

FRACTURAREA CONTAMINEAZA OARE SEPTELUL AMERICAN?

<http://www.allgov.com/news/top-stories/is-fracking-contaminating-us-livestock-121203?news=846369>



Moartea vacilor cauzata de fracturare in Louisiana

Asemenea canarilor care sunt pusi in minele de carbuni pentru a preveni asupra pericolelor din aer, turmele din zonele in care se produce fracturarea hidraulica se imbolnavesc si mor intr-un numar alarmant – aceasta este ceea ce aflam dintr-un studio stiintific al impactului fracturarii asupra animalelor. Iar daca vacile se imbolnavesc din cauza fracturarii, ce se poate intampla cu oamenii care apoi beau laptele acestora sau le consuma carnea?

Studiul, autorizat de prof. Robert Oswald of Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine si veterinarul practician Michele Bamberger, compileaza studii de caz pentru 24 de firme din 3 stste americane ale caror vite au experimentat probleme neurologice, reproductive si de natura gastrointestinala, dupa expunerea la substantele chimice eliberate in aer de fracturare.

Studiul de caz include 17 vaci din Louisiana care au murit dupa ce 140 dintre ele au fost expuse la apele reziduale rezultate din fracturare, datorita unei brese in indiguire si o turma din Pennsylvania care a avut o rata de 50% de vitei nascuti morti, dupa ce a pascut intr-o pasune contaminate de substante chimice rezultate din fracturare aflate intr-o groapa de deseuri refulata.

Fracturarea hidraulica a unui singur put impune folosirea a 25, 5 milioane de litri de apa, ca si a 1,5 milioane de litri de aditivi. Un studiu din 2011 a realizat o lista de 632 substante chimice folosite in productia de gaz bnatural si a determinat ca 75% dintre acestea afecteaza pielea, ochii, alte organe senzoriale si sistemele respirator si gastrointestinal; 40-50% pot afecta creierul si sistemul nervos, sistumul imunitar si cel cardiovascular, rinichii; 27% pot afecta sistemul endocrin; si 25% pot cauza cancer si mutatii genetice.

Vitele care mor la ferma se presupune ca nu intra in sistemul alimentar al statului, insa acelea dintre ele care par sanatoas, cu toate ca au fost expuse la aceleasi toxine, o fac. “Ele isi fac loc in sistemul alimentar, ceea ce este foarte ingrijorator pentru noi”, explica Bamberger. “Ele traiesc in zone care au raspuns pozitiv la testele de contaminare a aerului, apei si solului. Unele din aceste substante chimice pot aparea in produsele obtinute din laptele si carnea acestor animale.”

Deși până acum au fost înregistrate puține morți în rândul vitelor, anumite instituții specializate în managementul riscului au început să descopere problema și au luat măsuri. De pildă, [Nationwide Mutual Insurance](#), care vinde asigurări agricole, a anunțat că nu va acoperi distrugerile legate de fracturarea hidrolică, iar [Rabobank](#), cea mai mare bancă agricolă a lumii nu mai da ipoteci fermierilor care au oferit concesiuni pentru gaze. Unii dintre fermieri ale căror terenuri se află în Marcellus shale au migrat spre terenuri aflate în afara zonei de fracturare, cauzând scăderi abrupte în prețurile terenurilor.

Dacă companiile de asigurări nu vor asigura pierderile de pe urma fracturării, iar fermierii și paznicii nu mai doresc să producă hrană în zonele fracturate, ar trebui oare preveniți consumatorii asupra a ceea ce mănâncă?

-Matt Bewig

ORIGINAL:

Is Fracking Contaminating U.S. Livestock?

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Cow deaths caused by fracking in Louisiana (photo: 60 Minutes, CBS)

Like canaries sent into coal mines to warn of breathing hazards, livestock in areas where hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) is occurring are getting sick and dropping dead in alarming numbers, according to the only peer-reviewed scientific study of the impact of fracking on animals. And if cattle are getting sick because of fracking, what about the health of people who later drink their milk or eat their flesh?

The study, authored by Prof. Robert Oswald of Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and practicing veterinarian Michele Bamberger, compiles case studies of 24 farmers in

6 states whose livestock experienced neurological, reproductive and acute gastrointestinal problems after exposure to fracking chemicals in the water or air.

The case studies include 17 Louisiana cows that died of respiratory failure after an hour's exposure to spilled fracking fluid; 70 Pennsylvania cows that died after 140 of them were exposed to fracking wastewater from an impoundment breach; and a Pennsylvania herd whose pregnant cows had a 50% rate of stillborn calves after grazing in a pasture contaminated by fracking chemicals from an overflowing waste pit.

Fracking a single well requires up to 7 million gallons of water, as well as an additional 400,000 gallons of additives. A 2011 [study](#) compiled a list of 632 chemicals used in natural-gas production and determined that 75% could affect the skin, eyes, other sensory organs, and the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems; 40-50% could affect the brain/nervous system, immune and cardiovascular systems, and the kidneys; 37% could affect the endocrine system; and 25% could cause cancer and mutations.

Cattle that die on the farm aren't supposed to get into the nation's food system, but herd mates that look healthy, despite being exposed to the same toxins, do. "They're making their way into the food system, and it's very worrisome to us," Bamberger explains. "They live in areas that have tested positive for air, water and soil contamination. Some of these chemicals could appear in milk and meat products made from these animals."

Although there have been few cattle deaths so far, some institutions that specialize in risk management have begun to see the pattern and take action. For example, [Nationwide Mutual Insurance](#), which sells agricultural insurance, has announced that it will not cover damages related to fracking, and [Rabobank](#), the world's largest agricultural bank, is said to no longer sell mortgages to farmers with gas leases. Some farmers whose land sits atop the Marcellus shale are migrating to land outside that fracking zone, causing shifts in land prices.

If insurance companies won't insure losses from fracking, and farmers and ranchers don't want to raise food in fracking zones, should consumers beware of eating it?

-Matt Bewig

To Learn More:

[Fracking Our Food Supply](#) (by Elizabeth Royte, Food and Environment Reporting Network)

[Impacts of Gas Drilling on Animal and Human Health](#) (by Michele Bamberger and Robert Oswald, New Solutions) (pdf)

[Animal and Human Health Impacts from Gas Drilling: Peer-Reviewed Study](#) (by Iris Marie Bloom)

