

1 February 2016

RE: further findings of the CFO/CAFO Study Committee.

Dear County Plan Commission Colleague:

This letter accompanies the transmittal of an additional document for your reference on the matter of findings of the CFO/CAFO Study Committee.

You may know that the Study Committee held a public Open House on 28 September 2015, which generated public input in the form of voice recordings and an informal poll on setbacks and other zoning tools as they might apply to CFO/CAFO zoning in Bartholomew County.

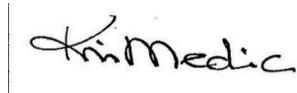
At that time, we opened a public survey that could be taken online or on paper, and a laptop computer was made available at the Open House for participants to make their entry there. The survey was open until 8 October, 2015, and we received over four hundred responses. For residents who couldn't attend the Open House, and even for those who could, this was another means by which they could register their opinions.

In the Study Committee meeting minutes, you will see that the survey was discussed on 21 October and on 8 December, with Committee members differing on the survey's utility. When it became clear that 45 paper responses were photocopies, further doubt was cast on the survey's usefulness and it was generally agreed that the photocopied surveys should be eliminated from the data set. It was left on 8 December that I would work with the Survey as time allowed, and give the Study Committee an opportunity to see the results before making them public.

Over the objections of four Committee members, I am submitting the results of the survey for your consideration. Like all of the other polling we have done, this is unscientific but possibly helpful when taken as one snapshot of public opinion. There were 395 responses after the photocopied ones were removed.

I'll be happy to answer your questions as we proceed.

Sincerely,



Kris Medic, Extension Educator
Agriculture/Natural Resources/ Community Development

C: CAFO Regulation Study Committee Members

Attachments:
Public Survey Report

CFO/CAFO Study Committee Public Survey Results

02/01/2016

1. Are you a resident of Bartholomew County, or own property in Bartholomew County?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	YES	337	86%
2	NO	57	14%
	Total	394	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.14
Variance	0.12
Standard Deviation	0.35
Total Responses	394

2. Is your property, home, or business located within Bartholomew County's zoning jurisdiction? (Rather than a city or town jurisdiction.)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	YES	265	67%
2	NO	128	33%
	Total	393	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.33
Variance	0.22
Standard Deviation	0.47
Total Responses	393

3. Do you, or does any member of your household, work in agriculture?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	YES	230	59%
2	NO	163	41%
	Total	393	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.41
Variance	0.24
Standard Deviation	0.49
Total Responses	393

4. How familiar are you with Concentrated (or Confined) Animal Feeding as an agricultural practice?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Very Familiar	226	57%
2	Familiar	154	39%
3	Unfamiliar	14	4%
	Total	394	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.46
Variance	0.32
Standard Deviation	0.57
Total Responses	394

5. CAFOs are best regulated at this level.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	State Only	77	20%
2	Local Only	54	14%
3	Combination	259	66%
	Total	390	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.47
Variance	0.65
Standard Deviation	0.80
Total Responses	390

6. In agricultural zoning, CAFOs should be permitted through.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	A specific set of standards, and no public hearing	87	22%
2	A specific set of standards, with a public hearing for any exceptions	139	35%
3	A specific set of standards, and a public hearing in every case	166	42%
Total		392	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.20
Variance	0.61
Standard Deviation	0.78
Total Responses	392

7. Consideration of zoning CAFOs in Bartholomew County should include: (check all that apply)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	odor	223	59%
2	traffic	166	44%
3	public health	238	63%
4	property values	214	57%
5	water resources	263	70%
6	spills in transit	189	50%
7	visual issues	147	39%
8	noise issues	153	41%
9	property rights	255	68%
10	the food supply	220	59%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	10
Total Responses	375

8. Consideration of zoning CAFOs in Bartholomew County should also include:

Text Response

include language for redress of economic or other loss/damage to environment

Economic impact

A public review with each and every application.

Following recommendations by experts (Purdue study)

All agriculture should always be permitted in agricultural zones.

The right to farm as well as support my family. Also

disposal of manure

I notice that all the minimum distances below only go as high as 1 mile

Everything should be considered by FACTS not personnel feelings

Animal well being. / Moral implications of cruelty to animals and harm to the environment. /

Harm to recreation sites. Animal well being. / Harm to wildlife. Moral implications of

advocating for greed and for harm to others. /

Whatever the state asks and requires

WHERE does the so-called 'family farmer' who establishes a CAFO demonstrate his own good faith

long term land use planning

Direct input from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This department was put into place to handle CAFO. I struggle to understand why a county (local level) feels that they need to dictate this in greater detail than a state government office who has highly trained individuals that handle issues like this on a daily basis. In addition to that

Proximity to high useage properties such as schools

Impact to lost tourism and event revenues from becoming an undesirable county to travel through.

