

FACTORY FARMS in Illinois



Prairie Rivers Network is reducing pollution from livestock operations to ensure cleaner water and healthier communities for people, fish, and wildlife

Prairie Rivers Network is Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers. The 120,000 miles of rivers and streams flowing through Illinois provide drinking water to our communities, homes for fish and wildlife, buffers for flood waters, and natural areas for hikers, canoeists, anglers, and families.

For rivers to remain healthy, citizens must stand up for them—for 45 years, Prairie Rivers Network and our members have done just that, protecting our rivers and streams for people, fish, and wildlife.



1902 Fox Drive, Suite G
Champaign, IL 61820

217.344.2371

PrairieRivers.org

Approximately 25,000 livestock operations exist in Illinois. Some operations contain over 10,000 animals on just a few acres. Large operations are also called factory farms.

THE PROBLEMS

For People

- Residents who live near factory farms can experience a lower quality of life. Common complaints include odors, air pollution, flies, contaminated water, and debilitating health problems.
- Antibiotics used for livestock can cause an increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria, potentially threatening human health.
- Some Illinois residents have spent their life savings on lawsuits against new factory farms because construction permits are issued despite local opposition.

For Wildlife

- Millions of Illinois' fish have died from livestock waste discharges into streams and lakes. On average, there are at least 3 fish kill incidents a year.
- Wildlife sensitive to pollution disappear from waters chronically polluted by livestock waste.



For Water

- Livestock waste pollutes Illinois' water with pathogens, antibiotics, ammonia, nitrates, and algae blooms.
- Many waters downstream of factory farms do not have enough oxygen to meet the state standard and support aquatic life.
- Livestock operations are among the top ten sources of water pollution.

Some of the streams listed by Illinois EPA as potentially degraded by livestock operations:

Stream Name	County
Dums Creek	Marion
Elkhorn Creek	Carroll, Ogle
Elm River	Clay, Wayne
Galena River	Jo Daviess
Horse Creek	Monroe, Randolph
Kaskaskia River	St. Clair
Lake Branch	Clinton
Little Crooked Creek	Washington
Little Muddy River	Perry, Washington
Middle Fork Big Muddy	Franklin, Hamilton
Marys River	Randolph
Silver Creek	Macoupin, Madison



Factory farms can locate within ¼ mile of residences and ½ mile of towns. Surrounding properties may drop in value. At least 11 Illinois bodies of government have passed resolutions opposing the construction of new factory farms.

Hog factory farm photo by farmsanctuary.org



For more information on Illinois' factory farms and how you can help reduce water pollution, please contact:

Stacy James
sjames@prairierivers.org
217.344.2371

www.prairierivers.org/factory-farms

ILLINOIS' FACTORY FARMS



- Illinois' livestock operations produce over 10 million tons of waste annually. Waste is often stored improperly or in structures that leak. The waste is eventually applied to farm fields, but over-application and polluted runoff occur.
- The State of Illinois does not have enough staff to adequately run their livestock regulatory programs.
- Approximately 50% of livestock operations investigated by Illinois EPA have at least one regulatory violation.

THE SOLUTIONS

- Monitor factory farms for environmental violations. Report fish kills, water pollution, and odors that cause illness. Call 1-800-782-7860.
- Meet with your legislators. Ask them to support legislation that creates more stringent requirements for factory farms and increases funding for state agencies to implement and enforce livestock regulations.
- Participate in public meetings about proposed factory farms. Comment on water pollution permits issued by Illinois EPA.
- Join or form grassroots organizations working to reduce pollution from factory farms.
- Support businesses that sell products that are local, organic, grass-fed, or free-range.



Our partners in reducing pollution from factory farms include:



www.iccaw.org



www.environmentillinois.org