

Cooper County Board of Health

Statement of Concern

The Cooper County **Board of Health** remains very concerned about the documented health problems that have been associated with agricultural manure management practices.

Bacteria found in animal feces has been associated with human illness, outbreaks of disease and deaths. Documented cases of infected bodies of water throughout the United States, because of nutrient management practices, are also of deep concern. Evidenced based nutrient management guidelines along with environmental monitoring can help to reduce the risk of harm experienced by humans and animals when exposed to infectious bacteria, contaminated water and polluted air.

Small children exposed to particulate matter along with gas air emissions from large agricultural operations experience higher rates of asthma. Research has documented increased rates of depression associated with living nearby large animal feeding operations.

Currently, there are no known evidenced based practices that can safely remove the contaminants such as antibiotics, hormones and other medications from animal feces. Aged manure when applied to land as nutrients subject plants, animals and ground water sources to drug contamination. Humans and animals have the potential to be exposed to excessive amounts of drugs through their consumption of agricultural food products and water supplies. This exposure to antibiotics through water and food supplies could lead to antibiotic resistant bacterial infections which make (significantly more difficult) the treatment of human infections requiring effective antibiotics.

The Board of Health is concerned that in some situations the current level of environmental and health impact planning, oversight and monitoring of animal waste management practices are insufficient at the national, state and local level to provide adequate protective measures to ensure community health. Additionally, it is not known how many concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's) can operate, in a defined area, without contamination of ground water and air.

Animal Feeding Operations. Retrieved from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 2017, June 2