

Data from
the National Weather Service
show that
the probability of flooding
has steadily increased
over the last 50 years.

The data covers
historic crests
over the last
100 years.

It is unlikely that sewage
ponds built to standards
based on average weather
conditions in the past, will
protect us from the
increasingly unpredictable
weather of the future.

www.buffaloriveralliance.org

Biodiversity is an
excellent way to measure
environmental quality -
perhaps the best way.

But we need more
information about many
of
the organisms of the
Interior Highlands before
we can
assess environmental
quality based on
biodiversity.

If the Buffalo River is not
protected from serious
environmental
disturbance, we will lose
species – many of which
we never had a chance to
discover.

Fact Brochure # 3 of 4

KARST

Water & Living Things

named after Karst, a
desolate limestone region
in northwestern
Yugoslavia

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Will
drinking water
be affected?

Many in the community
depend on wells for
household water.
Wells may become polluted.

People who utilize
cisterns for
rainwater collection
may find their
water contaminated
from the
spray fields.

What does building a CAFO on karst mean?

The Mt. Judea industrial farm is on porous karst geology, therefore seepage into underground water is nearly certain.

ADEQ mentions a monitoring station in Big Creek which would alert officials to polluted water.

However, by the time pollution is registered, it may be too late for the species that are currently under study for endangered listing. They can only exist because BNR water is pristine. Once pollutants lodge in gravel bars, ammonia and methane are released which are toxic to aquatic life.

Unlike Iowa, where Cargill designs its CAFO operations, our karst topography in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas is porous limestone and riddled with caves, seeping springs, and underground waterways. Spreading manure or using holding ponds here does not ensure that the groundwater will be unaffected by waste seepage. Any opening in the soil could be the entrance to a sinkhole or cave yet undiscovered.

What's the bottom line?

CAFOs should not be built in karst terrain!