



## **We Need New Manure Discharge Rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)!**

The Natural Resources Board will consider changes to the DNR's manure discharge rules for the largest CAFOs in Wisconsin at its May hearing in Sheboygan. These rules have the potential to stop the contamination of rural wells and trout fisheries.

**Your stories are needed:** The DNR and legislators need to hear your personal stories of having dealt with manure contamination in your drinking water, or manure spills in creeks, rivers, and lakes that you care about. **Email your story to:**

**Natural Resources Board, c/o Amy Lemberger, Executive Assistant**  
[Amy.Lemberger@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Amy.Lemberger@dnr.state.wi.us)

Explain your experience in detail so that the Natural Resources Board will remember your story and share it with colleagues and legislators.

Contact **Andrew Hanson**, Midwest Environmental Advocates, at  
[ahanson@midwestadvocates.org](mailto:ahanson@midwestadvocates.org) or 608-251-5047 ext 2 for more information.

### **Talking Points**

#### **To Protect Water Quality, NR 243 Must Include:**

- **A Six-month Minimum Storage Requirement**—to help prevent CAFOs from spreading liquid manure on frozen and snow-covered ground and contaminating drinking water.
- **A Ban on Surface Application of Liquid Manure during February and March**—this is the period when applying liquid manure poses the highest risk of runoff.
- **A Ban on Surface Application of Liquid Manure when Ground is Frozen/Snow-Covered**—the risk of manure runoff is very high when the ground is frozen and/or snow-covered.
- **Additional Groundwater Protection**—Where a CAFO does not have six months of manure storage by 2010, it will still be allowed to surface apply liquid manure in the winter. Fortunately, this proposal includes more stringent restrictions on WHEN and WHERE these applications occur.
- **Year-Round Spreading Restrictions Near Surface Waters**—these include setbacks and vegetative buffers to help mitigate runoff.

### **The DNR Must Prevent Roll-backs by Maintaining:**

- **Mandatory Permit Application for CAFOs**—CAFOs with more than 1000 animal units must be required to apply for a discharge permit.
- **The DNR's Mixed-Animal Unit Calculation**—the EPA counts only one type of animal when deciding if a farm is a CAFO (over 1000 animal units). However, in Wisconsin, farms have several types of livestock, which means that, if the DNR was forced to use the EPA's calculation, they would lose the ability to monitor 15% of the 140 CAFOs in Wisconsin.
- **Public Input with Individual Permits, not "General" Permits**—right now, the DNR issues individual permits to CAFOs, which allow for an environmental review of the impacts to ground and surface waters, for public comment, and for public requests for informational hearings. A "general" permit, however, would cut out a community's ability to have any say in new CAFOs and would limit the DNR's ability to protect our water.
- **DNR Enforcement of Manure Spills** – The Bush Administration EPA has exempted some manure spills caused by rainfall from state and federal enforcement. However, most of these spills can be avoided by following best practices (e.g. not spreading before a rainfall or where snow is actively melting). The DNR should continue to prohibit these spills and prevent them by requiring best practices to keep manure on the ground and not in our streams and drinking water.

### **NR 243 Should be Improved By:**

- **Requiring 6 Months of Manure Storage by 2008, not 2010**—the DNR estimates that the majority of CAFOs already have at least 6 months of manure storage, so the 2010 deadline would encourage feet-dragging from the remaining CAFOs and would further endanger public health.
- **Take Action Sooner Rather than Later** – the DNR should restrict surface applications of liquid manure in February and March by 2008, not 2010. Waiting until 2010 will continue to put our drinking water, our health, and our waterways at risk.