

**RESOLUTION:** The United States Federal Government should ban all concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)

## **BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE**

While many US domestic policies end up as a topic for debate, agricultural reform fails to see as much prevalence even with its world-wide ramifications. This specific topic allows debater to grasp intricacies of the agricultural process to understand the different components of agriculture. Specifically CAFOs provide the best insight into modern agricultural practices as they best create the ethical question of a preference of cost over environmental impact. Secondly, CAFOs should be most heavily evaluated as they represent the future farming practices of America as the population grows and the need for cheap meat and meat based products increases.

This specific topic allows affirmative teams to interrogate the specific needs for CAFOs and discuss alternative farming methods such as pasture farms, or standard AFOs. It also gives the opportunity to not only talk about standard climate change, but how CAFOs effect smaller, more specific environments such as rivers, streams, lakes and local housing populations. CAFO discussion allows for specific depth on the discussions of hard-water and animal based disease spread and go even further into discussions of antibiotic resistant bacteria. CAFO discussions can also include the propagation of dangerous insect species such as flies and mosquitoes which carry a plethora of diseases.

Affirmative teams can also go more kritikal in the sense that CAFO farming disproportionately affects poor and minority communities. CAFOs also effect schooling within proportionally minority school districts as minority school districts exist more closely to CAFOs than white school districts. Secondly, Affirmative teams could go down the path of animal rights in order to justify the elimination of CAFOs especially since some animal exhibit cognitive abilities of humans such as cows' capability of retaining "best friends"

## **ARGUMENTS**

Affirmative Arguments: Climate change advantages present the most obvious choice, as CAFOs present millions of tons of poorly managed manure which can not only affect oceans, but groundwater under CAFOs. Animal rights advantages exist as CAFOs heavily concentrate animals in enclosed spaces for long periods of time which offer little to no movement. Education advantages can exist as CAFOs create extreme odor which negatively affects schools. Advantages regarding disease also represent viable options as not only do CAFOs act as breeding grounds for animal borne diseases, but that

those disease may evolve antibiotic resistance as mass antibiotic deployment to combat disease may create antibiotic resistant bacteria which human cannot combat. The mass production of disease carrying insects due to their propensity to breed within manure piles also falls under the realm of disease.

Negative Arguments: Significant argumentation can be made in regards to the economic impact of a CAFO ban. Leather, terrestrial meat, dairy, feathers, all food created with milk, eggs, and meat; all prices would drastically increase as farmers struggle to cope with the change causing economic meltdowns across the globe. Other disadvantages include other nation fill-in particularly with Brazil's meat industry which threatens the Amazon rainforest and the tribes which inhabit it. Finally, the elimination of CAFOs threatens the nutrition of Americans as full, animal based proteins become incredibly hard to find. Most would have to resort to fish which incentivizes overfishing which causes severe damage to ocean based ecosystems.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CAFOs pollute oceans and groundwater. CAFOs act as breeding grounds for animal borne diseases, and antibiotic resistant bacteria. [Hribar, Carrie. "Understanding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Their Impact on Communities." National Association of Local Boards of Health, 2010.]

CAFOs concentrate animals in enclosed spaces for long periods of time which offer little to no movement. "Farm Animal Welfare." ASPCA, [www.asPCA.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare/](http://www.asPCA.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare/)]

CAFOs make up a significant part of American animal husbandry. ["Ag and Food Sectors and the Economy." USDA ERS - Food Environment Atlas, [www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/ag-and-food-sectors-and-the-economy.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/ag-and-food-sectors-and-the-economy.aspx).]

CAFOs disproportionately affect minority populations.

[Mirabelli, Maria C., et al. "Race, Poverty, and Potential Exposure of Middle-School Students to Air Emissions from Confined Swine Feeding Operations." Environmental Health Perspectives, vol. 114, no. 4, 2006, pp. 591–596., doi:10.1289/ehp.8586.]

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