

DOES THIS CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION BELONG IN THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WATERSHED?



C&H swine Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) on Big Creek, a major tributary to the Buffalo National River

SO . . . WHY RISK HAVING HUNDREDS OF THESE?



Swine CAFO in North Carolina photo by Rick Dove

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE A PERMANENT MORATORIUM ON SWINE CAFOS IN THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER WATERSHED



CONFUSED THINKING

"Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!"

Hundreds of family businesses in this rural watershed rely on a clean, healthy, and scenic Buffalo River to survive. C&H reportedly employs 6-12 people.

"Opponents of C&H are all just anti-farming fringe environmentalists."

Not so. BRWA supporters come from all backgrounds. What is driving this controversy is not hog farming; it is concern for the Buffalo National River and the threat posed by permitting swine CAFOs in the highly sensitive karst terrain of its watershed. C&H swine CAFO, a private Arkansas business, contracts with JBS, a Brazilian-based multinational conglomerate with a well-documented record of corruption and environmental degradation around the world. Industrial CAFOs like C&H are a far cry from traditional pig farms and have been known to destroy farm communities and their drinking water supplies.

"I can do anything I want on my own property."

Really? Not if it threatens neighbors whose livelihoods depend on clean waterways, springs and drinking water wells, and makes downwind air unbreathable.

"The problem is the tourists on the river."

Hardly. The 6500 swine at C&H CAFO produce as much raw sewage as a town of 30,000 people. All of it gets sprayed on about one square mile of fields that drain into Big Creek and the Buffalo River. This is like flushing every toilet in Harrison onto the ground.

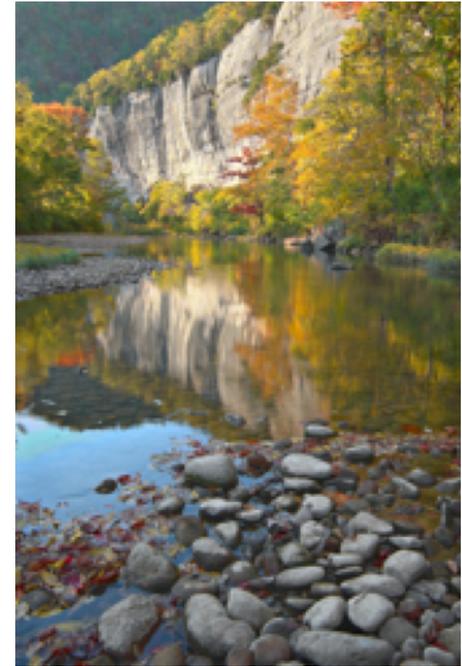
"We need to feed the world."

Not at the risk of destroying our country's first National River by allowing it to become so polluted with swine waste nobody wants to visit. And not at the risk of polluting groundwater so that neighbors' wells become unusable and drinking water aquifers are damaged.

"State-funded water quality studies report that Big Creek is fine. So, what's the problem?"

The State research focuses on surface water near the CAFO. The National Park Service, U.S. Geological Service, and the Karst Hydrogeology of the Buffalo National River team conduct additional studies addressing groundwater and surface water quality, many of which display impacts typical of waste overload. The State must consider ALL water quality studies and not cherry-pick the science.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Buffalo National River Bluffs photo by Rita Szabo

- Attend letter writing sessions; help push hard for a permanent CAFO moratorium.
- Let Governor Hutchinson know you care.
Write and/or Call:
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave. Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-2345
- Stay tuned. The 2018 denial of the C&H permit is in the appeals process.
- Visit the river; remind yourself why you care
- And yes, DONATE. Legal battles are costly.

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Your generous donations are tax deductible.

Visit buffaloriveralliance.org and click on

Donate Now ~~~ Thank You!



American Rivers included the Buffalo National River in its Top 10 Endangered Rivers for 2017



Algae in the Buffalo below Gilbert, 9/5/16 photo by Lin Wellford

TROUBLED WATERS

Creeks that feed the Buffalo are hurting

The C&H waste spreading fields lie along Big Creek, a major tributary of the Buffalo River, and along other creeks in the watershed. Data collected by the National Park Service and USGS for dissolved oxygen in Big Creek show levels that require the stream to be legally designated as impaired. Most of the original spreading fields are already saturated for phosphorus.

These trends all indicate waste overload that can kill fish like small mouth bass by ruining their food supply. Algae can take over the river, making it unpleasant to swim and impossible to fish. But the harm goes deeper yet.

Surface water/groundwater connection

Beneath the C&H CAFO operation lies Ozark karst: fractured limestone. Water seeps into this porous bedrock, moves through cracks and caverns, and can easily enter underground water channels, and then the river. Local dye trace studies show that these karst features allow pollution to reach springs, wells and the water table, sometimes traveling up to ½ mile per day underground with little or no filtration. In contrast, most groundwater moves only 10-15 feet per year.

BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

BRWA's mission is to preserve and protect the scenic beauty and pristine water and air quality of the Buffalo National River for future generations through public outreach and education, advocacy, and direct actions. Current goals are:

- closure of C&H swine CAFO
- a permanent moratorium on additional swine CAFOs in the Buffalo River watershed.

Currently BRWA has legal standing as an intervenor in the C&H swine CAFO permit appeals process. C&H should be denied any kind of permit.

PERMANENT CAFO MORATORIUM NEEDED NOW!

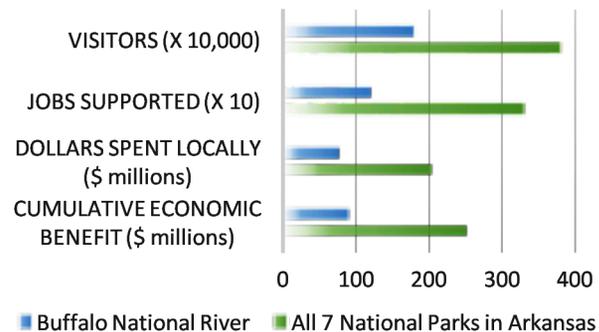
In addition to monitoring fast-moving developments in the existing C&H swine CAFO, BRWA is committed to working toward establishing a PERMANENT MORATORIUM on additional CAFOs in the Buffalo National River watershed.

The present moratorium expires in 2020. We must urge the Governor and other state leaders to make this moratorium permanent so that the Buffalo River is protected now and for future generations.

USA Today Readers' Poll named the Buffalo National River #1 attraction in Arkansas in 2018

Tourism is a significant income source for the counties in the river's vicinity, attracting more than 1.7 million visitors in 2016, supporting 1200 jobs, and generating benefits in excess of \$90 million.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM: BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER COMPARED TO ALL SEVEN NATIONAL PARKS IN ARKANSAS



Data obtained from peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas, U.S. Geological Survey, and Lynne Koontz, National Park Service, 2017.

TIME TO CHOOSE!

