

# Clean Water Bill Factsheet

In 2015, a record number of Iowa beaches were closed because of bacterial levels unsafe for swimmers and Iowa's impaired waterways grew 15% to a new record—725 polluted waterways. Several water systems were unable to meet safe drinking water standards for nitrate. Yet, many in the industrial agricultural community argue that Iowa's water quality is improving.

When it affects agriculture, our state leaders insist on a “voluntary-only” system of environmental and public health protection through the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This strategy places water consumers at the mercy of upstream producers' good intentions.

Iowans know that the only way to clean up Iowa's waterways is to stop business as usual agriculture. It's time to implement clean water policies that crack down on bad practices and bad actors.

## **Strengthening the Animal Feeding Operations program so it is accountable and effective:**

- 1) Increase MMP filing fees to fully fund DNR implementation of the Clean Water Act workplan (inspections);
- 2) Require Certified DNR AFO inspectors to review MMPs;
- 3) Require fines for contract companies who submit erroneous MMPs for confinement owners;
- 4) Require Manure Management Plans for medium feedlots (500AU-999AU);
- 5) Strike Iowa's 'no more stringent than' law because it has become a significant barrier to clean water progress;
- 6) Make manure application records public information.

## **Banning Bad Practices:**

Amend Iowa's law, Iowa Code 459.313A, to:

- 1) Remove the dates on the winter manure application ban to protect our water in all months of the year;
- 2) Ban spreading manure on Highly Erodible Land (HEL);
- 3) Ban spreading manure on water-saturated ground;
- 4) Ban spreading manure when the weather forecast calls for at least a 1/4 inch of rain in the next 24 hours;
- 5) Ban spreading manure on slopes greater than 9%.



*Iowa has 21.6 million hogs on 9,000 factory farms that produce at least 22 billion gallons of toxic liquid manure each year.*

Prepared by Iowa CCI Action Fund.  
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