

## 18. AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We support:

1. Agricultural practices that recognize economic benefits and the ability to manage risks involved with production agriculture.
2. Working with other interested agencies and organizations to assure pollution standards and tolerances are scientifically formulated and economically feasible.
3. Farmer participation in voluntary, third-party environmental assessments as a means to demonstrate compliance prior to an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) inspection as a means to meet IEPA requirements.
4. A farmer's right to build livestock buildings and other agricultural structures without the threat of litigation as long as they abide by current regulations and guidelines at the time of site approval.
5. Efforts to provide adequate funds to state and federal agencies for the purpose of aiding in the construction of agricultural pollution control devices and implementation of other agricultural practices to meet mandated standards.
6. Working closely with IEPA to develop communication strategies to livestock farmers that are not intimidating, do not involve media or press releases, and develop reasonable timelines to address enforcement issues.
7. Modification of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) to exclude farms from the provisions of the Act. Reporting and notification requirements in SARA are too stringent and inappropriate for farming operations.
8. Efforts to exempt farmers and others who have legally disposed of materials from liability provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Regulatory Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA).
9. Research and information examining the effects of crop protection and animal health products on the food chain and the environment.
10. The development of an overall rating system to measure the acute and chronic effects of oral and dermal exposure to crop protection and animal health products.
11. Exempting property owners from financial responsibility for pollution that resulted from previously-accepted farming practices.
12. The removal of setbacks on chemical application in conjunction with tile inlet structures unless proven necessary by scientific data.
13. Changes in the Worker Protection Standards so posting of field entrances does not unduly alarm consumers about the use of certain crop protection products.
14. Legislation which will require a verified name and address from the complainants on all pollution complaint reports.
15. Increased government funding to ensure that landowners are adequately compensated whenever farmland is used for purposes intended to achieve the government's natural resource goals.
16. Increased dollars for educational, promotional, incentive-based, and technical assistance programs and developing the guidelines for the implementation of programs at the local level. We also support developing a separate source of funding either under conventional agricultural conservation programs or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for the establishment of buffers.
17. Legislation indemnifying farmers and farm owners for the cost of clean-up and other damages arising from the pollution of their land by the willful or negligent acts of others.
18. Congress setting specific guidelines and restraints on federal agencies charged with implementing and enforcing federal law. We believe that Congress should provide for strong congressional oversight of regulatory and significant agency actions as well as a willingness to override unacceptable agency actions. We support congressional scrutiny of agencies to prohibit regulatory agencies from administering laws, to deter adoption of agency rules and actions that circumvent statutory intent. Specific efforts should be made to oversee and to reform the inspection and rule-making authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).
19. Environmental regulations clarifying that any discharge occurring prior to the operation of a livestock farm does not require the owner/operator of the farm to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the operation of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).

20. Efforts by the IDOA to protect pollinators that involve farmer stakeholders and arrive at reasonable solutions that protect both crops and pollinators.
21. The planting of milkweed for Monarch Butterfly habitat in parks, wildlife preserves, urban gardens and other non-linear areas that will not create a problem for production agriculture.
22. The planting of pollinator habitat on land currently enrolled in USDA programs.

We oppose:

1. Efforts to place restrictions or moratoriums on a farmer's ability to manage his or her farming operation in a manner consistent with BMPs. Existing operations should not be restricted from expansion nor have undue limits placed upon them due to the encroachment of others.
2. Regulations for septic systems that are not science-based and do not take into consideration the economic impacts on the homeowner and on the local government.
3. Requiring a NPDES permit for pesticide applications when the applicator complies with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
4. The requirement of a CAFO to need an NPDES permit if it does not discharge.
5. Efforts by the IEPA to regulate stored hay as a stored feed.