

America's Next Big Polluter: Corporate Agribusiness

COMPANY PROFILE

Tyson Foods, Inc.

Corporate agribusiness is emerging as one of the biggest threats to America's waterways – contributing to dead zones from the Chesapeake Bay to the Gulf of Mexico and even threatening our drinking water.

Tyson Foods, Inc. is “one of the world's largest producers of meat and poultry.” The company's pollution footprint includes manure from its contract growers' factory farm operations, fertilizer runoff from grain grown to feed the livestock it brings to market as meat, and waste from its processing plants.

While comprehensive data on Tyson's share of factory farm and fertilizer runoff require some calculation, the company is required to report pollution from its processing plants to U.S. EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI).

Tyson Foods Inc. and its subsidiaries dumped **104 million pounds of pollutants into waterways** from 2010 to 2014 – the second highest volume of toxic discharges reported to TRI for those years.

A substantial portion of Tyson's discharges are nitrate compounds. Nitrates can contribute to algal blooms and dead zones, and also pose threats to human health, including “blue baby syndrome” for infants. For example, the city of Des Moines is currently treating its drinking water to remove excess nitrates from agribusiness pollution.



Parent Company	Total 2010-2014 Pounds Released to Water	Rank
AK Steel Holding Corp	107,246,494	1
Tyson Foods Inc	104,468,732	2
US Department Of Defense	63,335,653	3
Cargill Inc	50,405,770	4
US Steel Corp	48,820,613	5
Koch Industries Inc	34,247,944	6
E I Du Pont De Nemours & Co	32,678,184	7
Perdue Farms Inc	31,002,822	8
McCain Foods Usa Inc	27,575,809	9
Basf Corp	27,131,378	10
Pilgrims Pride Corp	27,052,625	11
United Global Foods Us Holdings Inc	26,211,884	12
Phillips 66 Co	23,741,948	13
International Paper Co	17,791,850	14
Exxon Mobil Corp	15,363,763	15

