



PUBLIC OPINION POLL

PROPOSED CAFO IN BAYFIELD COUNTY

The Northland College Center for Rural Communities conducted a telephone public opinion poll on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) between December 3rd and December 22nd of 2015. A random sample of households in Ashland and Bayfield counties was selected. Respondents were contacted on either landline or cellular phones and homes with both landlines and cellular phones were placed in one or the other before the sampling frame was produced. The final sample included 701 residents of Ashland and Bayfield counties. The response rate is 39.1 percent, and the margin of error is +/- 3.6 at the 95% confidence level.

The poll included questions about CAFOs in general and about the proposed CAFO in Bayfield County. Participants were asked about common concerns related to both preventing and allowing CAFOs in the area. Participants were asked about their preference for CAFOs compared to other methods of raising livestock, whether they favor or oppose the proposed CAFO in Bayfield County, whether their social networks favor or oppose the proposed CAFO in Bayfield County, and whether tighter local CAFO regulations are right or wrong for their communities. The results are summarized below.

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1. Have you heard of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations or CAFOs?

| | |
|-----|-------|
| No | 20.6% |
| Yes | 79.2% |

Concerns

All respondents were read the following statement prior to being asked about the various concerns: Some people are worried about allowing this or other CAFOs in the area, while others see a CAFO as a benefit, and have concerns about keeping a CAFO away. I will read you a list of common concerns expressed by people on different sides of the issue. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. There are no right or wrong answers, we are interested in your opinion.

2. I'm worried that turning away a CAFO will send the wrong message to other businesses.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 27.1% |
| Disagree | 32.3% |
| Neutral | 10.0% |
| Agree | 22.1% |
| Strongly Agree | 7.3% |
| Unsure | 1.1% |

3. I am concerned that my property value will decline if a CAFO is located nearby.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 4.0% |
| Disagree | 23.7% |
| Neutral | 13.3% |
| Agree | 34.9% |
| Strongly Agree | 22.7% |
| Unsure | 1.4% |

4. I worry that a CAFO will decrease air quality.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 2.9% |
| Disagree | 20.8% |
| Neutral | 6.9% |
| Agree | 37.2% |
| Strongly Agree | 30.7% |
| Unsure | 1.6% |

5. I am concerned that a CAFO will decrease water quality.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 2.7% |
| Disagree | 17.1% |
| Neutral | 5.6% |
| Agree | 30.6% |
| Strongly Agree | 42.4% |
| Unsure | 1.6% |

6. I worry that a CAFO poses a risk to the health of the people in the community.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 4.7% |
| Disagree | 24.2% |
| Neutral | 6.7% |
| Agree | 32.6% |
| Strongly Agree | 29.8% |
| Unsure | 1.9% |

7. I am concerned that if we keep a CAFO away we keep jobs away.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 23.0% |
| Disagree | 36.4% |
| Neutral | 7.9% |
| Agree | 26.3% |
| Strongly Agree | 4.9% |
| Unsure | 1.6% |

8. I worry that government regulations put in place for a CAFO will hurt local farms.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 10.5% |
| Disagree | 30.8% |
| Neutral | 12.9% |
| Agree | 29.3% |
| Strongly Agree | 9.0% |
| Unsure | 7.5% |

9. I worry that a nearby CAFO will make the community smell bad.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 2.1% |
| Disagree | 16.0% |
| Neutral | 7.9% |
| Agree | 39.5% |
| Strongly Agree | 33.0% |
| Unsure | 1.4% |

10. I am concerned a CAFO will hurt local tourism.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 4.0% |
| Disagree | 29.4% |
| Neutral | 10.4% |
| Agree | 29.0% |
| Strongly Agree | 25.1% |
| Unsure | 2.2% |

11. I worry that a CAFO will hurt local fishing.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 3.7% |
| Disagree | 25.5% |
| Neutral | 8.4% |
| Agree | 34.5% |
| Strongly Agree | 25.8% |
| Unsure | 2.1% |

12. I'm concerned that a CAFO will treat its pigs inhumanely.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 4.0% |
| Disagree | 24.5% |
| Neutral | 10.7% |
| Agree | 31.1% |
| Strongly Agree | 25.9% |
| Unsure | 3.7% |

