



**For Immediate Release**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Press Conference to be held at Hancock County Hearing on Hog Confinement Proposal**

A plan to build an industrial hog facility that will house over 18,000 hogs will be considered by the Hancock County Board on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the University of Illinois Extension Building at 550 N. Madison in Carthage, Illinois.

**There will be a press conference prior to the hearing hosted by Saving Our Rural Environment (SORE) where citizen concerns will be voiced and opponents of the proposal will be available for questions. The press conference will take place at 5:15 pm near the southwest entrance of the Extension Building.**

Junction Acres, LLC plans to construct the facility near the town of LaCrosse in Hancock County. The County Board did not elect to have a public hearing on the matter until local area residents filed a petition with 75 gathered signatures, forcing them to have one. After the hearing, there will be a vote by the Board to issue a nonbinding recommendation to the Illinois Department of Agriculture for or against the project.

The proposal is of great concern to SORE, as well as environmental and public health experts. The operation is affiliated with Professional Swine Management, who has a poor environmental track record. Large-scale industrial livestock facilities and waste application sites routinely release bacteria and hundreds of toxic pollutants into the environment. Research indicates that neighboring residents are susceptible to illness from such pollution. The community is also concerned about negative impacts to their wells and drinking water supplies, the La Moine River, roadways, and property values.