

University of Michigan Law School  
Environmental Law Society

*Presents the Symposium*

Industrialized Agriculture in the  
Twenty-First Century:



Balancing the Financial Benefits  
Against the Environmental and  
Social Costs

*Sponsored by*

University of Michigan Law School  
University of Michigan  
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
Michigan Student Assembly  
Environmental issues Committee

January 26, 2001  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Hutchins Hall, Room 100

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 26, 2001

- 8:00 a.m. Registration/ Breakfast
- 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks: Jeffrey S. Lehman  
Dean, University of Michigan Law  
School
- 9:00 a.m. Panel I: Do AFOs pose a significant  
threat to human health and are they  
worth the cost?
- 10:45 a.m. Panel II: Can AFOs be justified in the  
current moral and ethical climate of the  
United States?
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Banquet  
Keynote Speaker: Andrzej Lepper
- 2:00 p.m. Panel III: Should AFOs be treated like  
other land use/ business entities?  
A Michigan Case Study
- 3:45 p.m. Panel IV: Do AFOs pose a significant  
threat to the physical environment and  
are they worth the cost?
- 5:30 p.m. Roundtable: Visions of the Future of  
American Agriculture

## SYMPOSIUM PANELS

***Keynote: Andrzej Lepper***

Andrzej Lepper is a Polish farm union leader and recent candidate for the Presidency of Poland. In 1999, pursuant to Smithfield Foods' proposals to the Polish government to open AFO operations in Poland, Mr. Lepper led a delegation of Polish farm union workers to tour American AFOs and traditional family farms. Mr. Lepper will synthesize the issues explored by the symposium's diverse panels by explaining his delegation's views of both methods of farming that led the delegation and the Polish government to decide against AFO farming despite immediate financial incentives.

***Panel I: Do AFOs pose a significant threat to human health and are they worth the cost?***

AFOs concentrate large numbers of animals in small areas, which some people argue has potential to cause human discomfort and disease because of concentrated waste and odors. There is also currently debate over the alleged human health consequences of chemical residue from medicated feeds in meat and other animal products. The panel will weigh these concerns against the benefits of greater and more efficient production.

***Panel II: Can AFOs be justified in the current moral and ethical climate of the United States?***

As the United States becomes gradually more attuned to matters of animal welfare, some people claim that AFO farming constitutes cruelty to animals. The conditions, atmosphere, and killing procedures of AFOs are extremely different from those of the family farms of the past; many animal welfare-conscious people believe that we should return to the less institutionalized methods of farming despite the financial benefits of the AFO.

***Panel III: Should AFOs be treated like other land use/business entities? A Michigan Case Study***

Under the Michigan Right to Farm Act, farms are protected from nuisance suits if they follow the Department of Agriculture's generally accepted agricultural management plans. There is considerable debate among family farmers, industry farmers, local elected officials and environmentalists about whether AFOs should be protected by this law.

***Panel IV: Do AFOs pose a significant threat to the physical environment and are they worth the cost?***

As another consequence of concentration of animals in a small land area, AFOs produce great amounts of waste. The burgeoning pfiesteria problem in Maryland, theorized to be caused by pollution stemming from chicken waste discharges, is a nationally publicized example. The panel will balance the value of increased production volume against the possible environmental consequences.

***Roundtable: Visions of the Future of American Agriculture***

Panelists will discuss and debate the various viewpoints regarding the current trends of industrialized agriculture and will attempt to synthesize and address the concerns raised by earlier panels in order to determine what course farming should take in the new millennium.

## PARTICIPANTS

**Dwight Ault**, Organic Crop and Livestock Farmer

**Sandra S. Batie**, Elton R. Smith Professor of Food and Agricultural Policy, Michigan State University

**Patty Cantrell**, Economic Analyst, Michigan Land Use Institute

**Dr. John D. Copeland**, Executive Vice President for Ethics and Environmental Compliance, Tyson Foods, Inc.

**Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo**, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Animal Science Department

**Gail A. Eisnitz**, author, *Slaughterhouse*; Chief Investigator, Humane Farming Association

**Jerry Godwin**, President, Murphy Family Farms

**Gary Grant**, President, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists of America

**Diane Halverson**, Farm Animal Advisor, Animal Welfare Institute

**Ed Hanenburg**, Owner, River Ridge Farms, Inc.

**Karen Hudson**, Factory Farm Consultant, GRACE Factory Farm Project; President, Families Against Rural Messes

**Chris Kolb**, Michigan State Representative-Elect and Ann Arbor City Council Member

**Andrzej Lepper**, President, Samoobrona Polish Farmers' Union

**Carl McIlvain**, President, Michigan Farmers' Union

**Dr. Melva Fager Okun**, Research Associate, University of North Carolina School of Public Health

**Scott Piggott**, Natural Resources Specialist, Michigan Farm Bureau

**Richard J.M. Poulson**, Vice President, General Counsel and Senior Advisor to the Chairman, Smithfield Foods, Inc.

**Vickie Pontz-Teachout**, Director of Environmental Stewardship, Michigan Department of Agriculture

**Dr. David Riggs**, Ph.D., Director of Land and Natural Resource Policy, Competitive Enterprises Institute

**Dr. Kenneth Rudo**, North Carolina State Toxicologist, North Carolina Division of Public Health

**Tom Simpson**, Coordinator, Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Programs, University of Maryland/Maryland Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture, Representative

