

ILLINOIS NEWS**Marshall board recommends against approval of Buffalo Run Sow Farm**

Peoria Journal Star

By Gary L. Smith, Posted July 11, 2019

The Marshall County Board's 9-2 vote on Thursday to recommend against state approval of large proposed hog farm. Buffalo Run would house 7,000 farrowing sows and a total of about 22,000 animals in five buildings on farmland in Saratoga Township. Former board members Sharon DeWeerth and Vicki Waldschmidt, who live in that area and have frequently stated opposition to the project, pointed out Thursday the agriculture department still had not provided the promised transcript of the June 4 public meeting. They sent the department a letter Thursday asking that the public comment period be extended for 30 days after the transcript is made available. The board members and their constituents require these transcripts to perform a review and discussion of criteria before a vote is submitted," they wrote. Gary L. Smith can be reached at (800) 516-0389 or gsmith@mtco.com. Follow him on Twitter @Gsmith <https://www.pjstar.com/news/20190711/marshall-board-recommends-against-approval-of-buffalo-run-sow-farm?template=ampart>

10 Ways Andrew Wheeler Has Decimated EPA Protections in Just One Year

Truthout, July 11, 2019

By Elliott Negin

On Monday, President Trump hosted a White House event to unabashedly tout his truly abysmal environmental record. <https://truthout.org/articles/10-ways-andrew-wheeler-has-decimated-epa-protections-in-just-one-year/>

Are Factory Farmers Winning the Antibiotics War?**Organic Consumer Association**, July 11, 2019

By Martha Rosenberg

Antibiotics allow livestock growers to raise animals in unsanitary, confined conditions that would otherwise kill or sicken them. The USDA has found residues of danofloxacin, an antibiotic not even approved for humans. Danofloxacin is so dangerous its label says "Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 4 days from the last treatments." A 2010 University of Iowa study found the resistant bacteria MRSA in 70 percent of hogs on farms studied and 64 percent of workers. Superbugs have even been found on an unopened soft drink can in a car following a poultry truck. Pilgrim's Pride's feed mill records show the antibiotics bacitracin and monensin are added "to every ration fed to a flock grown early this year." (Pilgrim's Pride threatened legal action against Reuters for its finding.) Antibiotics also allow factory farmers to use less feed. Without antibiotics, 175,550 more tons of feed would be needed to grow U.S. turkeys, said Michael Rybolt of the National Turkey Federation hearings held in 2008, when the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) was trying to put limits on antibiotic use by factory farms.

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/are-factory-farmers-winning-antibiotics-war>**Residents air views on Marshall County hog farm**

Peoria Journal Star, June 5, 2019

By Gary L. Smith

Plans for a large new hog farm in northwestern Marshall County Illinois drew both bitter opposition and full-throated support Tuesday night at a four-hour public informational meeting conducted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. One angry area resident shouted, "We don't want you" at lead developer Dr. Nicolas Rippel, while a livestock industry representative praised the location of the proposed Buffalo Run Sow Farm as "the best place for this farm in Illinois." Buffalo Run, which is being developed by the same company that built and operates the similar Sandy Creek Lane Farm near Wenona, would house 7,000 farrowing sows and a total of about 22,000 animals in five buildings on farmland in Saratoga Township. The largest would be 229 by 510 feet, and there would be a total of more than seven acres under roof, according to information provided at the meeting. Some residents of the nearby Sandy Creek area CAFO area disputed that "success" story, maintaining the odor from manure injected into nearby farmland has been a problem since its opening two years ago after lengthy and unsuccessful litigation by a citizens' group. "I am collateral damage to the Sandy Creek facility. I smell it all the time," said Greg Steil.

<https://www.pjstar.com/news/20190605/residents-air-views-on-marshall-county-hog-farm?template>**NATIONAL NEWS**

CAFO lawsuit on hold while Supreme Court hears similar case

Columbia Tribune, July 8, 2019

By Brendan Crowley

A lawsuit over a controversial hog confinement in southern Cooper County is on hold while a similar lawsuit is heard in the Missouri Supreme Court.

<https://www.columbiatribune.com/news/20190708/cafo-lawsuit-on-hold-while-supreme-court-hears-similar-case?template=ampart>

EPA: Factory Farms Don't Need to Report Emissions

Civil Eats, July 2, 2017

On June 4, EPA administrator Andrew R. Wheeler signed an amendment that exempts farms from reporting air emissions from animal waste. Previously, farms had been required to report ammonia and hydrogen sulfide over a certain threshold to local agencies. The same farms haven't had to report emissions to federal authorities since 2018, when Congress passed the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act.

