



RANDOLPH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION RE:Animal Waste Lagoons

The Randolph County Health Department provides this Position Statement to guide further debate and decision making regarding public policies regarding Animal Waste Storage Lagoons. The Randolph County Health Department acknowledges the growing health concerns related to Animal Waste Storage Lagoons. These lagoons play a crucial role in managing livestock waste but also present many potential health risks. Although we understand the harms associated with Animal Waste Storage Lagoons, we do not have legal authority to regulate their use. We believe it is imperative to address these concerns to safeguard the health of individuals, communities and the environment. We strongly support the efforts to limit these operations in our county.

WHEREAS, every resident of Randolph County has an equal right to conditions that protect and promote human health, including a healthy and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, animal wastes are known to produce high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus; and

WHEREAS, Animal Waste Lagoons have the potential to contaminate nearby water sources if not properly managed. The runoff from lagoons can potentially contain nutrients, pathogens, and chemicals, which can leach into groundwater or be carried into surface waters, posing health risks to human and aquatic ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, decomposition of animal waste in lagoons can generate foul odors and release airborne particulate matter. Prolonged exposure to these odors and pollutants can lead to respiratory problems, exacerbate pre-existing respiratory conditions, and pose known and unknown health risks to nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, poorly managed lagoons can harbor and facilitate the spread of pathogens, such as E. coli and Salmonella, which may lead to waterborne disease and pose a risk to public health; and

WHEREAS, stagnant water in earth basins can serve as breeding grounds for disease vectors such as mosquitoes. The existence of these basins, therefore, can lead to an increased risk of vector-borne diseases for livestock, domestic animals, and humans; and

WHEREAS, Animal Waste Lagoons may accumulate toxic contaminants, including growth hormones, chemical additives, and antibiotics. These substances can seep into the groundwater, potentially leading to the contamination of drinking water sources and resulting health issues for those exposed; and

WHEREAS, Animal Waste Lagoons can be vulnerable to natural disasters, such as flooding. Spills and overflows of these basins resulting from natural disasters can be highly damaging to the environment,

with the potential to cause great harm to ecosystems of all creatures within the geographic area of the flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Health Department recognizes the need for sustained and effective collaboration with local authorities in all stages of land use planning and decision-making to improve the health of communities; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Health Department recognizes that pollution can have negative health consequences for vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and those with existing chronic diseases. Health outcomes should be evaluated and addressed to ensure the health and safety of all populations; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Health Department recognizes that Animal Waste Lagoons can also be associated with declines in local economic and social factors (i.e. property values, population). Low wages, and lack of medical care may intensify the burden of diseases (APHA CAFO Resolution); and

WHEREAS, the prevention approach of public health is crucial to assuring that we limit impact on public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, research regarding residents living near solid waste sites show increased risk of adverse birth and neonatal outcomes, and also have some evidence of increased risks to mortality, respiratory diseases, and negative mental health; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Health Department recognizes that Animal Waste Lagoons are primarily private businesses, and thus profit oriented. With that understanding, these private industry leaders may assert that data on adverse health impacts are inconclusive. There are, however, reliable studies that show communities with surrounding landfills and incinerators experience adverse health effects.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Randolph County Health Department will work with local partners throughout the State of Missouri to will support any evidence-based effort to mitigate the effects of Animal Waste Lagoons, including additional scientific research, and direct policy action.

Be it further resolved that the Randolph County Health Department supports policies that advocate for the health and safety of our community.

Be it further resolved that the Randolph County Health Department will continue to monitor the health statistics for our County and will provide an annual report

Be it further resolved that the Randolph County Health Department opposes the installation of or operation of any Animal Waste Lagoons in our community.

Submitted to the Randolph County Health Department Board of Trustees 10/2023

Approved by: Karen Berding
Karen Berding, Board President

Date: 10/24/2023

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