Concentration and Industrialization of Animal Production in Past 30 Years

The majority of meat, dairy, and poultry production has been concentrated in large facilities.

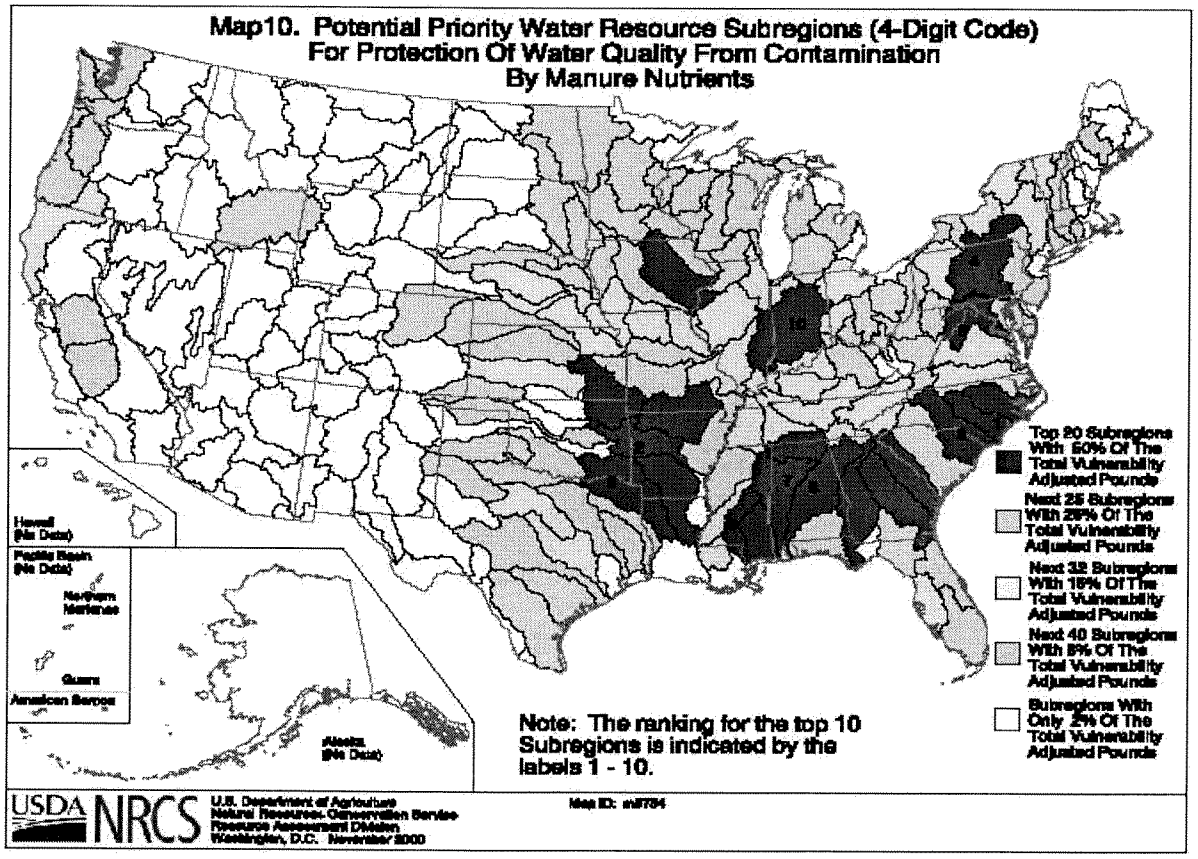
- Dairies with more than 2,000 cows
- Swine operations with more than 10,000 hogs
- Broiler houses with 50,000 birds

Concentration of animals has resulted in a concentration of manure production.

