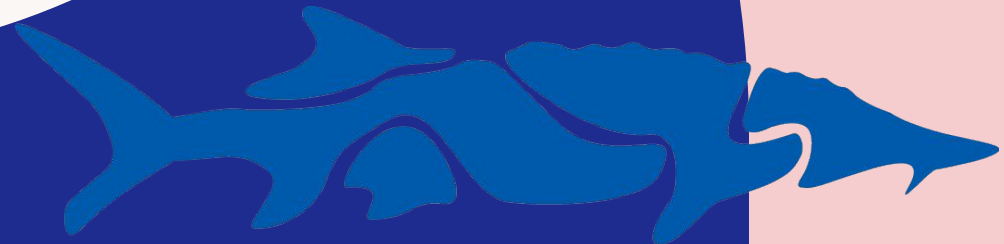


ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NC



**North Carolina
Conservation
Network**



WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE



CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS IN NC

Overview of CAFOs

Health & Environmental Impacts

Environmental Justice

Overview of Biogas

Environmental Permitting

WHAT IS A CAFO?



A Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), is a large-scale industrial facility that raises animals for food production.

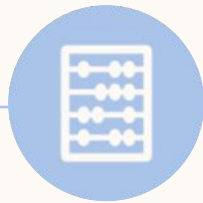
- Swine
- Poultry
- Cattle

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Industrial hog operations store untreated feces and urine in football field-sized pits and spray it onto nearby fields—the cheapest, most harmful way possible to handle the billions of gallons hog waste produced at the 2,000+ industrial hog operations in N.C.



SCALE



NC RANKINGS

#3 in hog production
#3 in turkey production
#4 in chicken production

Duplin and Sampson are ranked as #1 and #2 in hog production.

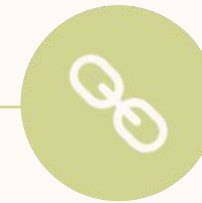


OPERATIONS

Currently there are about 2200 operations totaling 8 million hogs.

Operations covered under the general state permits:

- 2149 Swine
- 218 Cattle
- 8 Wet Poultry



DUPLIN AND SAMPSON COUNTIES

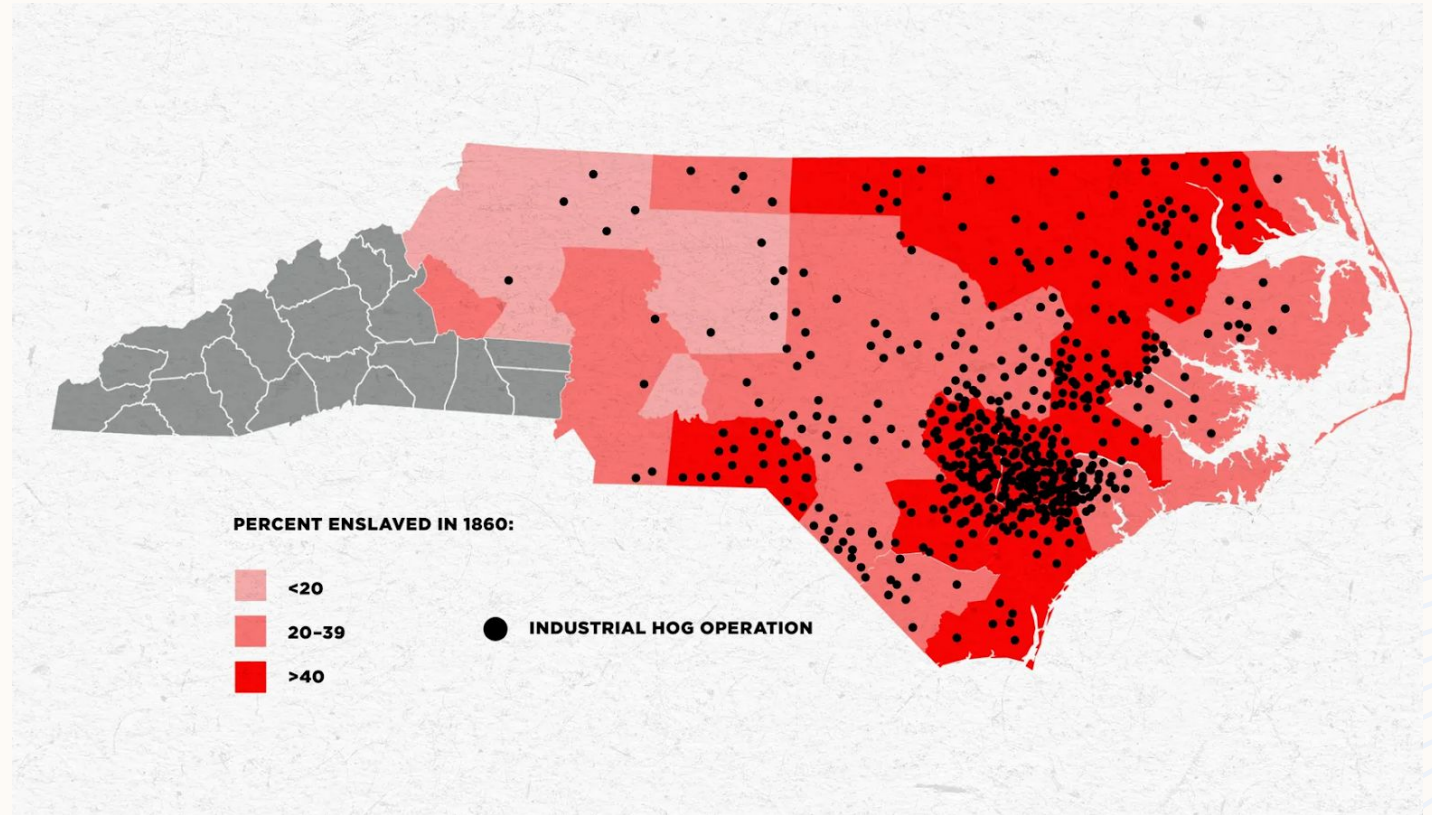
In Duplin County, there are over ~36 times as many pigs as people.

