

## Manure flowing into streams – the pollution crisis with liquid manure systems

Huge fish kill in River Raisin Watershed from Chesterfield Dairy CAFO manure



Chesterfield Dairy black manure water and dead fish in Little Bear Creek, a tributary of River Raisin, 7-17-09.

The Chesterfield manure discharge killed more than 8,000 aquatic animals in Little Bear Creek, River Raisin Watershed, including approx. 1200 large fish, more than 5,000 minnows and almost 2,000 freshwater mussels. (Source: Ohio DNR)



### 3 manure discharges in 4 weeks to local watersheds, Lake Erie basin

Three manure discharges between mid-July and mid-August polluted two local Lake Erie watersheds, the River Raisin and Bean/Tiffin/Maumee River.

Chesterfield Dairy of Lyons, OH, was cited for 2 illegal discharges, one on July 16 in Fulton Co, OH, when manure flowed into Little Bear Creek, causing a major fish kill. Another Chesterfield discharge occurred on Aug 11 in Fairfield Twp, MI, when manure flowed into Niles Ditch after liquid manure was sprayed on the field for weeks. Both streams are tributaries of the River Raisin.

On Aug 4, liquid manure from Vreba-Hoff Dairy on Dillon Hwy led to black water in Medina Drain, a tributary of Bean Creek in the Maumee River watershed. DEQ ordered Vreba-Hoff to pump out the stream. Medina Drain is already listed as impaired – added to Michigan's 303(d) list in 2004 – because of repeated manure discharges from Vreba-Hoff.

#### Sickening

Neighbors next to Chesterfield field application sites in Michigan reported horrible manure emissions and health concerns for weeks. One neighbor emailed ECCSCM with these details after the Aug 11 manure discharge: "AS DUSK APPROACHED THE STILLNESS CAME WITH IT. THERE HAS BEEN NON STOP LIQUID MANURE SPRAYED, THIS IS THE THIRD WEEK... IT FINALLY RAINED SO HARD THAT MANURE RAN OFF THIS ROLLING GROUND INTO THE DITCH...CHESTERFIELD DAIRY BARRICADED A CULVERT WITH A BLOWN UP BLADDER BALL 2 HRS.LATER. HUGE VACUUMS ARE SUCKING OUT THE POOL THAT IS BUILDING UP. STILL PUDDLES OF WATER THAT LAY AROUND THE DITCH SMELL LIKE MANURE...NOW EVERYONE IS GONE THE DITCH IS FILLING UP AGAIN IT LOOKS AND SMELLS HORRENDOUS NOW ITS JUST LYING THERE NO ONE AROUND TO SUCK IT OUT. MY 9 YR OLD COULDN'T TAKE THE SMELL ANY MORE AND THREW UP. WE WENT HOME DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO."

The spraying of liquid manure on tiled fields has led, again and again, to manure in our streams. Polluted rivers, dead zones in the Great Lakes, small boys throwing up – when will we STOP the spraying of liquid waste?

*KEEP THE AIR & WATER CLEAN,  
FOR US & FUTURE GENERATIONS*

### ECCSCM President John Klein receives national Sierra Club's 2009 Special Achievement Award

HUDSON – John Klein, President and founder of Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan, was selected for the Sierra Club's 2009 Special Achievement Award, "for strong and consistent commitment to conservation" and for work "providing documentation of illegal CAFO activity in Michigan."

Klein will be honored at the ECCSCM picnic in September and at Sierra Club's annual dinner in San Francisco on September 26.

Working with Lighthawk volunteer pilot Ed Steinman, Klein has gained national attention for his aerial photography of CAFO pollution. His efforts have documented numerous illegal manure discharges and in several cases led to enforcement actions.

#### Elsewhere in the state, Sanilac County:

### 12-mile fish kill in Black River manure discharge

"It's the biggest fish kill I've ever seen," said Gary Towns, fisheries supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources in Southfield.

Thousands and thousands of fish in a 12-mile stretch of the Black River in Sanilac County were killed, along with other aquatic life, after someone improperly spread manure on farm fields, state officials said today. The manure washed into the river during heavy rains. Anglers started reporting dead fish on Monday...

