

In November 2006, the National Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, a commission funded through the Pew Charitable Foundation via a grant to the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, requested that a writing team participate in compiling a technical report on animal health and production methods of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). This report was part of the Commission's task to address the impact of animal production on public health issues and was one of eight planned reports, along with other resources, to be considered by the Commission as a basis for recommendations for future public health and food safety policy.

The writing team members of this report agreed to participate with the aim of orienting Commissioners, staff, and the public in general about the aspects of animal production in CAFOs and their effect on animal and human health. It was agreed that the report would be reviewed independently and anonymously by peer reviewers. Due to several reasons, this and several other technical report writing teams did not finalize reports as per the time schedule. The Commission independently conducted the review process. Comments from these independent reviewers are incorporated in the final version of this report or addressed in separate comments to the three peer-reviewers that were provided to the staff of the Commission.

The Commission, however, published their recommendations and posted the draft of this technical report without consultation with the writing team. Some of the Commission recommendations were not in agreement with the technical report and its scientific conclusion. For these reasons, the writing team of this report requested that the Commission remove their draft report from the Commission Web site and their names from the list of contributors to the Commission's recommendations. Following is the final report provided to the Commission.

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