In Sampson County, there are over 30 times as many pigs as people.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The issue of environmental justice arises when certain communities, through no fault of their own, are more impacted than others by the sources of pollution located near where they live, work, and play.

Industrial hog operations are largely clustered in the eastern part of the state. These parts of the state are also highly populated, and so these operations are often located close to where people live, work and play.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Odor and Air Quality
 - Methane Emissions
 - Volatile Organic Compounds
 - Hydrogen Sulfide
- Water Quality
 - Runoff into Rivers
 - Flooding of Lagoons
 - Contamination of Well Water
- Insect Vectors, Pathogens and Antibiotic Resistance



HEALTH IMPACTS

Storing billions of gallons of untreated hog waste in lagoons, which are essentially pits of urine and feces, pollutes our rivers and streams, dirties our air, creates an unbearable stench, makes people sick, and can even lead to premature death.



**Respiratory
Issues**



**Waterborne
Illnesses**



**Spread of
Bacteria**



**Antibiotic
Resistance**



**Disease
Outbreak**



**Poor Mental
Health**



**Occupational
Hazards**



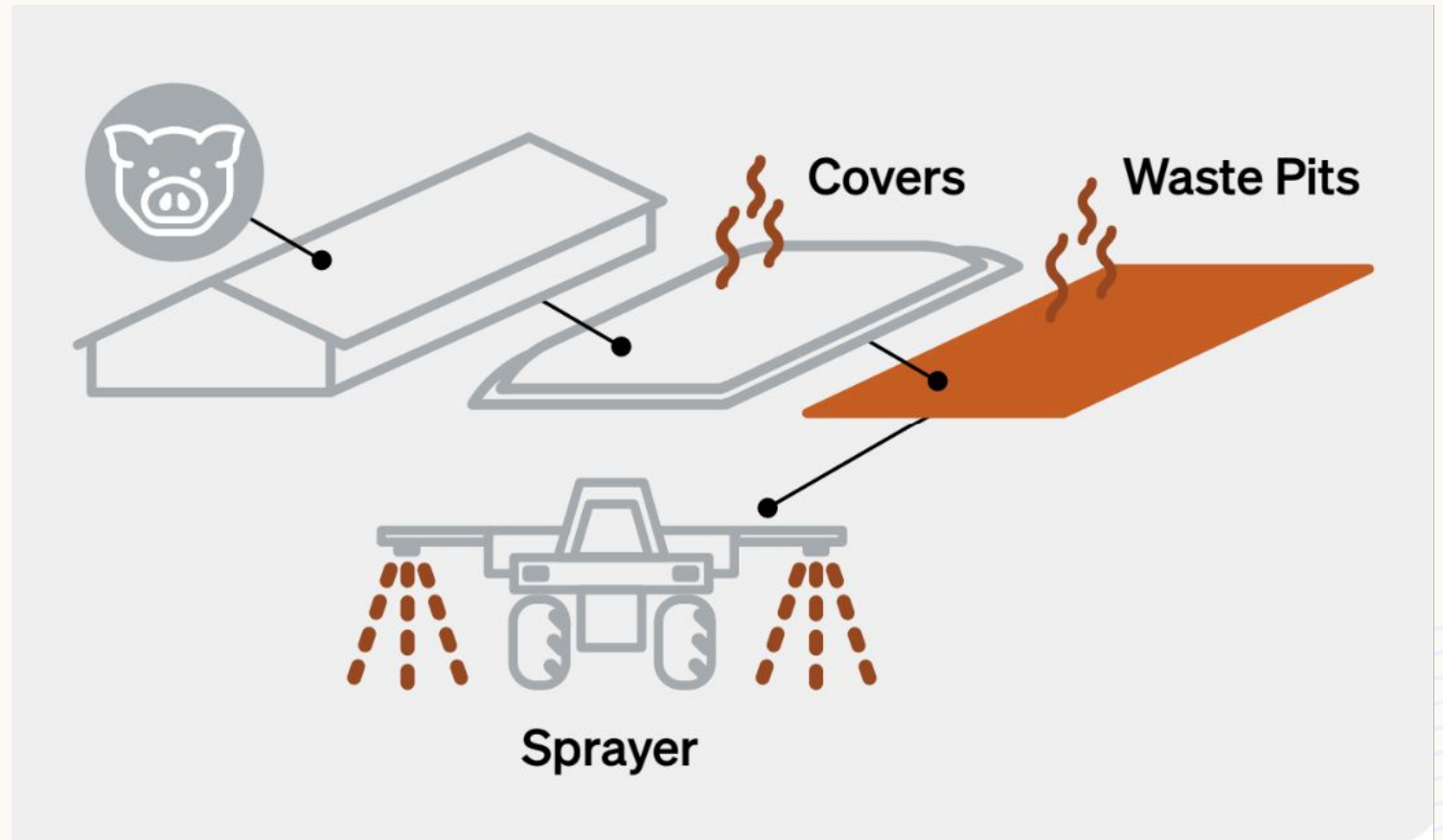
“ YOU STAND OUTSIDE AND IT FEELS LIKE IT’S RAINING BUT THEN YOU REALIZE IT ISN’T RAIN. IT’S ANIMAL WASTE. IT TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY. YOU START GAGGING, COUGHING, YOUR PULSE INCREASES. ALL YOU CAN DO IS RUN FOR COVER. ”