<https://civileats.com/2019/07/02/epa-factory-farms-dont-need-to-report-emissions/amp/>

Residential proximity to concentrated animal feeding operations and allergic and respiratory disease

Science Direct, Environment International Volume 130, September 2019

Residential proximity to a CAFO was associated with reduced lung function and self-reported asthma at distances within 3 miles-4 miles. Residential proximity to a CAFO was associated with self-reported allergies including nasal and lung allergies.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412018320750>

Warning of 'Pig Zero': One Drugmaker's Push to Sell More Antibiotics

June 7, 2019

By Danny Hakim and Matt Richtel

Facing a surge in drug-resistant infections, the World Health Organization issued a plea to farmers two years ago: "Stop using antibiotics in healthy animals." But at last year's big swine industry trade show, the World Pork Expo in Des Moines, one of the largest manufacturers of drugs for livestock was pushing the opposite message.

<https://apple.news/AN5WtscQuRvCxc5QIZBIBnw>

As foreign investment in U.S. farmland grows, efforts to ban and limit the increase mount

New Food Economy, June 6, 2019

By Johnathan Hettinger

The data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that foreign investors control—either through direct ownership or long-term leases—at least 28.3 million acres, valued at \$52.2 billion. That area is about the size of the state of Ohio.

<https://newfoodeconomy.org/foreign-owned-farmland-increase-food-security-legislation/#.XQALqOhx72k.email>

Female Pigs Are Dying in Record Numbers - Does Congress Need to Act?

Countable

By Josh Herman

Death rates are surging for female pigs on U.S. farms—the rate has climbed from 5.8 to 10.2 percent on farms owning more than 125 sows in the past three years.

https://apple.news/A_Ivr_IHyRkmp-r-AxwTsPQ

Audit calls out U.S. EPA for foot-dragging in Ohio's CAFO-permitting program

The Blade, May 29, 2019

By Tom Henry

Ohio's biggest livestock facilities have likely benefited from lax enforcement of environmental protection regulations for years because of bureaucratic delays. That's according to a federal audit that area watchdogs hope will become another step forward in the ongoing war against western Lake Erie's chronic algal blooms.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/environment/2019/05/24/Audit-calls-out-U-S-EPA-for-foot-dragging-in-Ohio-s-CAFO-permitting-program/stories/20190524006>

Eating Animals will change the way you look at your food forever

Female First, May 28, 2019

By Daniel Falconer

If you're worried that this documentary will be one, long lecture on why you shouldn't be over-indulging in meat that comes from factory farms, then you'll be pleased to know that it doesn't treat the audience as a child in need of education.

<https://apple.news/AmENnkdhUQTWkdpO94EXcJQ>

Immune To Drugs: Antimicrobial Resistance Could Kill 10 Million A Year

Forbes, May 27, 2019

By Nicole Fisher

Farmers in Florida have begun to spray their citrus trees with two common antibiotics to fight a bacterial disease in the plants – with the EPA's approval. Globally, this presents policy challenges because pathogen resistance is developing in low income countries at an even greater pace between plants and water.

<https://apple.news/A3aGuqHi-S96t9qqi5BUPhQ>

The failing water systems in the state are most heavily concentrated in the small towns of the Central and Salinas Valleys, the key centers of agriculture

Rozette Rago for The New York Times, May 21, 2019

By Jose A. Del Real

Water is a currency in California, and the low-income farmworkers who pick the Central Valley's crops know it better than anyone and in their homes water faucets spew toxic water tainted by arsenic and fertilizer chemicals.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/21/us/california-central-valley-tainted-water.html>

The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health brings together more than 30 world-leading scientists from across the globe to reach a scientific consensus that defines a healthy and sustainable diet.

The Commission is delivering the first full scientific review of what constitutes a healthy diet from a sustainable food system, and which actions can support and speed up food system transformation.

<https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/>

Neighbors Suing Over Pig Fumes Spur 'Right-to-Farm' Push

The Pew Charitable Trusts/ The Stateline, May 22, 2019

By April Simpson

The North Carolina CAFO nuisance cases prompted the Farm Bureau and other agricultural heavyweights to organize. Roughly 500 plaintiffs in 29 cases have sued Smithfield Foods subsidiary Murphy-Brown, alleging that swine operations' open lagoons, used to store hog manure, stink up the area and draw flies.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/05/22/neighbors-suing-over-pig-fumes-spur-right-to-farm-push>

USDA to shift some inspector tasks to pork plant workers — in everything but name

The Washington Post, May 22, 2019

By Kimberly Kindy

USDA's efforts will make the most dramatic changes to federal meat-inspection policy since Congress passed a 1906 landmark law that seized control of food safety from plant owners and made it the province of federal inspectors. The new inspection system transfers some responsibilities from USDA inspectors to employees of pork plants. They say federal inspectors will spend less time visually assessing pork and more time ensuring sanitary conditions are maintained throughout the plant.

