

TOPIC:

IMPACTS of INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS on WATER QUALITY

Overview

Based on government data, we know that the leading source of water contamination in Indiana is *E.coli* from animal waste. Most of this contamination comes from the state's industrial livestock operations otherwise known as CAFOs and CFOs which generate as much urine and feces every year as that produced by 87 million people or 14 times the human population of Indiana. Although it is well known that animal waste contains high levels of phosphorus, nitrogen and pathogens - which is why human waste is treated - under current law, livestock waste is allowed to be stored in unlined lagoons and concrete pits that can and often do leach, fail and overflow and does not have to be treated before it is discharged on land - all practices that pose a serious threat to surface and ground waters.

Impacts on Our Water

The effects of water contamination from the tremendous amount of animal waste produced by Indiana's CAFOs and CFOs are serious and is not adequately addressed under current regulation.

More Information

www.hecweb.org/issues/sustainable-food-agriculture/understanding-the-issues

Kim Ferraro
kferraro@hecweb.org



Algae bloom in pond near CAFO (confined animal feeding operation)



Fish kill from animal waste