

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](http://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

# 3

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!**