CAFOs for pigs are not the same as other animal CAFOs. Dairy cow CAFOs have been in this county for 50 years. Swine CAFOs to the volumes of thousands of animals is huge and produces as much solid waste as the whole town of Columbus.

Liability. The farmer has only limited liability for spills and environmental damage

children and grandchildren

What we do as property owners has direct or indirect impact on the entire county

The fact that there are more than enough CAFO's in this county. It could well effect people wanting to move to this county in the future. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the majority of people in this county to have more CAFO's due to the items checked above. It seems there should be a more humane way to farm. I LIVE ON A FARM.

The wellbeing of any resident. If its location actually effects the wellbeing of a single resident

Long term

The farmers who own the land and operate the CAFCO should be required to actually live on the land in question.

Public consideration (support or opposition)

Where will animal waste be disposed.

the closeness of existing cafo's

Unless the property owner fully understands the possibility of animal and crop activities and accepts them

This is a farming area but is more heavily populated by non-farm housing. This is also a very popular destination for tourists

Food safety issues

1. Whether the CAFO operator intends to treat the animals humanely (that is

Whether or not if it is confined feeding or rescued wild animals that are injured and confined they still need to be checked on by surprised visits

The treatment of the animals.

If a farmer already has a CAFO then any additional new CAFO for that farmer should be built near one of his existing CAFO's

I have a deep concern that the quality of life for the population in Bartholomew County - including Columbus - will deteriorate considerably if CAFOs are allowed. I have lived on a small hog farm and near a small hog farm. Neither was pleasant. I do not believe that enough research has been done to guarantee that health issues will not arise from CAFO operations

Everything should be further away than the suggested distance. I am very concerned about the water contamination especially the one by Clifty Falls.

The 3 Dodd buildings just outside of Hope city limits completely smell up the town so bad that I've considered moving. / They are at least a mile due West. When in full operation size of acreage

air quality (not just odor); transmittal of disease; acreage permitted for site and needed for waste disposal; "water resources" must include not only sufficient supply for the CAFO/CAFO facility without depletion of water for neighboring property owners

Nothing else

Honoring results of this survey

The right to private property has never included the right to use property in a way that devalues the properties of one's neighbors or diminishes the overall quality of life in the community. State law can set basic regulations

Specific focus in areas adjacent to tourist attractions

CAFOs will have negative effect on property values and anyone who thinks otherwise hasn't tried to sell property near a pig farm

The long term issues for residents near to the operation for their quality of life

Distance of manure spreading to homes regardless of zoning. Consideration of runoff into small lakes and ponds that are not state owned water bodies. Consideration of the problems that arise with over application of manure. /

Health issues and safety issues of the public.

CAFO's should be allowed within the 2 mile jurisdiction of the City of Columbus. The City has too much control over individuals property rights and those within this area do not have enough say as to what the City is doing or proposing.

further re: property rights. / The majority report's proposal fails to adequately recognize the property rights of neighboring properties. This would have been quite evident to all had the study committee tested minimum lot size options by superimposing various potential minimum lot size standards over an existing CAFO facility (something quite easily accomplished with GIS systems.) You will note that the committee's majority report recommendation for a 10-acre minimum lot size barely covers the size of a typical CAFO facility and leaves virtually NO buffer from its neighbors within which the CAFO's airborne hazards and annoyances could be absorbed by vegetation or sufficiently dissipated by winds. Its affect on people and community around it

The welfare of the animals being confined

Particular notice nearness of Schools and churches.

If a farm operation has a history of livestock on the premises then regulation of expansion of this operation should be less stringent. If a farm operation was in existence before neighboring homes were built then those home owners should have less voice than the farm regardless of the current zoning and the setbacks should be regarded as if the residential property was zoned AG.

I do not want this ANYWHERE in Bartholomew County. My opinion is that these should only be placed in remote areas where they are far away from any personal property.

Align with already established state rules

Satellite manure storage structures

Animal welfare

The Golden Rule neighbor to neighbor

Zoning should encourage enterprise and employment opportunities as well as promote ag commerce.

The problem with CAFOs in Bartholomew County is that they are too large. They are too large pretty much over most of the country. Some farmers do a good job

Consideration of neighbors who are not making any money off it

The fact that animal agriculture is terrible for our environment on every level (see cowspiracy for more)

Environmental impacts.

