



The United Sludge-Free Alliance

Farm Risks – Talking Points

What Farmers Are Not Told About Sludge

- 1) No two loads of sewage sludge have the same composition of chemicals or pathogens, so the farmer does not know what is actually applied on his land. Load testing is inconsistent and unmonitored.
- 2) Financial risk and liability for any nuisance litigation from nearby neighbors exposed to sewage sludge causing property damage, well-water pollution, personal injury, illnesses or death.
- 3) There is no financial liability to the sludge hauler or municipality after they discontinue dumping sludge on a property. In fact, the farmer can be held accountable to clean his own property if soil test shows high levels of heavy metals and toxins.
- 4) In PA, a sludged property must make this fact known as a “Hazardous Use” on a “Seller’s Disclosure Sheet” at the time of property sale. Neighboring property to a sludged farm must also state this fact at the time of a sale and the farmer may be held accountable for reduction of property value.
- 5) Under the Clean Water Act, sludge is declared a pollutant and must be disposed of properly, an issue that is downplayed by companies spreading sludge on farmland because the farmer will be the one charged with breaking the law.
- 6) Farm families consume the meat and dairy products grown on the farm, yet the stunning lack of research on the impact of dioxin in sludge applied to pastures is unsettling. Dioxin gathers in meat, fats and milk and is known to cause birth defects and as a carcinogen.