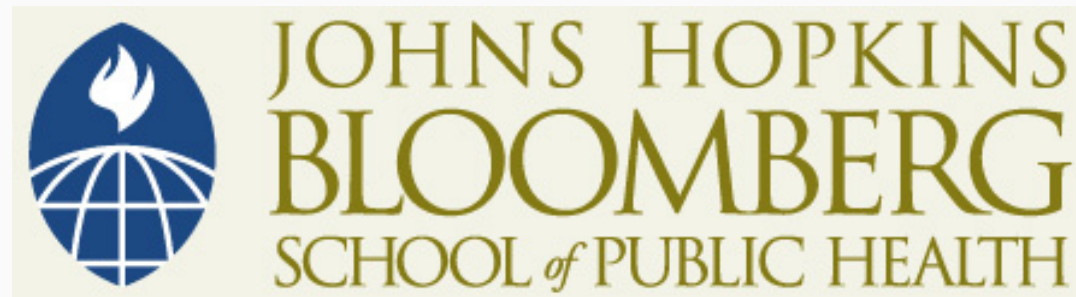


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JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

*Section B:*

*Real Communities, Real People: Community Health  
Effects Associated with Swine CAFOs*

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Amy R. (Chapin) Sapkota, PhD, MPH

## *Community Health Effects Associated with Swine CAFOs*

- Higher rates of respiratory problems, nausea, diarrhea, headaches, and plugged ears
- Higher rates of eye, nose, and throat irritation
- Significantly more episodes of depression, anxiety, anger, fatigue, and confusion among neighbors of swine CAFOs

Schiffman et al. (1995). *Brain Research Bulletin*.

Thu. (2002). *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*.

Wing and Wolf. (2000). *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

## *Economic Impacts on the Community*

- CAFOs hinder local economic growth
  - Travel and tourism suffers
  - Consumers are swayed from local businesses
- Increased costs to maintain local roads
  - Iowa community —> gravel costs increased \$20,000 per year due to CAFO-associated truck traffic
- Decreased aggregate employment



## *Economic Impacts on Individuals*

- Decreased property values
  - Iowa study —> swine CAFOs decreased the value of homes within a half mile by 40%
  - Revenue from property taxes decrease
- Increased energy consumption
  - Portable and central air cleaners
  - Air conditioning units
- Fly and rodent control expenses

# *Flytraps*

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## *Overall Impact on Rural Communities*

“CAFOs shatter the quality of life in rural communities across the country. The stench locks children indoors. The operations ruin adjacent family farms, destroying the tax base and viability of small towns.”

— *Bertilia Redfern, 2003*

# *Community Response to Swine CAFOs*

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