

SAVE *the* BUFFALO RIVER... AGAIN!

What is C&H Hog Farms, Inc.?

C&H is a swine factory farm: a CAFO, or **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation**, that potentially threatens the Buffalo National River and its tributaries with raw swine sewage.



C&H swine CAFO located on Big Creek, a major tributary to the Buffalo National River

C&H is a private Arkansas corporation, contracted by JBS, a Brazilian-based multinational conglomerate. A multi-million dollar taxpayer-guaranteed loan provided funding for its construction and equipment. The C&H owners do not own the animals or the feed. They *DO* own the mortgage *and* the waste.

This CAFO presently contains:

- up to 6500 swine in 2 metal buildings
- 2+ million gallons of wastewater, feces and urine in shallow open pits

This many swine generate more sewage than a city of 30,000 people.

C&H is presently allowed to spread untreated CAFO wastewater containing urine and feces on 17 fields within 2 miles of the hog barns. A permit modification in 2016 allows the raw swine sewage to be spread on 32 additional fields that are up to 12 miles away.

What Can I Do?

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) formed in 2013 to galvanize support to protect the Buffalo National River watershed.

JOIN

Join BRWA—it's free—and visit our website for weekly updates: www.buffaloriveralliance.org

Like us on Facebook!

CONTRIBUTE

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to:
Buffalo River Watershed Alliance
PO Box 101, Jasper, AR 72641

You may also donate online. 100% of your generous donations directly support BRWA's ongoing efforts.

WRITE and/or CALL

The Buffalo River was set aside as our country's first National River in 1972. This river belongs to all of us! We must stand up for it and speak up for it!

Please write and/or call Governor Hutchinson at:

State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-2345

Help spread the word so we can protect & preserve this magnificent natural resource!



Bluffs on upper Buffalo River

photo by Carol Bitting

Buffalo River Watershed Alliance is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer, public interest citizen's group.

Contact us at: buffalowatershed@gmail.com

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Too Much "Fertilizer" = Waste

Untreated swine sewage is high in phosphorus and nitrogen. When applied to fields already rich in these nutrients, or to seasonally dormant fields, the crop cannot absorb the "fertilizer." Excess nutrients either become waste runoff or they seep through the soil to reach bedrock. In karst, the waste can enter the porous underlying limestone, contaminate the groundwater, and find its way to the river.

As C&H continues applying millions of gallons of raw swine sewage to fields year-round, the likelihood of contaminating the river increases. In the last 20 years, the cumulative effects of waste from industrial CAFOs have polluted waterways across America. We cannot let this happen to the Buffalo! We must protect the health and beauty of our country's first National River.



Left Fork of Big Creek, September 2013

photo by Carol Bitting

Are There Health Threats?

More than 70 scientific papers document adverse health effects of swine waste on workers and people living nearby, especially children. One of the C&H waste spreading fields is located just 330 feet from Mt. Judea School.

- Local residents breathe fumes laden with hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, and minute particles of swine waste containing endotoxins.
- *E. coli* and other pathogens enter waterways, threaten swimmers, pets, farm animals and fish, and can cause toxic algae blooms.
- Elevated bacterial levels already detected in parts of the Buffalo River and its tributaries may trigger public health warnings urging visitors to avoid use of affected waterways.