<https://apple.news/AT3c8yzCoTiSbPmdUpCIqXA>

State Farm Bureaus meet with Region 5 EPA

May 21, 2019

By Deana Stroisch

Illinois joined other Midwestern state Farm Bureaus in a recent meeting with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Administrator Cathy Stepp and her senior staff. Lauren Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau's director of natural and environmental resources, said the "very productive" meeting represents a continued effort to build better relationships with EPA. The meeting in Chicago included officials from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin Farm Bureaus and 15 leaders from EPA Region 5.

<https://farmweeknow.com/story-state-farm-bureaus-meet-region-5-epa-3-190093>

The Battle Over Air Quality near Factory Farms on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Civil Eats, May 20, 2019

By Lusa Held

Residents of the Delmarva Peninsula and community advocates say the poultry industry is thwarting their efforts to monitor harmful air pollution from chicken farms. Maria Payan is an organizer with the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) who moved to the Delmarva Peninsula—the area where Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia meet—after abandoning her house in Pennsylvania because her family's quality of life had been destroyed by a trifecta of neighboring poultry, hog, and beef CAFOs. She has been organizing around the issue for years—meeting in people's kitchens, building coalitions among local groups, and gathering research data. Payan is just one player involved in a larger battle to gather adequate data about air quality in the region; elements of her story are featured in the new documentary Right to Harm.

<https://civileats.com/2019/05/20/the-battle-over-air-quality-near-factory-farms-on-marylands-eastern-shore/>

Tyson lost \$2.5 million because, they say, FSIS failed to properly inspect hogs

May 17, 2019

By Dan Flynn

Dr. Yolanda Thompsen was the USDA inspector on duty for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at the Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. plant in Storm Lake, IA, on March 26, 2018. Her actions that day are alleged to have cost Tyson Fresh Meats and Tyson Foods Inc. \$1.85 million. Tyson has sued the United... Continue Reading

<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2019/05/tyson-lost-2-5-million-because-they-say-fsis-failed-to-properly-inspect-hogs/>

Among the Beneficiaries of Trump's Tariff Bailout for Farmers? A Brazilian-Owned Meat Company

Mother Jones, May 16, 2019

By Tom Philpott

The Organization of Competitive Markets, a farmer-led group that organizes against corporate control of agriculture, circulated a petition calling for a halt to sending cash meant for struggling farmers to “global meatpacking corporations.” Undaunted, the USDA has signed two additional contracts to buy JBS pork with bailout funds, the environmental advocacy group Food and Water Watch points out: one on Feb. 15 for \$14,522,880 and another one on May 2 for \$25,614,708.40

https://apple.news/Af_hydcZWQFKJWqxu3dSQ6w

What Parents Need to Know About Factory Animal Farms

Environmental Working Group, May 16, 2019

By Ketura Persellin

Americans eat a lot of meat and poultry — 27 billion pounds of beef were produced last year alone, most of it in “factory farms.” All those animals produce lots of manure — quite literally tons of it. The 775 animal operations in the Maumee Basin of Western Lake Erie alone produce 5.5 million tons of manure each year. The coastal plain of North Carolina has 1,500 factory farms that produce as much as 4 billion gallons of wet swine waste and 400,000 tons of dry poultry waste. Bacteria from CAFOs can get into the homes and lawns of neighbors and endanger their physical and mental health. And the problem is getting worse. From 2005 to 2018, the amount of manure produced in the Maumee Basin rose by more than 40 percent.

Not all meat is produced in a factory farm. By buying certain kinds of meat, you can avoid supporting a great deal of the harm of factory farms. Look for grass-fed, pasture-raised or “free range” meat in lean cuts that have no antibiotics or hormones and are certified organic. Check out EWG's label decoder for help.

It's not just livestock raised for meat that's raised in industrial-scale animal operations — dairy cows are too. So if you're not a fan of large-scale animal production, you'll may want to change your dairy consumption habits, too. Buying organic milk, cheese and other dairy products will be better for your family's health and for the environment. Crowded living conditions in factory farms make animals sick, which has driven the overuse of antibiotics for livestock. This has led to the development of strains of bacteria in animals and humans that are resistant to life-saving medicine — the last thing most parents want. The amount of red meat and poultry consumed in the U.S. fell after the Great Recession of 2008 but rebounded and was projected to reach 222.2 pounds per person per year in 2018.