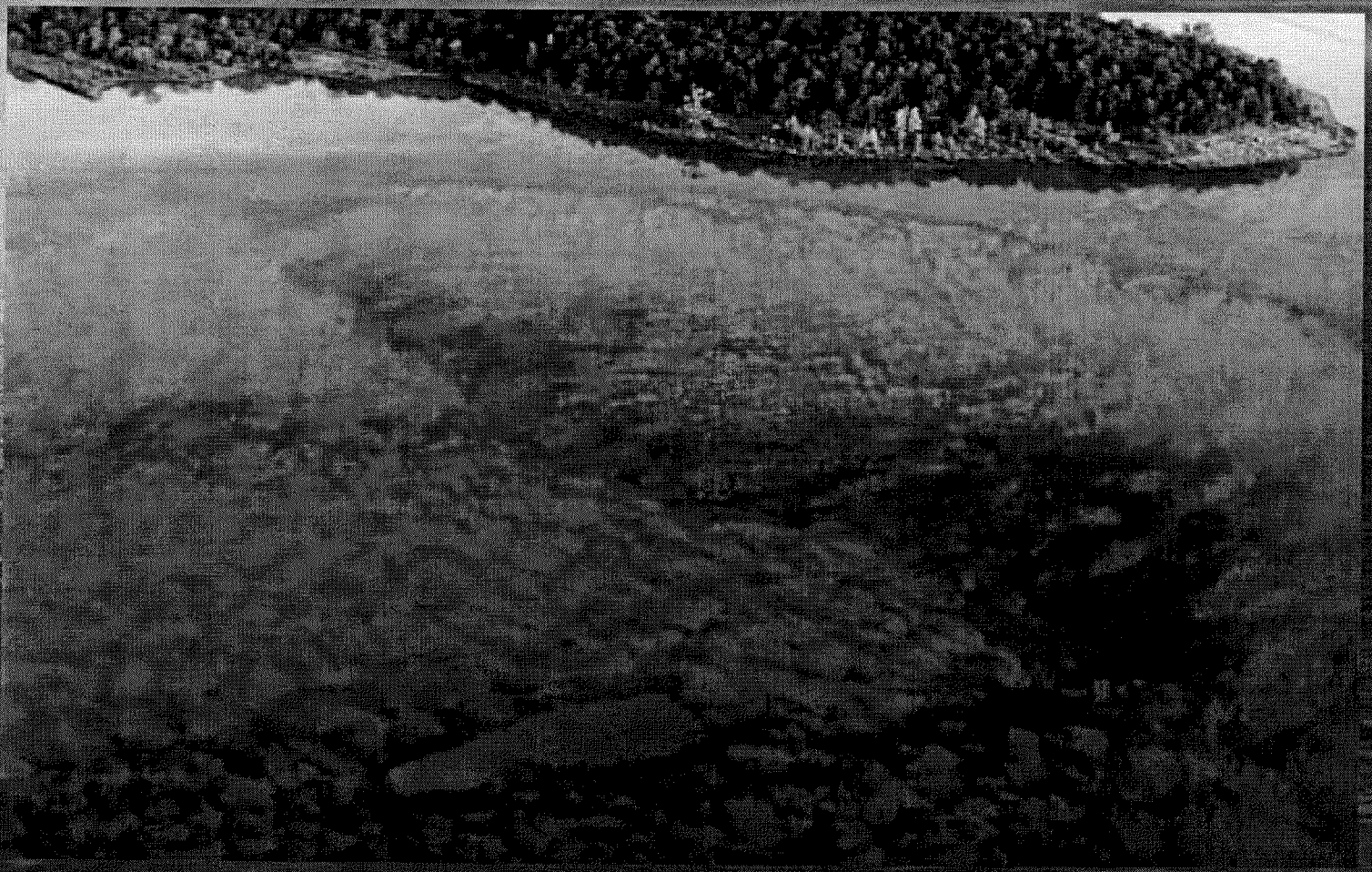
- One animal facility with a large population of animals can easily equal a small city in terms of waste production.
- Current waste handling practices often include minimal or no treatment before the wastes are released into the environment.

Source: EPA Risk Assessment (May 2004)

Waste Accumulation in Vulnerable Watersheds

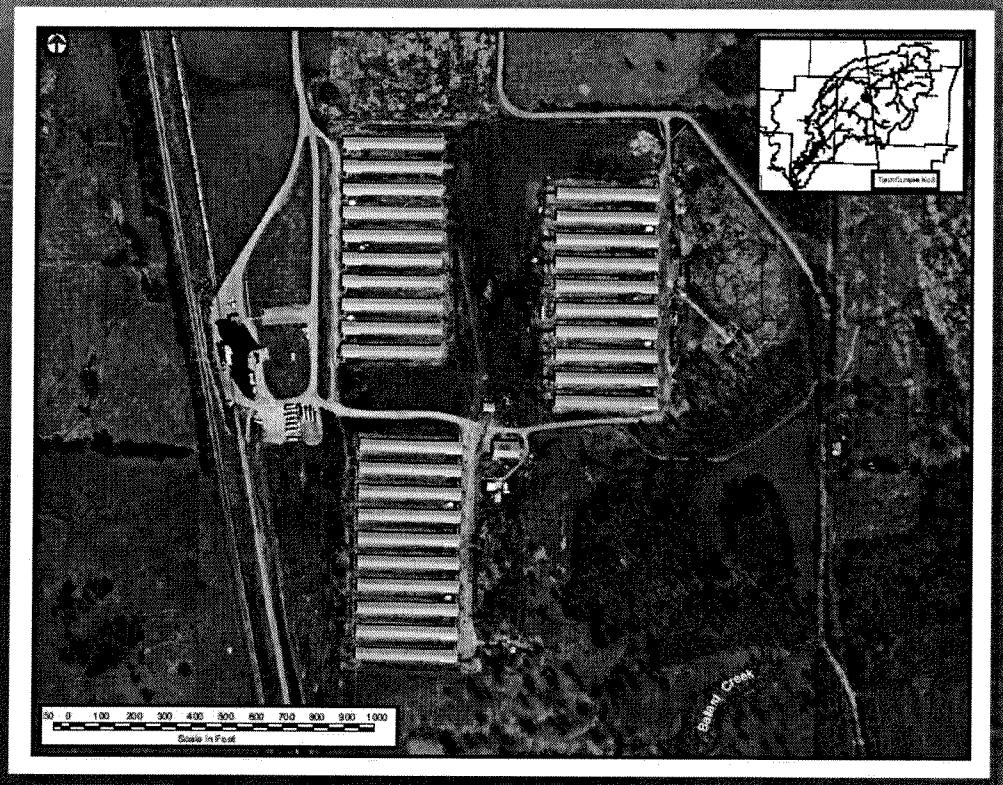


Excess Nutrients Cause Eutrophication of Streams and Lakes



Exponential Growth of Poultry Operations in U.S.

- 34 million broilers produced in 1934
- 8.9 billion broilers produced in 2006
- Broiler Industry alone has retail equivalent value of $41 billion



Source: USDA ERS

Broiler Industry: Top Eight States Annual Production 2006

- Georgia – 1.4 billion birds (16 percent)
- Arkansas – 1.2 billion birds (13 percent)
- Alabama – 1.1 billion birds (12 percent)
- Mississippi – 804 million birds (9 percent)
- North Carolina – 749 million birds (8 percent)
- Texas – 628 million birds (7 percent)
- Kentucky – 289 million birds (3 percent)
- Maryland – 272 millions birds (3 percent)

Source: USDA ERS