

**News From:**  
**Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie**



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**ADVOCATES IN OLD WEST END PARADE PILLORY FACTORY “FARMS”**  
**ACLE theme: “FARMS YES. FACTORY FARMS NO!”**

**Visuals:**

- ACLE members dressed in an inflatable cow costume, pig and chicken costumes, with shackles and leg irons.
- Animals followed by a member shoveling “poop” into a blue wading pool marked “Lake Erie.”
- Banners with “FARMS YES. FACTORY FARMS NO!” (see attached) and “Farm Bureau Runs OEPA”
- Kids with pig noses.

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie (ACLE) will join the Old West End parade marching down Robinwood, this Saturday, at 10:00am, depicting what factory “farms” do to Lake Erie.

“Over 150 Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in our watershed currently use Lake Erie as a free toilet,” said ACLE coordinator, Mike Ferner, “so we thought we would theatrically demonstrate just what this means.”

The ACLE contingent, led by a banner stating: “FARMS YES. FACTORY FARMS NO!” will have members in cow, chicken and pig costumes wearing shackles and leg irons, followed by a member shoveling their manure into “Lake Erie,” a blue wading pool adorned with fish and a sign proclaiming it as the lake. The shackles are a response to a rural ACLE member’s concern that the animals are “hardly willing participants” in the industry.

On Earth Day last year, ACLE called for a moratorium on any more CAFO licenses in the watershed until the harmful algal bloom problem is solved, pointing out that CAFOs generate more feces, urine and antibiotic-resistant bacteria than the sewage from Chicago and Los Angeles combined. The waste is spread, untreated, on fields that drain into western Lake Erie, with no treatment whatsoever.

“One large dairy CAFO in western Ohio (see attached graphic) dumps more animal waste on the ground than the sewage from Defiance, Maumee, Sylvania, Perrysburg and Fremont combined. Residents of those cities pay millions of dollars to treat their waste, while industrial ‘farms’ consider the lake a free toilet” Ferner added.

ACLE’s monthly meeting will be June 20, 6:30pm, at Grace Lutheran Church, 4441 Monroe St. The program will be “The Tragedy of Grand Lake St. Mary’s.” It is free and open to the public.

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