<https://apple.news/ACvJKbpmNQ6WOGgEfxkGjIw>

The Battle for Rights of Nature Heats Up in the Great Lakes

Independent Media Institute

EcoWatch, May 16, 2019

Markie Miller, Toledo resident and concerned citizen with Toledoans for Safe Water, said the new barriers to implementing LEBOR shows the citizens are on to something. "Obviously we're doing something right, because we're scaring the Farm Bureau."

<https://apple.news/AKEyTXBFbT4akYpNskWluXA>

USDA Sued Over Failure to Address High Rates of Fecal Bacteria on Chicken

Organic Consumers Association, May 15, 2019

By Dr. Joseph Mercola

According to preliminary data from the CDC, there were 25,606 food-borne infections, 5,893 hospitalizations and 120 deaths from food poisoning in 2018. Poultry is a major source of Campylobacter, the most commonly identified infection since 2013. It causes diarrhea and 18% of those affected require hospitalization. Guillain-Barré syndrome is a rare but possible outcome of Campylobacter infection. A 2011 study conducted by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) found 48% of the 120 chicken products tested were contaminated with E. coli. Studies using DNA matching have shown a majority of urinary tract infections are the result of exposure to contaminated chicken, not sexual contact with an infected person or transfer of your own E. coli from your anus to your urethra.

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/usda-sued-over-failure-address-high-rates-fecal-bacteria-chicken>

New study explores the effects of environmental enrichment on pig behaviour, productivity and meat quality

May 14, 2019

By The Pig Site Editor

Straw in a rack has been found to be an effective enrichment material for pigs. According to a paper published in the journal Animals, researchers have found using straw in a rack as an enrichment material for pigs positively enhances their behaviour, meat quality, physiology and productivity. The results of the experiment indicated (with a high level of statistical significance) that straw triggered more exploratory behaviour in the pigs than either wood or chains.

<https://thepigsite.com/news/2019/05/new-study-explores-the-effects-of-environmental-enrichment-on-pig-behaviour-productivity-and-meat-quality>

USDA quarterly report spotlights violations by some of biggest meat and poultry concerns

Food Safety News, May 14, 2019

By Dan Flynn

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service took 31 administrative actions against 21 of the nation's largest meat and poultry facilities during the second quarter of the federal fiscal year.

<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2019/05/usda-quarterly-report-spotlights-violations-by-some-of-biggest-meat-and-poultry-concerns/>

Bernie Sanders rolls out "Roosevelt style trust-busting" agriculture plan

Axios, May 12, 2019

By Marisa Fernandez

"For far too long, government farm policies have incentivized a 'get big or get out' approach to agriculture. This approach has consolidated the entire food system, reducing farm net income, and driving farmers off the land in droves. As farms disappear, so do the businesses, jobs, and communities they support.

https://apple.news/AwPIBx_OESxiQV-SHNzW1OA

USDA's independent researchers vote overwhelmingly to form a union

New Food Economy, May 9, 2019

By Jessica Fu

"We've become an easy punching bag," said one ERS employee. "We do research that doesn't always align with politicians' goals. [As a union], we can gain bargaining power to protect the work that we do." The ERS reports are a critical source of information on everything from farm income to climate impact and food prices, and they often inform the policy decisions members of Congress make on behalf of their constituents.

<https://newfoodeconomy.org/usda-ers-union-vote-trump-administration-relocation/>

Democratic AG Sides With Conservation Groups On Permit Requirements For Large Farms

May 3, 2019

By Danielle Kaeding

Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul reversed the Wisconsin Department of Justice position on two lawsuits involving a dairy farm expansion and high-capacity wells. The DOJ is now aligning its stance with an environmental group that's challenging permits issued in both cases.

<https://www.wpr.org/ag-kaul-reverses-doj-position-dnr-authority-2-cases>

It's Put Up or Shut Up Time for Silicon Valley's Fake-Meat Startups

Mother Jones, May 2, 2019

By Tom Philpott

It looks like the stock market investors love fake meat as much as their venture capital peers do. Beyond Meat's share price surged a startling 163 percent after its initial public offering Thursday morning. That jump marks the "best debut session of any US listing since at least 2008 among IPOs that raised at least \$200 million," reports Bloomberg with a valuation reached \$3.8 billion.

<https://apple.news/AmpcbKLJsTmG6UJVRHmYTIw>

You Don't Have to Be a Vegan to Be a Climate-Friendly Eater

Mother Jones, April 2019

Despite conservative scaremongering, we don't all have to become vegetarians to put us on a sustainable path. If US consumers cut back their meat habit by about 40 percent, as recommended by the World Health Organization, to just under six ounces a day per person, they'd be doing their part to slash global food-related emissions by nearly a third. A move to a "flexitarian diet"—1.5 ounces of meat a day, or about three hamburgers-worth a week—would help the world cut these emissions by 52 percent, giving the climate a shot.