Elsie Herring, Duplin County, NC
(Source: The Guardian, 2018)

BIOGAS

Biogas is created by covering hog waste lagoons to capture methane gas from the decomposing waste.

Methane can then be piped to a central processing facility and injected into a natural gas pipeline. This is called directed biogas.

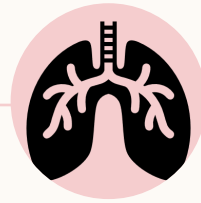


BIOGAS CONCERNS



WATER POLLUTION

Untreated hog waste contains harmful nutrients, bacteria, and pathogens that contaminate drinking water and pollute our water ways, causing toxic algal blooms and fish kills. Biogas will make this water pollution even worse.



AIR POLLUTION

Industry is doubling- down on the polluting system that stores untreated waste in pits and sprays it onto nearby fields – the cheapest, most harmful way to handle this waste to make biogas.

Capping one hog waste pit while leaving the others uncovered creates more air pollution.



HARM TO PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Families—disproportionately Black, Latino, and Native American families—who live nearby and downstream from waste pits and sprayfields suffer. The sprayed waste drifts onto properties and causes people to get sick. Covering just one lagoon doesn't solve the stench problem and makes other air pollution even worse.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

All large animal operations require a permit from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These permits outline how animal waste must be managed.

The current general permits allow these operations to use the outdated and harmful lagoon and sprayfield system, despite evidence of the numerous environmental and public health impacts it causes.

The renewal process for the 2024 general permits has begun and DEQ is now accepting public input. These permits will be in place for the next five years.

TIMELINE



PUBLIC COMMENTS



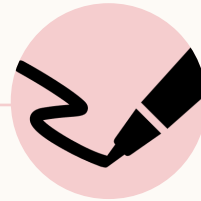
PUBLIC HEARINGS

October 5th, 6 pm, Kenansville
(133 James Sprunt Drive)

October 10, 6 pm, Goldsboro
(3000 Wayne Memorial Drive)

October 24, 6 pm, Statesville
(300 S. Center Street)

October 26, 6 pm, Virtual



WRITTEN COMMENTS

By mail: Ramesh Ravella
Animal Feeding Operations
N.C. Division of Water
Resources 1636 Mail Service
Center Raleigh, NC
27699-1636

By email:
publiccommentsDWR
@deq.nc.gov



ORAL COMMENTS

By voicemail: 919-707-3705

**DEADLINE FOR ALL PUBLIC
COMMENTS IS NOVEMBER
3RD.**

AREAS OF FOCUS



DEQ should ensure equity in its animal waste permitting program.



DEQ should require better, cleaner technology on industrial hog farms.



DEQ should require reporting and more public notice.



DEQ should require more monitoring and testing.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

<https://linktr.ee/peopleshearing>

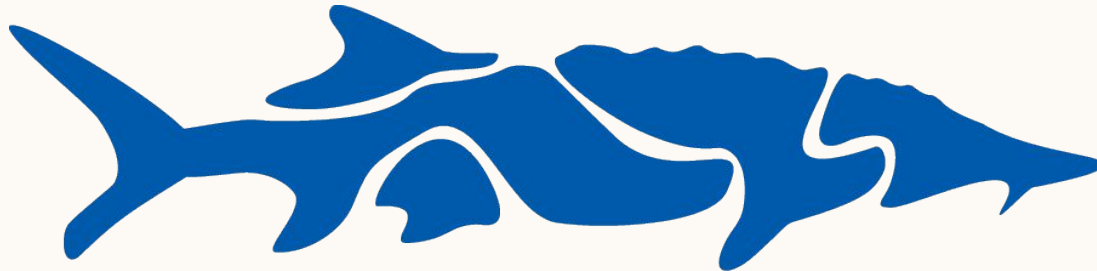
SIGN A PETITION



WRITE COMMENTS



THANK YOU



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