A review of CAFO standards in surrounding counties should be reviewed and considered when establishing those for Bartholomew Co.

Making sure regulations are not a taking from the people who's lively hood comes from the land they purchased for that purpose.

safety and other environmental certifications and practices of the farmer.

Property values reduce

common sense

Impact on recreation and tourism.

Effect on schools

I'm opposed to anything supported by Farm Bureau and Purdue Extension

Property rights of homeowners

Financial responsibility for damage or loss

Air and water pollution are huge concerns

Low wages for workers and undocumented immigrants brought in to work in CAFOs

The Comprehensive Plan

I actually think CAFOs should never be allowed because of the cruelty to animals issue.

However

Farmer's rights

Recognition that the county sits over an 85-foot-deep underground lake which serves as water supply both for rural residents and municipalities within the county. Contamination of this natural resource would cause unacceptable burden

1) All Residents of the County. 2) The Net Economic Impact to our County - drop in Property Values & Taxes Revenue while increasing subsidies for low income workers. 3) Regulate CAFOs like other Industries - Zero Discharge/Emissions with Waste Water Treatment and Toxic Gas Control (e.g.

"Indiana "Right to Farm" law should be first settled in court before any zoning of CAFOs in Bartholomew County are decided. / i.e. the Danville Indiana families court case pending

Humane raising practices

Types of neighboring properties and uses.....ie schools

Humane treatment of animals;

I believe CAFO's should be allowed within the city 2 mile law as long as all laws are met.

Same as industrial zoning.

Less restrictions on agriculture closer to the city.

2-mile jurisdiction should be open to CAFOs.

Limit building in country for residences.

Financial responsibility for damage or loss of property value.

Being allowed within the 2-mile jurisdiction where adjoining properties are least affected.

These are corporate industrial operations and must be regulated as such.

Regular inspection of the animals treatment and welfare.

Information on flooding

Thank you for the open house and survey.

"Right to live" - those who owned property before CAFO's: Just the opposite of "right to farm." Think of people
 Concern for wildlife and streams.
 Population of county.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	98

9. A distance of 1/2-mile from CAFO structure to residential zoning is proposed. This distance is:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	About right	111	32%
2	Too much	98	28%
3	Too little	131	37%
4	Not sure	11	3%
	Total	351	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.12
Variance	0.80
Standard Deviation	0.90
Total Responses	351

10. The minimum distance from CAFO structure to a school or health care facility should be:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	1 mile	120	34%
2	1/2 mile	33	9%
3	1/4 mile	68	19%
4	less than 1/4 mile	59	17%
5	variable, based on terrain, vegetation, odor control practices, and size of operation.	70	20%
	Total	350	100%

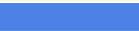
Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	2.79
Variance	2.40
Standard Deviation	1.55
Total Responses	350

11. The minimum distance from CAFO structure to a worship facility should be:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	1 mile	99	28%
2	1/2 mile	40	11%
3	1/4 mile	67	19%
4	less than 1/4 mile	79	22%
5	variable, based on terrain, vegetation, odor control practices, and size of operation.	67	19%
	Total	352	100%

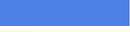
Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	2.93
Variance	2.23
Standard Deviation	1.49
Total Responses	352

12. The minimum distance from CAFO structure to public recreation should be:

#	Answer		Response	%
1	1 mile		106	30%
2	1/2 mile		39	11%
3	1/4 mile		42	12%
4	less than 1/4 mile		99	28%
5	variable, based on terrain, vegetation, odor control practices, and size of operation.		63	18%
Total			349	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	2.93
Variance	2.33
Standard Deviation	1.53
Total Responses	349

13. In an agricultural zoning district, the minimum distance from a CAFO structure to a neighbor's home should be:

#	Answer		Response	%
1	1 mile		98	28%
2	1/2 mile		43	12%
3	1/4 mile		39	11%
4	500 feet		97	28%
5	100 feet		27	8%
6	variable, based on terrain, vegetation, odor control practices, and size of operation.		48	14%
Total			352	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	3.16
Variance	3.03
Standard Deviation	1.74
Total Responses	352

14. How should the distance from a CAFO structure to a neighbor be measured?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	CAFO structure to neighbor's property line	162	46%
2	CAFO structure to neighbor's home or building	179	51%
3	Unsure	12	3%
	Total	353	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.58
Variance	0.31
Standard Deviation	0.56
Total Responses	353