



IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION

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Voice of Idaho's Cattle Industry aims to Limit Unnecessary Government Regulations

This past week, the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) issued comments on behalf of their more than 700 members, announcing their distaste for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule pertaining to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) under Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The ICA believes the EPA proposal "goes far beyond the authority of the EPA, and in doing so, put our nation's food system in grave danger."

In its proposal, EPA requires that any operation meeting CAFO requirements must provide the federal agency with a laundry list of information including; owner contact information, longitude and latitude of the operation's location, number and type of livestock, and acreage of land. This information would then be placed in a searchable database on the EPA's website. Such a database also has the potential to increase property damage to CAFO operations; similar to the recent acts of arson against California's Harris Ranch feed yard, for which an animal rights extremist organization has claimed responsibility.

"If implemented as proposed, these rules would have an incredibly negative effect on Idaho's livestock industry," says the Idaho Cattle Association's President Richard Savage. "The EPA can still achieve its goal of improving water quality by relying on information that is already available."

If finalized as proposed this rule would fall under the CWA; meaning that any operations who do not comply would become liable for paying fines which could amount up to \$37,500 per day.

Initially, EPA had issued a 60-day comment period for the proposal which was released in October via a *Federal Register* docket; however, the comment period was extended to January 19, 2012. Although, EPA is currently in the process of reviewing all comments that have been submitted, a final rule is expected to be delivered in the next few months.

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