



Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Eastern North Carolina

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“They say they love America, but they really love somethin’ else. It’s green. How many hog pens have you found next to a country club?”

– *former hog farmer Don Webb*



THE PROBLEM

- CAFOs - economic efficiencies for farmers (*Driscoll 2006*)
 - Waste lagoons - toxic spray and runoff
 - Low-income, minority populations affected (*Wing et al 2009*)
 - health effects
 - economic impacts
 - diminished quality of life
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photo from Wikimedia Commons

WASTE CYCLE

Feed manufacturing plant

- > Hog farm
- > Waste lagoon
- > Decomposition
- > Sprayfields
- > Corn

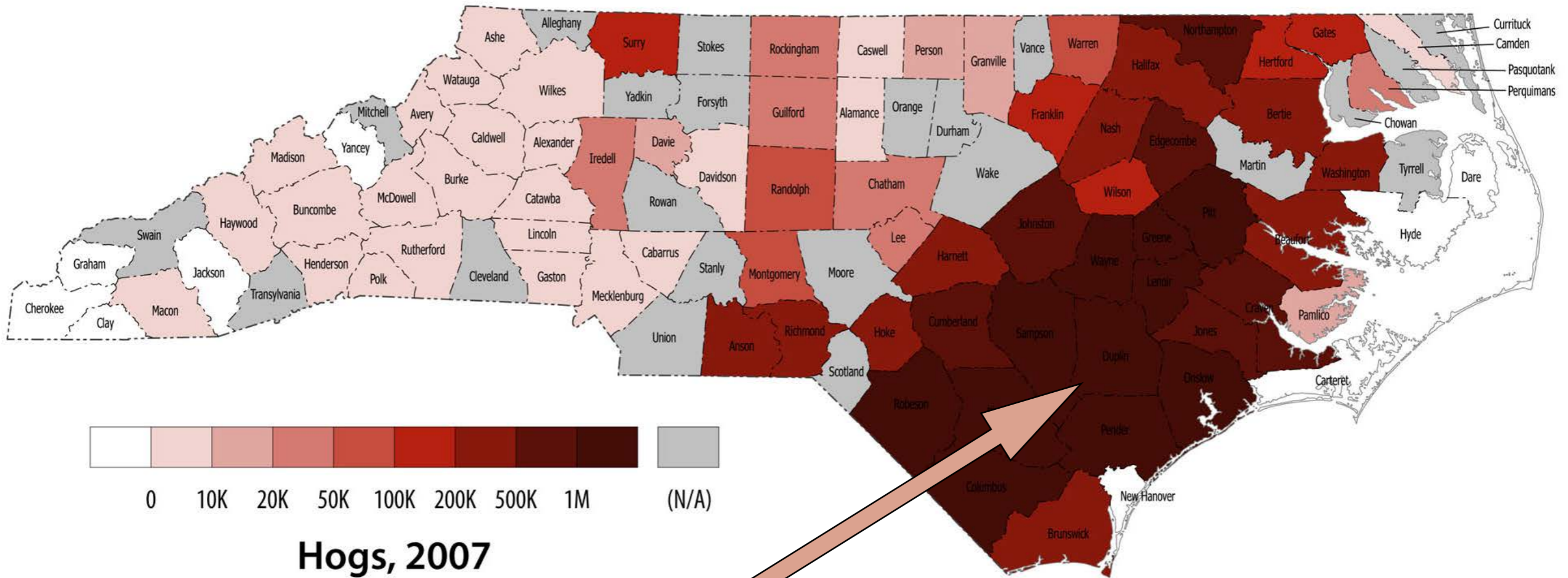
Feed manufacturing plant

- > Hog farm (etc.)

(Ladd & Edward 2002)



Hogs sold in North Carolina counties, 2007. From U.S. Census data.





“That scent is so bad. You can’t go outside. You can’t go outside and cook anything because the flies and mosquitoes take over”

– *Duplin County resident Rene Miller*

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

- Distributive
 - disproportionate burden with no offsetting benefit
 - denial of procedural justice - social inequality
 - Structural
 - lack of political capacity & education
 - journalistic bias
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PROMOTING JUSTICE

EJ PROBLEMS	COURSES OF ACTION
Lack of regulation of hog farming practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Address taxpayer subsidies to polluting factory farms<li>2. Prohibit ownership of farms by meat packers<li>3. Create statewide fee-based clean-up fund<li>4. Mandate tougher engineering requirements on CAFO infrastructure<li>5. Require the installation of sewage treatment plants
Weak political capacity of local people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Citizen education/documentation of polluting activity affecting private land<li>2. More/better public comment opportunities and effective notice
Journalistic bias toward industry	Training to encourage skepticism of industry claims and focus on science <i>(Stocking & Holstein 2009)</i>



Works Cited

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