

Factory Farming in Minnesota: Time for a Change?

Instructor Guide

Disciplines: Agriculture, Business, Environmental Science, Geography, Law, NonProfit Leadership, Political Science, Sociology, Zoology

Summary of Video: “A panel discussion about the social justice, environmental, and animal welfare impacts of factory farming in Minnesota. The 40 minute panel discussion is followed by a 45 minute Question and Answer session in which panelists answer audience questions.”

Panelists: Sonja Trom Eayrs (Lawyer and Farmer’s Daughter), Jeff Johnson (Philosophy, St. Catherine University), Chris Petersen (Family Pig Farmer and SRAP Associate), and Tim Culver (Attorney & Legal Fellow with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy)

Date of Talk: March 2nd, 2017

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the impacts, both positive and negative, factory farming has on many levels including: the environment, the economy, people, and animals.
2. Explore how we can make the world better for more people and animals in our farming practices.

Included in this Module:

- Pre-Video Freewrite
- Guided Viewing Worksheet
- Post-Video Discussion Questions
- Supplemental Interactive Map Activity

Companion Readings:

Hellerstein, Erica and Ken Fine. 2017. "A Million Tons of Feces and an Unbearable Stench: Life near Industrial Pig Farms." *The Guardian*. 2018.

(<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/20/north-carolina-hog-industry-pig-farms>).

Horrigan, Leo, Robert S. Lawrence and Polly Walker. 2002. "How Sustainable Agriculture can Address the Environmental and Human Health Harms of Industrial Agriculture" *Environmental Health Perspectives* 110(5):445.

King, Barbara. 2018. "Opinion: As Florence Kills Pigs And Millions Of Chickens, We Must 'Open Our

Hearts'." NPR. 2018.

(<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/09/24/650437498/opinion-as-florence-kills-pigs-and-millions-of-chickens-we-must-open-our-hearts>).

Nicole, W. 2013. CAFOs and Environmental Justice: The Case of North Carolina. *Environmental Health Perspectives (Online)*, 121(6)

Supplemental Media & Tools:

<http://www.cowspiracy.com/>

<https://www.pbs.org/video/america-revealed-factory-farming/>

<https://www.Factoryfarmmap.org>

Key Terms:

Factory Farming

Independent Farmers

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Environmental Justice

Pre-Lecture & Post-Lecture Activity:

Free Write

1. What image comes to mind when you picture a farm?

2. Where do you think this image came from? Did you hear it from someone, see it somewhere, was it taught to you through media, school, family, or somewhere else?

3. **After watching the video**, did your image of what a typical farm in America looks like change? Why or why not? Do you think most Americans picture farms that look like factory farms?

Guided Worksheet for *Social Justice Lecture Series: Factory Farming in Minnesota: Time for a Change?*

https://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/757672/uiconf_id/40461542/entry_id/0_fech20pg/embed/auto?&flashvars%5bstreamerType%5d=auto

This video features four panelists discussing the implications of factory farming. There are questions for each presenter for you to answer in this worksheet followed by overall general questions.

Sonja Trom Eayrs

1. What is Eayrs' background and how might it influence her story?
2. What are the arguments Eayrs makes against factory farms?
3. How did Eayrs' family fight against factory farms? Why does she believe people are afraid to speak out against factory farms? What solutions does she offer for these problems?

Tim Culver

4. What resource does a livestock farmer have the most potential to damage according to Culver? What are the primary nutrient pollutants? When those nutrients are applied in excess what happens (include who it affects, where it affects, and how does it affect)?

5. What solutions does Culver offer for combating run-off farmers produce? What point is Culver trying to demonstrate through his short story about proposals for dairy farms?

Jeff Johnson

6. What is Johnson's modified golden rule? How did he come to this idea?

7. Why does Johnson say that factory farming is a charged term? What is another word he offers to use?

8. What is the timeline of the average pig's life in a factory farm? What are the disadvantages to this? How does language help us justify this according to Johnson (include what language is used)?

Chris Peterson

9. What is Peterson's background and how does it shape his position on factory farming?

10. What does Peterson say has happened to family farms? How has what we called family farms changed over the years? How has 'rural America' changed? What does it mean when he says farms are vertically integrated?

11. How many factory farms does Minnesota have? What is our rank in water quality compared to other states? Why does Peterson believe factory farms are not regulated enough?

12. What does Peterson say we can do to help change the reality of the number of CAFOs in Iowa?

Discussion

13. After watching the public ask questions, why do you think factory farming evokes such strong emotion in people? What are some examples you can provide from the video?

14. What are two questions you would have asked the presenters?

15. After watching the presenters and the audience ask questions, do you think it's time to change factory farming in Minnesota? Why or why not?

Name:

Activity: Analyzing Factory Farms in Numbers

Go to <https://www.factoryfarmmap.org/>. Using the interactive map answer the following questions:

1. Where does Minnesota rank for the number of livestock on factory farms compared to other states? How many livestock are in Minnesota compared to the state with the least amount of livestock?

2. Click on Minnesota in the map. What county has the highest amount of livestock? How many livestock does Blue Earth county have?

3. Write two other interesting facts you found from this map or the website.

4. After watching *Factory Farming in Minnesota: Time for a Change* draw on the panelists' arguments of what implications do you think the amount of livestock in your area has (on the environment, people's wellbeing, economy, and animal welfare)?

5. Explore the website. What ways do they suggest you can help? Do you think factory farming needs to be changed?