

# A Win for Modern Agriculture

## FACT SHEET



### Understanding the Ninth Circuit's Decision On CAFO Regulations

## THE ISSUE

- Environmental and animal rights groups attempted to force the EPA into imposing more **stringent regulations** on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) **without proper scientific investigation**.
- The EPA rejected these petitions in **2017** and **2022**, citing the need for ongoing studies, data collection, and stakeholder engagement.
- Activist groups, including Food & Water Watch, Center for Biological Diversity, and Center for Food Safety, **sued the EPA** in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## THE DECISION

- In **October 2024**, the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals** denied the activists' petition for review.
- The court upheld the EPA's reasoned decision to decline the demands made by the activists, citing **the agency's ongoing efforts aimed at gathering more comprehensive data**.
- The court recognized that **policymaking in complex areas like agricultural water quality** requires careful evaluation and that agencies must be given **discretion to pursue scientifically sound strategies**.
- Several agricultural organizations—including **American Farm Bureau Federation, National Pork Producers Council, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, and United Egg Producers**—intervened in support of the EPA.

*Keeping Clients and Industry Stakeholders Informed*



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## WHY PRODUCERS CARE

- **Confirms existing regulatory compliance** – Large modern farms already follow **extensive federal, state, and local environmental rules** under the Clean Water Act and more.
- **Supports science-based policy** – Allows the EPA to continue gathering real-world data instead of rushing to implement activist-driven mandates.
- **Recognizes agricultural stewardship** – Acknowledges that modern CAFOs continue to innovate, adopting new technologies and best practices that further minimize environmental impact to protect natural resources.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **No New Immediate Regulations** – Producers avoid sudden, untested compliance burdens.
- **Affirms Agriculture's Role** – Decision reflects confidence in farmers' commitment to environmental responsibility and continuous improvement.
- **Supports Long-Term Stability** – Gives regulators and producers time to develop practical, effective solutions for water quality and environmental protection.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

This ruling is a **positive affirmation** for livestock producers and the entire agricultural sector—protecting against rushed, activist-driven regulations and ensuring that environmental policy remains grounded in science, practicality, and the realities of modern agriculture

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