



# What you should know about hog factories in Chickasaw County!

As of April, 2002 Chickasaw County had over 120 hog confinements. And there are dozens of applications for new industrial confinement barns. Although located on farms, these hog confinements are actually factories. In Chickasaw County, only 39 farmers, about 4 percent of the county's total, raise animals in hog factories, producing industrial levels of waste, threatening worker and public health, and destroying water and air quality.

We are not against the raising of livestock in Chickasaw County. We support farmers who use non confinement methods: farmers who allow their animals to have access to pasture, who use traditional or hoop housing and straw bedding, who don't use antibiotics to promote animal growth, who compost their manure and dispose of it responsibly. We are farmers and non farmers who are concerned about the impact of factory hog confinement systems on our health, our environment, and our county's economic future.

**1. Hog confinements can threaten public health.** A survey by the University of Iowa found over 60 percent of large animal veterinarians experienced health problems working at hog confinements.

Decaying animal waste produces hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. Both toxic gases have been measured in concentrations of potential health concern in the vicinity of hog confinements.

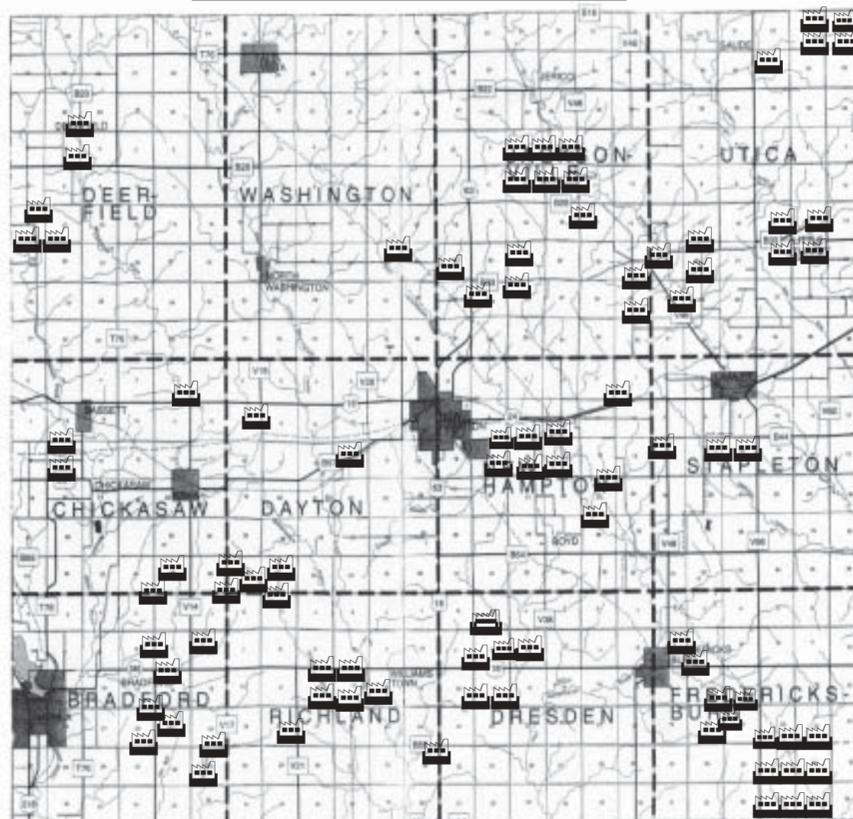
The use of antibiotics to promote hog growth has raised health concerns about the spread of drug resistant bacteria in the water and the air.

**2. Hog confinements endanger the environment.** From December 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002 Iowa had 10 fish kills attributed to animal waste contamination. Wells have become polluted. In Chickasaw County, the estimated 250,000 hogs raised annually in confinement produce 475,000 tons of manure a year.

**3. Hog confinements can reduce land values.** In Nebraska, the State Supreme Court recently upheld a ruling that found property within one mile of a hog confinement lost 30% of its value. Citizens there are asking for a lower property assessment as a result. Will Chickasaw County budgets face a similar challenge as a result of hog confinements?