Bluffs along the Buffalo National River

photo by Rita Szabo

TROUBLED WATERS

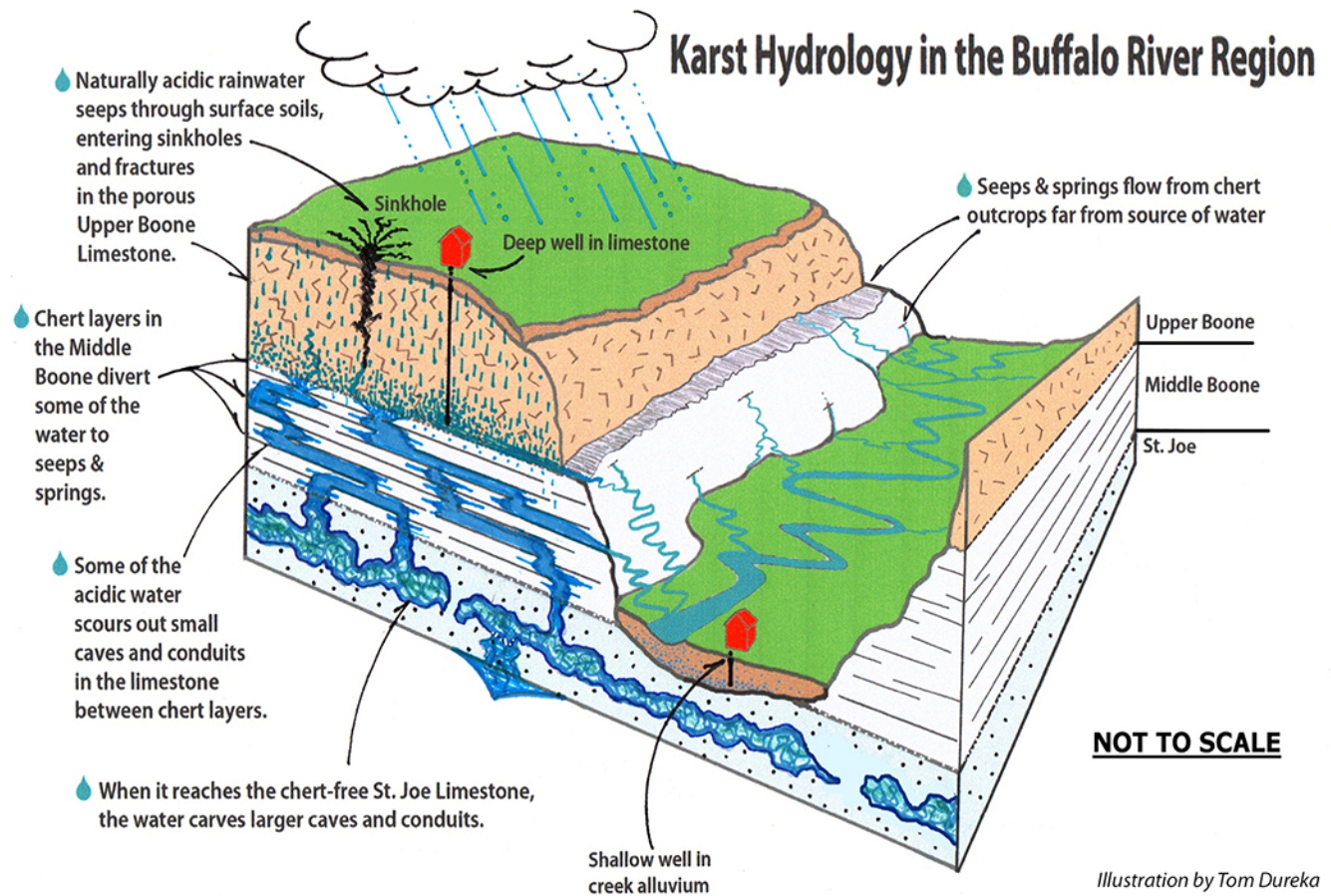
Why is our National River at Risk?

Tributaries are vulnerable

The C&H waste spreading fields lie along Big Creek, a major tributary of the Buffalo River, and along other tributaries in the watershed. Data collected by the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey in Big Creek at Carver show decreasing dissolved oxygen levels, an indicator of waste overload, which can lead to fish kills and loss of invertebrates. But it's not just the streams and rivers that are troubled.

Underlying Karst

Beneath the hog operation lies Ozark karst which is fractured limestone. Water seeps into this porous bedrock, moves through cracks, crevices and caverns, and can easily enter the river. Local dye trace studies show contaminants can move through this karst formation to reach springs, wells and the water table, sometimes traveling miles per day underground with little or no filtration.



Who Issued the Permits?

Arkansas' environmental laws are lax. This facility was permitted by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality without adequate notice to neighbors, the community, or the National Park Service. Most Arkansans only learned about it after the permit was issued, when construction was almost complete.

What About Property Rights?

The C&H owners have a right to make a living but as the saying goes, "Property rights end at your fence row." C&H's impact extends beyond the fence line, beyond Big Creek Valley, and into the Buffalo River.

This is *NOT* a traditional family farm. The 23-acres that hold the C&H CAFO were purchased specifically for its construction. The spray fields are mostly leased, so who would be held responsible for any damage done?

This *IS* a property rights issue for neighbors who suffer health effects and property damage caused by contaminated springs and wells from spraying of raw swine sewage on nearby fields. Visitors to the Buffalo National River expect to find a healthy river. Local businesses and small family farms depend on its clean, safe waters to make a living in this rural watershed.

In 2015, 1.46 million visitors came to the Buffalo River, spent an estimated \$62.2 million at businesses in communities near the park, and supported 969 jobs in the local area.

In contrast, C&H employs fewer than 10 people.