

Foreword

In June, 2001, Governor Tom Vilsack asked the Presidents of Iowa State University and of The University of Iowa to assist the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Commission with addressing public health and environmental concerns arising from air emissions from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). With the concurrence of both presidents, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Jeffrey Vonk charged the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa and the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University to recommend standards for air quality and address other issues regarding CAFOs.

The Colleges of Agriculture and Public Health assembled teams of faculty with appropriate expertise to complete a comprehensive review of available scientific information to address five questions asked by Director Vonk. At ISU, faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine also made important contributions to this effort. The ISU team was led by administrators from both of these colleges. At The University of Iowa, the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, sponsored by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, assembled a team composed of faculty from the Colleges of Public Health, Engineering and Medicine. Together, these faculty delved into existing research literature, developed a ten-chapter report on the various aspects of these issues and, through a series of meetings, developed responses to Director Vonk's five questions in the form of an Executive Summary. This Executive Summary describes the consensus reached by the study group. Individual chapters are the products and views of the chapter authors. Independent national and international scientists, with appropriate expertise, reviewed and commented on both the Executive Summary and the full report.

The report is based upon the best science available to ensure that rural ambient air is as free of risk as possible in order to protect health and the quality of life at the highest possible level. These science-based recommendations were generated with the goal of providing helpful guidance to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Commission. It is hoped that the report will provide a sound basis for the development of appropriate administrative rules that will promote confidence in agricultural production and the quality of life in rural Iowa.

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