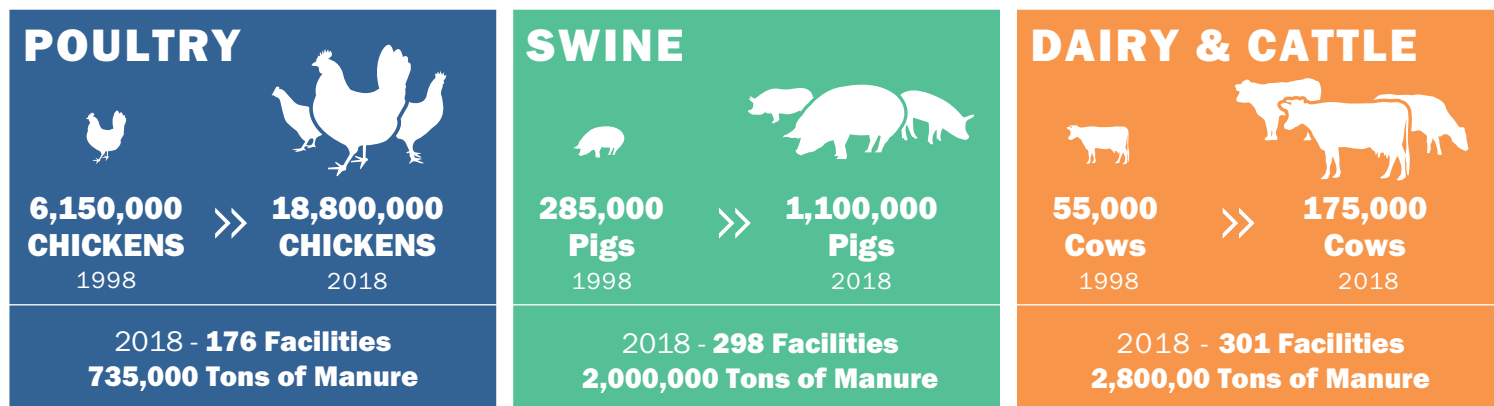


# RECENT RAPID GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Industrial-scale animal agriculture is booming in the Maumee River watershed. Unlike traditional small farms, large-scale confined animal operations produce significantly more waste for their footprint, putting stress on local ecosystems. The public has known little about this massive industry until now, thanks to inadequate permitting and enforcement policies. ELPC and EWG used satellite imagery to count and measure facilities, estimating the quantity of animals, manure, and phosphorus. Results show rapid growth, which likely has a larger impact on local water pollution than previously recognized.

## Booming Numbers in the Maumee Watershed

Estimated animal numbers have nearly tripled in just 20 years



Most recent reports assume livestock numbers have remained flat, so their manure is estimated to be only 20% of total agricultural phosphorus output to western Lake Erie. However, our study challenges these figures and suggests that **manure is likely responsible for closer to 40% of agricultural phosphorus in the Maumee watershed.** In the well-drained terrain of the Maumee River watershed, excess phosphorus easily runs off into surface waters, fueling algal blooms in the summer months.