"It's unacceptable," said Bob McCann, spokesman for the Department of Environmental Quality, which investigates contamination of surface waters in the state. The DEQ is still trying to find out what happened, but did trace the problem to manure spread on fields, he said. "We're going to figure this out and hold whoever is responsible accountable," he said. (from *Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 12, 2009)

## Air quality, health concerns continue as major issue –“we have to breathe this air”

### ECCSCM study of MDA air complaints, 2007-2008

ECCSCM studied more than 300 complaints filed with the Michigan Department of Agriculture during 2007-2008. The initial complaint forms included the type of complaint (Air Quality, Surface Water, Ground Water, Noise/Other), the type and size of farm, and a space for descriptions and details given by the complainant.

#### Findings–

- More than half of all complaints to MDA were Air Quality complaints. Some people calling about water pollution also mentioned air/odor or health concerns. 162 of the 302 complaints included reference to:

- Odor (excessive odor at day care, horrible odor, etc)
- Health Concerns (could not breathe, respiratory problems)
- Changes in daily activity (can't go outside, can't open windows)
- Flies
- Concern for dinking water wells
- Unsanitary disposal of dead animals

- 70 complaints concerned CAFOs and 63 of those mentioned odor or health concerns. Only 1 CAFO Air Quality complaint was “verified” and referred to DEQ for enforcement action.

- While MDA often provided farmers with solutions to Water issues, referring facilities to NRCS to fence cattle away from streams, construct containment berms, etc., with Air concerns there were few specific practices recommended.

ECCSCM will be making recommendations to MDA and the 2010 GAAMPs committee for including specific practices to reduce emissions.

### Summer of Stench – 2009

From late June until mid-August, neighbors reported 23 days of severe CAFO emissions. Many days were so bad children couldn't play outside, farmers couldn't work in their fields, families couldn't garden or sit at their picnic tables. See the awful details from your neighbors – in their own words ...

ECCSCM Stench Alerts! [www.nocafos.org/stench.htm](http://www.nocafos.org/stench.htm)

#### AIR STANDARDS

- 24 states have air standards for Hydrogen Sulfide or Ammonia
- Michigan has NO AIR STANDARDS for Hydrogen Sulfide or Ammonia

#### CAFO ODOR CONTROL

- North Carolina has odor standard of 7:1 dilution at neighbors' boundary lines (tests dilute manure air with 7 parts fresh air—if you can still smell the manure, it's a violation); limits Ammonia emissions from manure lagoons and land application sites
- Kentucky has a 7:1 dilution odor standard at boundaries
- Colordao has 1 mi. setback for all new land application sites and waste lagoons
- Michigan has NO DILUTION STANDARD at neighbors' property line; very short setbacks of 200'-600' from neighbors

Clouds of particulates, fecal dust from Hartland Farms manure application on dry fields reduce visibility along Beecher Rd, Hudson, 8-6-09



### Your words help document the health impacts on our community

When you notice manure emissions and have physical or mental health symptoms, when you have to change your daily activities, please report the details to ECCSCM. All information will be anonymous. We use the health data to raise awareness and to inform policy makers, legislators and health departments.

MANURE  
EMISSIONS  
LOG  
BOOK

#### To report health symptoms from manure emissions

1) go online: [www.nocafos.org/reportform.htm](http://www.nocafos.org/reportform.htm)

OR

2) use printed log: contact us for a free copy of *Manure Emissions Log Book*

MANURE  
EMISSIONS  
LOG  
BOOK

*ECCSCM Meetings - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Hudson Community Center*

**JOIN US:** Yes, I want to help protect our water and promote sustainable agriculture. Contributions support water monitoring and community education.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_ Senior Membership \$10

Mail to: ECCSCM, P.O. Box 254, Hudson, MI 49247

**Thank You!**

### We Support Sustainable Agriculture

that preserves and protects water quality in streams and lakes

that raises animals in a healthy, natural environment, grazing, absorbing sunshine

that avoids the steady diet of hormones and antibiotics given animals in the crowded, confined conditions of industrial facilities

that values and protects farmland, the environment and the rural community