

Industrial Animal Agriculture in the Mississippi Valley

Elizabeth Buch

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The College of New Jersey



Introduction

As part of SOC345 *Inequality, Pollution, and Environment*, my classmates and I have been developing semester-long case studies of how humans interact with their non-human environment and how humans perpetuate environmental issues. My case study analyses controlled animal feeding operations (CAFOs), specifically in the Mississippi area, and the negative effects which animal agriculture have on human and non-human environments. My case study illustrates what issues CAFOs cause, how these issues are created, and how these issues are perpetuated.

Methods

- Analyzing and applying concepts and case studies from *Twenty lessons in environmental sociology* (2021)
- Analyzing and comparing recent reports and predictions relating to the Gulf of Mexico "Dead Zone".

Fig. 1 Mississippi Water Shed (www.nature.org)



MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED The Mississippi River and its tributaries drain 41 percent of the United States and carry the nutrients that cause the Gulf's dead zone.

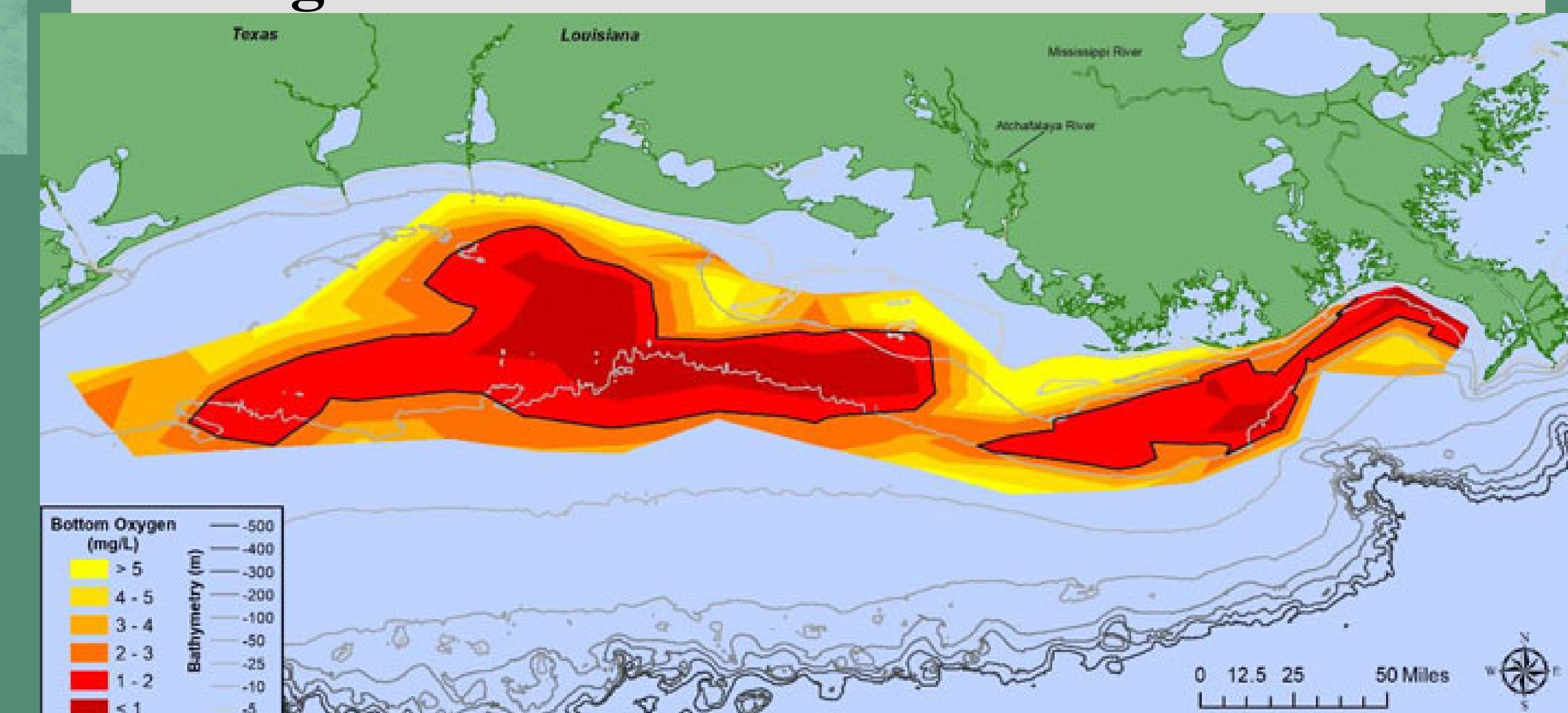
Conclusion

- Nitrate-tainted toxic runoff from animal agriculture is polluting the air, water, soil, and communities around CAFOs
- This toxic runoff is flowing into the Gulf of Mexico and creating a "Dead Zone"
- Aside from environmental crisis, CAFOs and their "waste pits" are impacting human health
- Five major underlying causes - Human Exemptionalism Paradigm (HEP), Dominionism, Treadmill of Production, Risk Society, and Ecological Violence.

Discussion

- Many *Press Process* environmental issues (McKinney) are not often recognised as immediate issues because they are often accepted as part of daily life or not really questioned at all.
- I predict that the issues caused by my case study may soon turn into *Pulse Processes* if not dealt with soon

Fig. 2 Gulf of Mexico "Dead Zone" 2019



References

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