 = 1 hog confinement building

Locations are roughly approximate  
NOT ALL BUILDINGS ARE SHOWN



Chickasaw County hog confinements each year produce almost 1,000 tons of manure for each square mile of the county.

**4. Hog confinement contracts destroy farmers' independence.**

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller warns about "take it" or "leave it" contracts forced on producers by a non-competitive industrial hog industry. Unilateral prices, binding arbitration, tournament and ledger contracts in industrial hog production can cause producers to become serfs on their own land. And when farmers aren't able to control the way they farm, Chickasaw County can suffer.

**5. Hog confinements are inhumane to animals.**

How animals are treated is a measure of farm health and environmental sustainability. A factory hog system that views animals as inanimate units of production tends to treat air, soil and water, producers, and farm communities the same way. Animals can be raised humanely and profitably. *How we raise the animals is a moral act.*

**6. Hog confinements may threaten our economic future.**

In North Carolina, the state is facing a \$200 million cost to clean up abandoned hog waste lagoons. South Carolina has all but prohibited hog confinements to protect its economy.

Confinements are mainly built by outside, migrant crews. Their automated operation employs few people. And what kind of economic future does a community have when the smell and the flies drive people indoors?

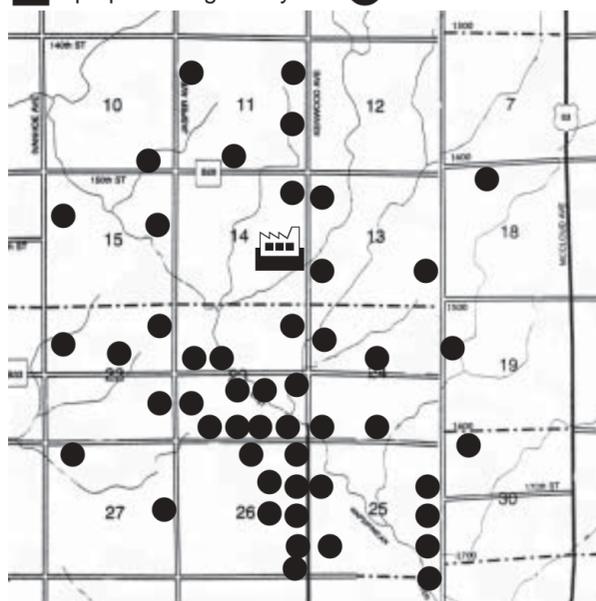
## One hog factory barn can affect a lot of neighbors

Dozens of Chickasaw residents can be impacted by a single hog factory. The value of their homes may be reduced. The quality of their lives is diminished. Their health may be at risk. The Canadian Medical Association recently voted to ask for a nationwide moratorium on new hog factories because of potential health risks.

Chickasaw County has 13,000 residents and only 39 farmers who raise 270,000 pigs industrially each year. Given this situation, who represents the special interest and who represents the public interest?

We want a moratorium on all new and expanded hog factory operations in Chickasaw County. If you agree fill out and mail us the coupon in this ad.

 = proposed hog factory barn ● = residence



### Chickasaw residents talk about hog factories

"Our house was sold until we heard of the hog building going up. The buyers backed out as soon as they heard about it." Chris & Deb Heying

"A doctor from Chicago and his wife who was a naturalist spent four days as guests here. He told me that they almost considered not coming to Iowa because he had read about all the hog confinements in Iowa. He was concerned they might not be able to stand the stench." Gerrie Etter, Bed & Breakfast owner.

"As we learned more about the amount of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emitted by hog confinements, we became very concerned. We found that OSHA standards for these gases were measured in minutes of exposure. And we wondered how the pigs live in that air." John and Gladys Christoph



**Pigs can be raised profitably, humanely, and sustainably.**

This advertisement has been paid for in part by members of the Neighborhood Alliance for a Clean Environment &

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**

### Join your neighbors to stop hog confinements!

Send us your contact information so we can keep you informed about developments in this struggle for the future of Chickasaw County.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you care ABOUT Chickasaw County, care FOR Chickasaw County!**

Clip and send to:  
Neighborhood Alliance for a Clean Environment  
P.O. Box 354 - New Hampton, IA 50659