13. I am concerned that a CAFO will create divisions in my community.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 1.7% |
| Disagree | 13.8% |
| Neutral | 11.6% |
| Agree | 49.4% |
| Strongly Agree | 22.5% |
| Unsure | 1.0% |

Opinions about CAFOs compared to other methods

14. CAFOs are a better way of raising pigs and other animals compared to smaller farms.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 36.9% |
| Disagree | 38.7% |
| Neutral | 13.5% |
| Agree | 7.2% |
| Strongly Agree | 0.3% |
| Unsure | 3.4% |

15. We should use many types of methods for raising livestock, and a CAFO is just one of them.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Strongly Disagree | 15.0% |
| Disagree | 26.0% |
| Neutral | 10.6% |
| Agree | 40.4% |
| Strongly Agree | 6.1% |
| Unsure | 1.9% |

Opinions about CAFO regulations

16. Currently Bayfield County is exploring local regulations on CAFOs that would be tighter than current state regulations. Which of these views comes closest to your personal opinion?

| | |
|--|-------|
| I think tighter local regulations are <u>RIGHT</u> for my community. | 72.5% |
| I think tighter local regulations are <u>WRONG</u> for my community. | 19.8% |
| Unsure/ Don't Know | 7.6% |

Opinions about the proposed CAFO in Bayfield County

17. How strongly would you say you favor or oppose the proposed pig CAFO in Bayfield County? Please give your answer on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 means you strongly favor and 10 is strongly opposed.

| | | |
|--------|----|-------|
| FAVOR | 1 | 7.6% |
| | 2 | 3.0% |
| | 3 | 4.4% |
| | 4 | 4.4% |
| | 5 | 13.6% |
| | 6 | 3.6% |
| | 7 | 4.1% |
| | 8 | 8.3% |
| | 9 | 5.3% |
| OPPOSE | 10 | 45.6% |

18. How many of your friends and family FAVOR the proposed pig CAFO in Bayfield County, none, a few, about half, most or all?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| None | 46.2% |
| A Few | 14.1% |
| About Half | 7.3% |
| Most | 8.7% |
| All | 3.5% |
| Unsure | 20.3% |

19. How many of your friends and family oppose the proposed pig CAFO in Bayfield County, none, a few, about half, most or all?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| None | 6.3% |
| A Few | 14.0% |
| About Half | 7.9% |
| Most | 15.7% |
| All | 34.0% |
| Unsure | 22.2% |

Demographics

| 20. Gender | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Male/Man | 57.5% |
| Female/Woman | 42.3% |
| Other/Does not identify | 0.1% |

| 21. Age | |
|-------------|-------|
| 18-24 | 0.4% |
| 25-34 | 4.7% |
| 35-44 | 9.9% |
| 45-54 | 17.7% |
| 55-59 | 11.8% |
| 60-64 | 13.7% |
| 65-74 | 27.8% |
| 75-84 | 12.2% |
| 85 and over | 1.9% |

| 22. Education | |
|---|-------|
| Some high school, no diploma | 2.3% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 21.1% |
| Some college | 18.6% |
| 2-year degree | 17.6% |
| 4-year degree | 24.2% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 16.2% |

| 23. Race | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| White | 91.0% |
| Native American/ American Indian | 4.0% |
| Asian | 0.3% |
| Other | 2.2% |
| Two or more races | 2.5% |

| 24. Household Size | |
|--------------------|-------|
| One to Two | 71.2% |
| Three to Four | 18.8% |
| Five or More | 9.9% |

| 25. Property Owners | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Yes | 91.8% |
| No | 8.2% |

| 26. Income | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Less than \$14,999 | 4.0% |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 8.9% |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 7.7% |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 14.0% |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 23.7% |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 11.9% |
| \$100,000 or more | 15.4% |
| Unsure | 14.2% |

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Contact

For more information about the poll, contact Brandon Hofstedt, Faculty Director, Center for Rural Communities at crc@northland.edu.

The Center for Rural Communities applies research based solutions to social and economic challenges, partners with community members to build on local knowledge, and promotes the long-term health and vitality of rural communities in the north woods region. For more information, visit us at northland.edu/crc