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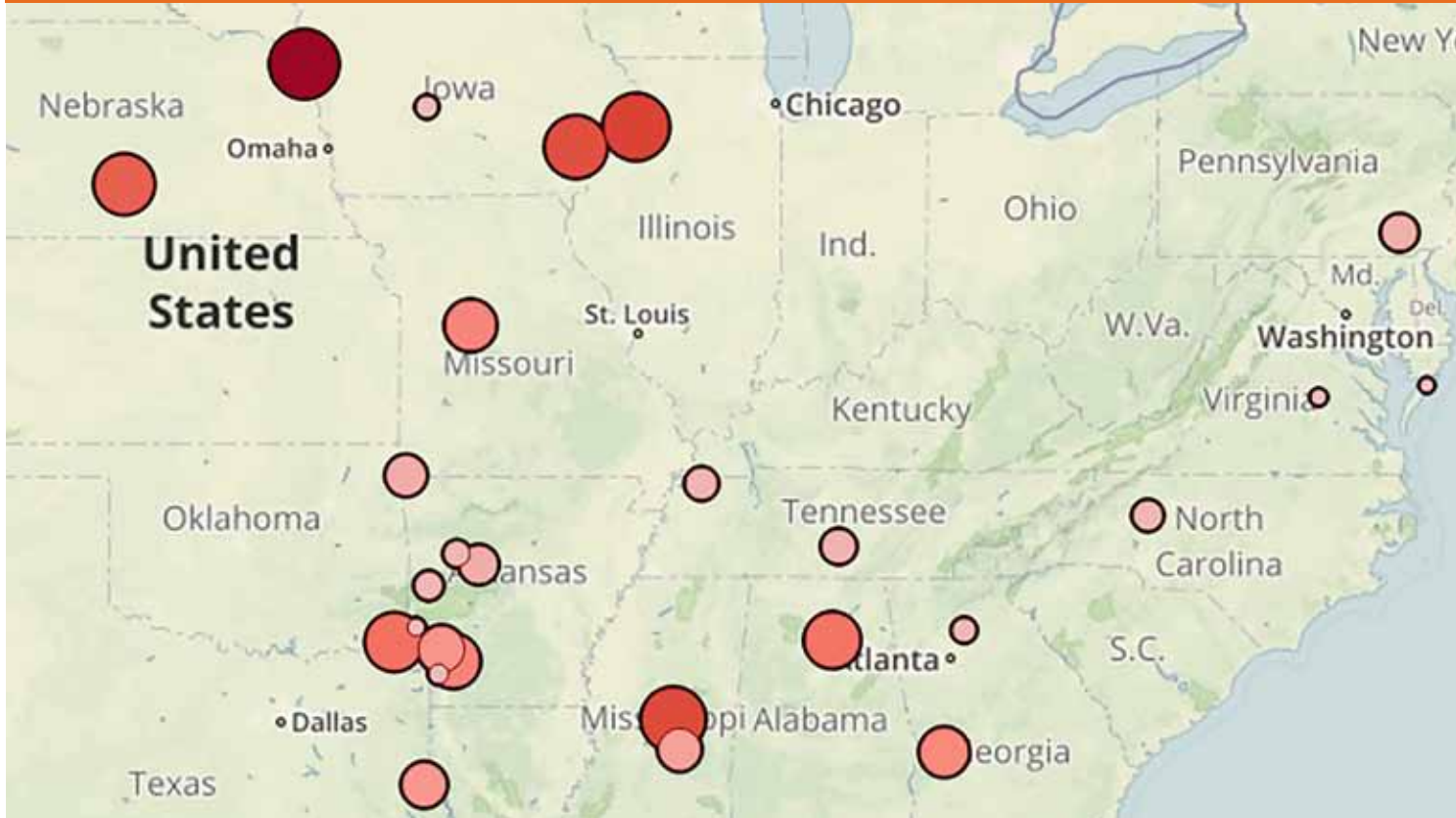
syndrome” for infants. [World Health Organization “Water Related Diseases” \(accessed 2/2/2016\)](#) For example, the city of Des Moines is currently treating its drinking water to remove excess nitrates

from agribusiness pollution. [Mitch Smith “Conflict Over Soil and Water Quality Puts ‘Iowa Nice’ to a Test,” New York Times \(April 18, 2015\)](#)

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Tyson facilities' pollution into waterways in 2014



20 million pounds Tyson Foods, Inc. or its subsidiaries dumped more than 20 million pounds of pollution directly into our waterways in 2014 alone. This figure only includes pollutants reported to U.S. EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, and does not include pollution from factory farms raising livestock for Tyson. Source: U.S. EPA Toxic Release Inventory.

Find our interactive map here: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/publish/TysonTRI/Sheet1#!/publish-confirm>

In addition to these TRI discharges, an accounting of Tyson's pollution footprint must consider the manure from billions of livestock raised for the company each year. The company claims to process an average of 41 million chickens, 133,000 cows, and 383,000 hogs per week. [Tyson Foods, Inc. website](#) (1/29/16). While manure runoff has been implicated in the pollution of waterways – and even drinking water – across the nation – nowhere does Tyson disclose whether or how much manure from the operations of its contract growers winds up in America's waters.

Moreover, Tyson has a long history of violations and legal settlements related to its pollution. [Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment voter rationale factsheet](#) (2016) at page 2.

Most recently, Tyson settled a case in Missouri for releases into a municipal sewage system that ultimately resulted in killing at least 100,000 fish in Clear Creek. [Stephen Herzog, News Leader "Tyson to Pay Half-a-Million in Fish Kill Settlement" \(January 20, 2015\)](#)

If we want clean water in our rivers, our bays, and our drinking water sources, then companies like Tyson will have

to dramatically cut pollution from their operations. Tyson and other agribusinesses giants should keep manure from factory farms out of our water, demand comprehensive measures to minimize fertilizer runoff wherever grain is grown for their livestock, and cut direct discharges at processing plants.

Additional sources available upon request.

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