**Agnes VanVolkenburgh**, Animal Welfare Institute's Translator and Representative in Poland; Fourth Year Veterinary Student, University of Illinois

**Dr. Bob von Bernuth**, Coordinator, Animal Waste Management Programs, Michigan State University

**Dr. David Wallinga**, M.D., Director, Antibiotics Resistance Project, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**Steven M. Wise**, Esq., President, Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights, Inc.

**Anne. M. Woiwode**, Program Director, Mackinac (Michigan) Chapter of the Sierra Club

## SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

A strong farming and livestock industry is essential to the nation's economic stability, the viability of many rural communities, and the sustainability of a healthful and high quality food supply for the American public. Farmers and ranchers have typically been recognized as primary stewards of many of our nation's natural resources, and have played a key role in past efforts to improve air and water quality. However, as a result of domestic and export market forces, technological changes, and industry adaptations, the past several decades have seen substantial changes in America's farming industries. These factors have promoted expansion of confined production units, geographic separation of animal production and feed production operations, and the concentration of larger quantities of animals, manure, and wastewater on farms. The growing scale and concentration of animal feeding operations (AFOs) has contributed to negative environmental and human health impacts, and has raised serious ethical questions regarding the treatment of animals.

National policy attention on AFOs has grown significantly over the last few years, symbolized by the release of the USDA/EPA Unified National Strategy on Animal Feeding Operations in 1999. At least 35 states have passed, voted on, or at least debated laws and policies in the last five years that would directly or indirectly affect control of livestock operations. As farming operations grow larger and more concentrated, the debate over what should be done will only become more intense nationally and locally. The Michigan Legislature has brought the issues close to home by recently passing an amendment to the Michigan Right to Farm Act which transfers zoning control over AFOs from local government to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The University of Michigan Environmental Law Society (ELS) believes that now is an opportune time to bring all sides of this issue together to address the numerous concerns involved in a neutral forum, and to discuss solutions to what has become a truly national problem. We hope that such a broad-based approach to the problem may help to illuminate possible directions for the future of farming.

## REGISTRATION

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

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## FEES

Please check the appropriate boxes. Admission to the Banquet is not guaranteed unless your registration is received by **January 8, 2001**.

Please note: The Banquet will be served buffet-style and vegan options will be available.  
Breakfast provided as part of registration fee.

General Audience

Symposium \$15     Banquet \$25     Both \$40

Non University of Michigan Students

Symposium Free     Banquet \$15     Both \$15

University of Michigan Students, Faculty, and Staff

Symposium Free     Banquet \$15     Both \$15

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form and check payable to  
*University of Michigan Environmental Law Society*  
by **January 8, 2001**.


University of Michigan Law School

Development and Alumni Relations

721 South State Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-3071

Attn: Special Events

 Registration forms may also be faxed to (734) 615-4539  
Attn: Special Events

## DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

### **Symposium Location**

University of Michigan Law School, Hutchins Hall,  
Room 100, 625 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
Phone (734) 764-1358.

### **From I-94:**

Exit 177 – State Street. From Detroit, turn right. From Chicago, turn left. Approximately 2 miles on State Street. The Law School is one block past Hill Street, on the right, between Monroe Street and South University Avenue.

### **From US-23:**

Exit 37B – Washtenaw-Ann Arbor. Turn right onto Washtenaw Avenue, left onto Hill Street, then right onto State Street. The Law School is one block away, on the right, between Monroe Street and South University Avenue.

### **From M-14:**

Downtown Ann Arbor exit – Main Street. Take Main to Hill Street. Left on Hill, then left onto State Street. The Law School is one block away, on the right, between Monroe Street and South University Avenue.

### **Parking**

Limited metered parking is available on streets surrounding the Law School. Additional parking is available in a lot on Thompson Street between Madison and Jefferson Streets (2 blocks west of the Law School).

### **Banquet Location**

University of Michigan Law School, Lawyers Club Lounge  
551 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
Phone (734) 764-1112.

### **Accommodations**

A list of local hotels and inns is available on-line at  
[www.umich.edu/~info/hotel.html](http://www.umich.edu/~info/hotel.html)

### **Additional Information**

Inquiries should be addressed to Katharine M. Swanson,  
Symposium Chair, at (734) 622-0621 or  
[kmswanso@umich.edu](mailto:kmswanso@umich.edu).

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