



## CAFO - Confined Animal Feeding Operations

### It is time to change "business as usual" in the treatment of farm animals

In addition to depriving *people* of their basic human right to safe food and a healthful environment, raising livestock in confinement is inherently inhumane for farm *animals*.

Too many animals are crowded in spaces too small to allow humane treatment. During a recent visit to Poland, I had an opportunity to visit a World War II Nazi concentration-extinction camp near Lublin. The rows of barracks, where people awaited the gas chambers, reminded me of the rows of chicken and hog houses that now dot rural Iowa and much of rural America. There are no humane concentration camps. The fact that something is *legal* doesn't make it ethically or morally *right*. It's time to change "business as usual" in the treatment of farm animals.

JFAN and other anti-CAFO community organizations invariably

support farmers who share the traditional values of true "family farmers." They also support the new pasture-based, free-range, organic, humanely raised, and other approaches to sustainable animal husbandry.

There are many such economically viable alternatives to CAFOs, and more are emerging with growing public concern about CAFOs. These farmers apply manure in quantities that can decompose naturally and fully used as fertilizer by growing crops. These farming systems naturally produce more nutritious foods and don't require routine antibiotics because the animals stay healthy. These family farmers respect the rights of their neighbors, treat their animals humanely, and are committed to caring for the land, air, and water for the benefit of future generations. These farmers know it's time to change "business as usual" - and

they deserve our support.

To meet the new challenges, rural people do not need to rely on public relation gimmicks; they need only tell the truth about CAFOs. We will ultimately win the hearts and minds of the people by simply telling the truth, even if this isn't the "usual way to do business." CAFOs must be either effectively regulated or eliminated and replaced with real family farms. In the meantime, people in rural communities must do whatever is necessary to protect their basic rights to a healthy environment - including taking legal actions against government agencies or CAFO operators whenever their communities are threatened. It's time to change "business as usual."

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## End Game For Monsanto's Round-Up?

By: John E. Peck, exec. dir., Family Farm Defenders

It looks like Monsanto's flagship herbicide is headed into troubled waters. Back in March the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization (WHO), declared glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Round-Up to be a Class 2A probable carcinogen - something many scientists, healthcare providers and farmers have suspected for quite awhile. As early as 2005, University of Pittsburg scientists found that adding Round-up at Monsanto's recommended dosage into ponds with tadpoles killed 50 - 100% of the creatures within two weeks.

In light of the WHO declaration, California declared in Sept. that it would be placing glyphosate on its list of 800 known toxic chemicals, sending shock waves through chemical industry boardrooms. According to the EPA, glyphosate is currently the most popular herbicide in the United States with 100 million+ pounds being sprayed on farms, lawns, and gardens each year. Last year worldwide Round-Up sales generated \$4.8 billion in revenue for Monsanto.

Recent studies in France have also found that the patented inert ingredients in Round-Up, specifically polyethoxylated tallowamine (POEA), amplified the herbicide's toxicity and were more deadly to human cells than glyphosate itself. As a result the Univ. of Caen research team suspects that Round-Up might cause



pregnancy problems by interfering with hormone production, possibly leading to abnormal fetal development, low birth weights, or miscarriages. This finding echoes the warnings that UW-Madison toxicologist, Warren Porter, has given for many years about the potential sub-lethal synergistic impacts of pesticides like glyphosate and atrazine on human health and child development, particularly through contaminated drinking water supplies.

Last year another research group in Sweden found that glyphosate exposure was a risk factor for contracting non-Hodgkin lymphoma. In May, citizen groups in Argentina petitioned their nation's Supreme Court for a temporary injunction on glyphosate use, citing the elevated incidence of birth defects and cancers in people living near crop-spraying areas.

And as reported by Reuters on Oct. 15th, these latest scientific

revelations have led to the U.S. filing of numerous class action lawsuits against Monsanto, including one by former farm workers who claim exposure to glyphosate led to their non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other deadly cancers. One firm recently held townhall meetings in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska seeking more plaintiffs.

Apparently, some of Monsanto's own employees are now worried that the company's crude attempt to conceal and deny the deadly nature of glyphosate artificially inflated the company's stock value, defrauding them and other investors. They have filed their own lawsuit under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act of 1974 (ERISA), alledging that that company lied to them and thus damaged their retirement savings. Meanwhile, Monsanto insists WHO is wrong and that glyphosate is among the safest pesticides on the planet. Does the emperor have no clothes?