



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Concerns.....	2
Opinions about CAFOs compared to other methods .....	5
Opinions about CAFO regulations .....	5
Opinions about the proposed CAFO in Bayfield County.....	6
Demographics .....	7
Contact .....	8

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

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No	20.6%
Yes	79.2%

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## 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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](mailto: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](http://northland.edu/crc)