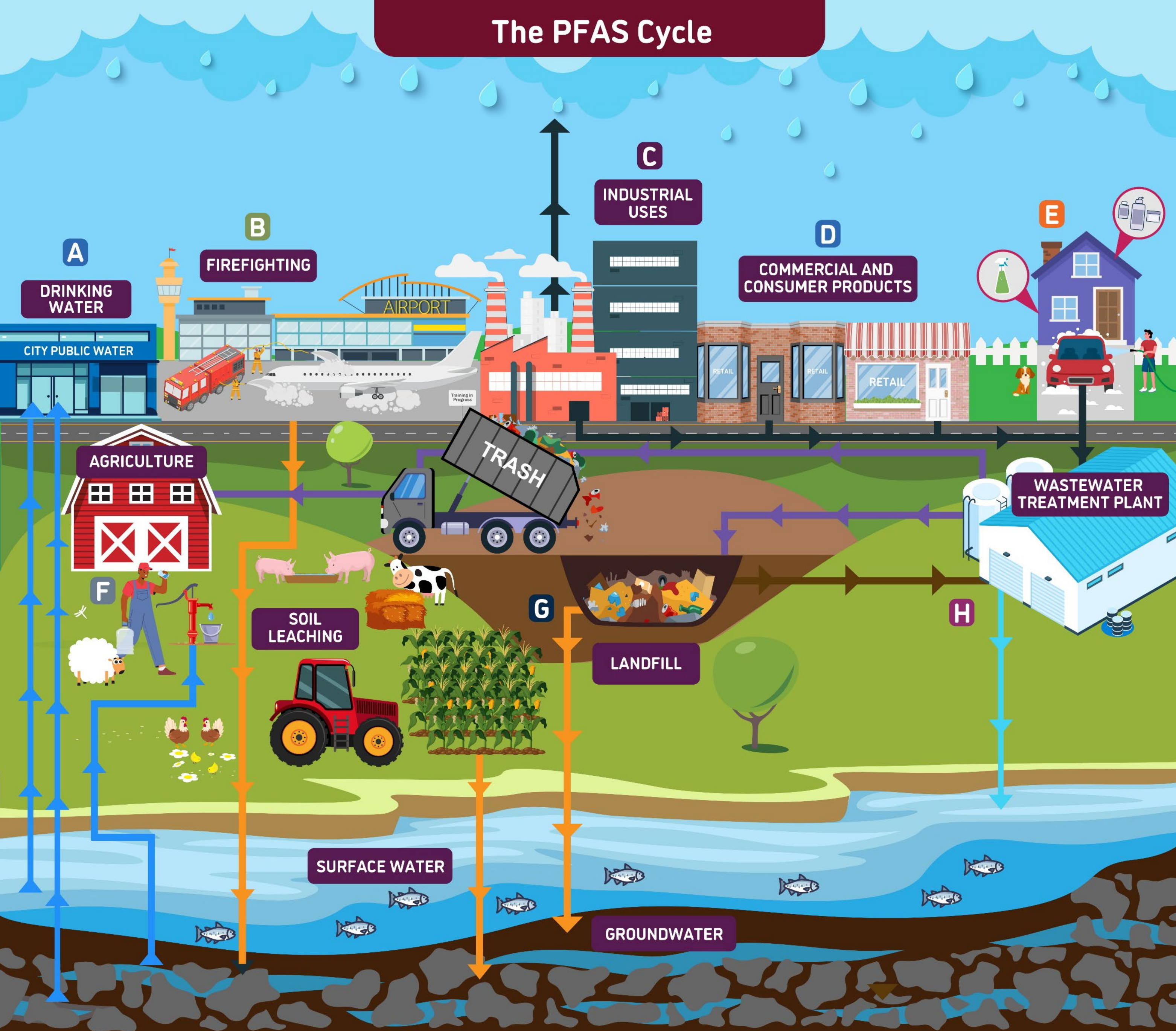


The PFAS Cycle



A If PFAS are in surface water (like rivers and lakes) and underground water (groundwater), the chemicals end up in the water collected by public drinking water systems. People who get their water from the system are exposed to PFAS.

B If AFFF Firefighting Foam that is used to put out fuel fires or for training isn't cleaned up, it can run off into soil and seep (leach) into groundwater.

C Businesses that use or make PFAS can release them into sewers with their wastewater. They can also emit them into the air, where they fall back to earth in rain.

D PFAS from commercial products, like cleaners and floor waxes, used at retail shops get into the sewer through sinks, toilets, and drains. These PFAS go to the wastewater treatment plant.

E PFAS from products like clothing, carpets, and furniture sprays are released into air and dust in our homes, which we breathe in. PFAS in items like shampoo, detergent, makeup, and car wash, go down the drain to the wastewater treatment plant.

F If PFAS-contaminated biosolids (composted waste) are applied on farmlands, they can contaminate soil, seep into groundwater sources used for private well water and irrigation and get into plants and animals.

G PFAS products that are thrown away break down over time and release PFAS into the water that collects at bottom of landfill (leachate). That water can be taken to the wastewater treatment plant. In leaky landfills, that water may seep into groundwater.

H PFAS in wastewater and landfill leachate is not removed or destroyed by wastewater treatment plants. PFAS can stay in the sludge, biosolids, and treated water sent back to surface water sources or applied to land.