<https://www.motherjones.com/food/2019/04/meat-beef-climate-change-greenhouse-gas-emissions-hamburger-plant-based-impossible-burger-mushrooms-vegetarian-vegan/>

Iowa's Private Wells Overrun With Agricultural Contaminants

Unsafe Levels of Nitrate, Bacteria Found in Wells Across the State

By Sarah Graddy

Private wells across Iowa are contaminated with unsafe levels of two agricultural contaminants.

Analysis of state records from 2002 to 2017 found that thousands of private wells tested positive for coliform bacteria as well as nitrate, a chemical found in fertilizer and animal manure that is linked to cancer and birth defects. Both bacteria—including fecal coliforms like E. coli—and nitrate commonly enter waterways and groundwater in runoff from farms, and are linked to severe human health problems.

<https://www.ewg.org/release/iowa-s-private-wells-overrun-agricultural-contaminants>

WHO: New report calls for urgent action to avert antimicrobial resistance crisis

Joint News Release, April 24, 2019

UN, international agencies and experts have released a groundbreaking report demanding immediate, coordinated and ambitious action to avert a potentially disastrous drug-resistance crisis. The report highlights the need for coordinated and intensive efforts to overcome antimicrobial resistance: a major barrier to the achievement of many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage, secure and safe food, sustainable farming systems and clean water and sanitation.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>

A short read by David Kirby, author of Animal Factory

When I was researching "Animal Factory," I went to the Coca Cola-affiliated Fair Oaks dairy as part of my reporting. I was beyond appalled. Some 10,000 cows kept in warehouses, except three times a day when they were marched onto the giant "milking carousel"—where 180 cows were hooked up to machines to be milked during one full rotation. When they finished, some of the cows stumbled and fell when forced to back up on the feces and urine in their little milking stall. The workers used what looked to me like electric prods and screamed at them to get up, so the next cow could take their stall before the carousel moved on. The fallen animals were screaming and horrified. I wandered from the tour to watch, and a young guide tried to shoo me away, saying, "let's go look at the milk tanks!"

The place is a tourist destination, and on that day, busloads of schoolkids were there to see how "wonderful" modern

agriculture is. After the milking carousel (like something out of a Kubric movie), we were driven around the grounds on a bus. We drove through an alleyway of “veal hutches.” Row after row of, basically, enclosed plastic dog kennels, with male dairy calves (useless here of course) who could barely turn around or lie down. The only opening in their crates was a tiny breathing hole, through which you could see their baby noses, struggling for air. The kids took pictures as the tour guide explained that, by confining the calves this way, (without exercise, sunshine or fresh air) the veal would be tender and “white.”

The tour culminated in the “Birthing Barn” – an indoor amphitheater that seats about 150 people, with two glass-enclosed units onstage. The staff led out a pregnant heifer – She looked at us in horror and agony. Then she gave birth. The calf was immediately yanked away before it could drink any of the precious milk commodity. Instead, it was bottle fed “formula” made of cow blood (this is where mad cow comes from – nearly every reported case in North America has been a dairy cow). The mother looked out at us plaintively and wailed for her newborn in fear, shock and misery. The kids seemed to think it was cool. Later, we learned that the female calves were taken to special pens “backstage” to be “cared for”, while the males were sent to the veal hutches. It was 21st Century, mechanized brutality of the highest order. Now, what do YOU want in your coffee? I take mine black.

Read "**Animal Factory**," a compelling narrative of three individuals fighting the social irresponsibility of industrial animal factories: <http://animalfactorybook.com/?p=530>

Belgium's New Official Food Pyramid Classifies Bacon And Deli Meats As Junk Food

Rodale's Organic Life

October 2, 2017

By Gins Tomaine

Belgium has released its new nutrition guidelines, and some of their recommendations might be a bit shocking to Americans. Their graphic shows what you should eat the most of in the large block on top (water, fruits, vegetables, tofu, and noodles) and what you should eat the least of in the tiny triangle at the bottom (butter alongside red meats like steak.) The pyramid, released by the Flemish Institute of Healthy Life, places bacon, pepperoni, and other deli meats in a bubble separate from the nutrition triangle, alongside things we already know are very unhealthy: alcohol, soda, chocolate, cookies, pizza, and fries.

<https://www.viva.org.uk/blog/belgiums-official-food-pyramid-classifies-bacon-junk-food>