

Iowa Blueprint for Clean Water

Factory farming has wreaked havoc on Iowa, producing 109 billion pounds of manure every single year, 25 times that of the human population. Meanwhile, lax regulation allows 4,000+ factory farms to operate without water pollution permits, and waterway cancer-linked nitrate concentrations are the highest in the nation. The state's water crisis is at a breaking point: Iowa is one of only two states with rising cancer rates. Enough is enough. Food & Water Watch proposes the Blueprint for Clean Water as a way forward to protect Iowa's water.

Food & Water Watch's Blueprint for Clean Water proposes...

Mandating best management practices

To address harms wrought by animal and row crop operations, the Blueprint for Clean Water proposes:

- Prohibiting new factory farms in vulnerable groundwater areas,
- Mandating stricter construction standards to ensure that manure lagoons do not leak, and
- Following science-based management practices for land application of manure and synthetic fertilizers.

To proactively protect water and its management, the Blueprint for Clean Water proposes:

- Allowing the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enact water protections stricter than federal ones,
- Funding Watershed Management Partnerships and granting them authority to regulate, and
- Creating a public mapping tool for tracking nutrient applications to crop fields.

Increasing transparency

To properly alert the public and stay on top of the water crisis, the Blueprint for Clean Water proposes:

- Expanding water quality standards for nitrate pollution,
- Permanently funding real-time water monitoring,
- Increasing the state's inspection and enforcement capacity for water violations, and
- Requiring the DNR to inspect a fifth of all permitted animal operations annually.

Holding corporate polluters accountable

To hold these polluters accountable, the Blueprint for Clean Water proposes:

- Requiring factory farms to operate under federal water pollution permits,
- Increasing compliance monitoring and reporting requirements for factory farms,
- Lowering permit thresholds from 1,000 animal units (AUs) to 300 AUs, and
- Eliminating the "LLC Loophole," ensuring corporate polluters are regulated.



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