the figure touted by the agricultural industry since 2000 reports Grist.org.

Thirty million pounds of antibiotics were used in 2009, according to "Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals." Industry estimates have put that amount at 17.8 million pounds

annually. Forty-nine various antibiotics and antimicrobials are administered for both nontherapeutic and therapeutic purposes, says the report.

A 2001 Union of Concerned Scientists (USC) study estimated that 24.6 million pounds of antibiotics are used for nontherapeutic purposes, i.e., growth enhancement and prevention, in livestock production.

That same USC study estimated that 50 million pounds of antibiotics are produced annually in the US. Assuming that study is still generally accurate, factory-farming accounts for 60% of all the antibiotics produced in this country.

The FDA's report coincides with its initiative to reduce antibiotic use on factory farms based on concerns regarding the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

THREE EASY WAYS TO DONATE TO JFAN

1. Visit www.jfaniowa.org/donate to make a one-time donation via PayPal.
2. Call 641-209-6600 to donate via Visa, Master Card or Discover.
3. Use the donation form below for a check or credit card donation and send to JFAN, P.O. Box 811, Fairfield, IA.

MAIL IN DONATION FORM

Please cut out this form and mail it with your tax-deductible donation to:

JFAN, Inc., P.O. Box 811, Fairfield, IA 52556

Donation Amount: ☐ \$25.00
☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date: _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

**Make checks payable to: Jefferson
County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc.**
Thank you!

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 Click on "What you can do" then click on "Make a Donation"
 and follow the simple instructions.

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LEGISLATION *continued from p. 1*

the agricultural community has been put in charge of regulating themselves, an obvious conflict of interest,” says Mark Langgin, executive director of Iowa Water and Land Legacy in an April 2 *Ashville's Citizen-Times* article.

An amendment to the bill would have the DNR handle all water quality monitoring with all the funding going to IDALS. Opponents say that is a ploy to make it extremely difficult for the DNR to do its job.

SF 500 is now in the Senate appropriations committee and is eligible for a vote at any time. However, amidst contentious and unresolved Senate budget bill negotiations, state legislators were sent home until legislative leaders and the governor hammer out a final bill. SF 500 may be tacked onto the budget bill as an amendment, but lawmakers don't consider it a top priority, and it may be put on hold just to get the budget bill passed.

If it does pass as an amendment, it is possible the House may pull it out when the budget bill comes to a vote there. But if HF 500 independently comes up for a vote, it's likely to pass in the Senate.

House File 589

Known as the Whistleblower's Bill, House File 589 would make it a class “C” felony to take photographs or undercover videos at agricultural facilities such as CAFOs, puppy mills, or production cropland. Violators would be subject to fines of up to \$7500 and five years imprisonment, stiffer penalties than those imposed on convicted of animal abusers.

Supporters say industrial agriculture needs protection from animal activists who fraudulently seek jobs in factory farms to purposely give a negative and inaccurate view of industrial livestock production. HF 589 is also needed, they contend, to protect factory farmed animals and the food supply from diseases that undercover animal activists might spread.

Many industrial agriculture companies are lobbying heavily for the bill, including Monsanto, DuPont/Pioneer, Iowa Biotechnology Association, Iowa Poultry Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, and Steve Kruse Kennels.

Animal rights activists say undercover videos and photographs are essential in exposing animal abuses and provide transparency in how the nation's food supply is produced. Undercover reporting has resulted in convictions for animal

cruelty and meat recalls in the face of food safety problems.

Several legal groups call HF 589 an impediment to free speech and, if passed, may not hold up to a court challenge. Those lobbying against the bill include the American Civil Liberties Union, Justice Reform Coalition, Iowa Environmental Council, Animal Rescues League of Iowa,



and Iowa Voters for Companion Animals.

Most Iowan voters – 65% – oppose the bill, 21% support it, and 14% are undecided, according to a statewide survey conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research. Seventy percent of Democrats oppose the bill, as do 62% of Republicans.

The House passed the bill, and it is scheduled for a debate at any time on the Senate floor. Again, because of issues with the budget bill, HF 589 may not come up for a vote. If it does, it is expected to pass in the Senate as several Democrats are likely to vote in favor. However, several amendments were added, with mixed reviews, and should it pass, it will go back to the House for a final vote.

An important note: Should both these bills fail to make it through this year's legislative session, they could carry over into next year's 2012 session. Continued public pressure against these bills might make it less likely that they will come up for a vote as legislators will want to stay away from contentious issues in an election year. JFAN will continue to watch the bills.

Bills that Didn't Make It

House File 500

House File 500 would have stripped the Environmental Protection Commission of its rulemaking authority and centralized it in the hands of the DNR director, Roger Lande. It would have eliminated all the important checks and balances and all public input from the environmental rulemaking process.

The House amended the bill and it passed out of the House. In the Senate subcommittee, Senators Rob Hogue (D-Cedar Rapids) and Joe Bolcom (D-Iowa City) killed the bill.

House File 558

HF 558 would have blocked new regulations protecting air and water quality from factory farm pollution because of the “burden” they would impose on the agriculture industry and its corporate profits. This bill did not make it through the funnel.

House File 550

Industrial agriculture would have enjoyed \$15 million taxpayer dollars per year in the form of guaranteed loans to pay for expansions or improvements to factory farms. The loans were to be either low cost, potentially zero interest, or forgivable. HF 550 was pitched as an opportunity to pay for technologies, such as odor control, but the financial burden would have been on Iowa taxpayers and not the industry. This bill was also stopped before the funnel.

House File 430

House File 430 targeted nuisance lawsuits, stripping Iowans of their constitutional rights to sue factory farm polluters. The actual wording declared “the law should not hamper agricultural production or the use of modern agricultural technology” and that “it is in the best interest of the state to establish limits on the remedies available in those conflicts relating to the agricultural use of land...”

This bill would have made it much harder to engage in nuisance lawsuits by not only putting the burden of proof on the plaintiff, but by deeming a CAFO is a nuisance only if it is a “substantial threat to the public health or safety.” Additionally, if the court ruled in favor of the defendant, the plaintiff would be required to pay court costs for both parties.

This bill was stopped before the first funnel in the House. The Trial Lawyers Association and the ACLU both fought this bill because of its infringement of constitutional rights.

At press time, SF 500 and HF 589 were still alive. JFAN will send out an email on how both bills fared at the conclusion of the legislative session.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement closely follows the legislative session and was a primary source of information for this article.

Additional Sources:

Ames Tribune, Des Moines Register, National Public Radio, Natural News.com, Grist.org