

# Industrial Agriculture

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Negative Impacts, Positive Solutions

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# The Meatrix

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□ [www.themeatrix.com](http://www.themeatrix.com)

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# Industrial Agriculture Impacts

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- Environmental & Public Health
  - Animal Welfare
  - Local Community
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# CAFOs

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- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
    - Animals confined to small space
    - Typically animals lack access to sunlight, fresh air, or room to move around
    - Fed antibiotics & growth hormones
    - Produce TONS of manure—more than the land can handle
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# CAFOs

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[www.factoryfarm.org](http://www.factoryfarm.org)



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# Environmental & Public Health Impacts of CAFOS

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- Lagoons created for tons of manure!
  - Water pollution
  - Air pollution
  - Odor



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Lagoon Overflow

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# Public Health Impacts of CAFOs

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- ❑ Groundwater and surface water contamination
- ❑ Nitrogen, Phosphorous, pathogens, heavy metals
- ❑ *Pfiesteria piscicida*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Campylobacter*, *E. Coli*, *Salmonella*
- ❑ Fish kills—Chesapeake Bay
- ❑ Dead Zone—Gulf of Mexico



<http://www.iatp.org>

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# Community Impacts of CAFOs

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- ❑ Significant decline family-operated farms
  - Farm Aid: 5M fewer farms, 2M remaining
- ❑ Loss of jobs
- ❑ Loss of economic growth
- ❑ Declining property values



# Externalities are High

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- People pay billions in environmental costs, health costs, and community costs.
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# Sustainable Agriculture

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- ❑ Respects land, environment, & community
- ❑ No manure lagoons
- ❑ More jobs for locals
- ❑ Strengthens local economy
- ❑ Closer connection w/ consumer



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# Sustainable Agriculture

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- Farmers markets
  - Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs)
  - Local independent farmers
  - Whole Food Market
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# Challenges

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- ❑ Sustainable agriculture not currently profitable
  - ❑ More labor intensive
  - ❑ Not mainstream
  - ❑ Supermarkets create convenience
  - Need gov. support
  - Need stricter regulations
  - Need educate public
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