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Financial Assistance Programs Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 5237S
Washington, DC 20250-2890
FAX: (202) 720-4265

**Re: Docket Number NRCS- IFR-08005" Environmental Quality Incentives
Program (EQIP) Final Rules**

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

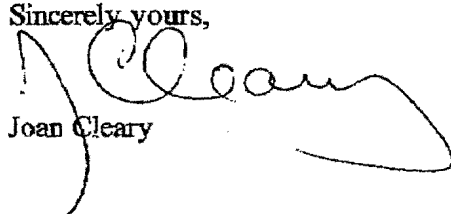
Factory Farms have a detrimental effect on the health of the ecosystem of which we are a part. They also undermine US economic strength by contributing to an unstable farming infrastructure. Like AIG and the large banks, factory farms are "Too big to fail." Stop the monopoly on farming by stopping the factory farm subsidies. Give family farmers a chance to survive.

Please stop using taxpayer dollars to subsidize factory farms and help sustainable and organic farmers that protect the environment and contribute to the strength of the US farming infrastructure. The USDA needs to ensure that the EQIP rule be clarified, in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill, and that EQIP assistance is available to all farmers and ranchers for comprehensive whole farm conservation planning.

The final EQIP rule must also require NRCS State Conservationists to rank and process applications for organic conversion assistance in a separate funding pool that makes clear that the limit of \$80,000 over a 4-year period applies only to organic conversion payments and not all EQIP payments made to organic farmers and ranchers.

I recommend that the NRCS amend the EQIP rule to prohibit the use of EQIP funding for animal waste storage, treatment or transportation for new or expanding CAFOs and that the EQIP rule does not allow waivers to increase assistance to CAFOs above the \$300,000 payment limit.

Sincerely yours,


Joan Cleary