

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF LIVESTOCK FARMING

The world's population is predicted to increase to **9.6 billion** by 2050 and to feed a population of this size, the global demand for livestock produce would have to increase by **70%**. Often criticised for being cruel and inhumane, livestock farming is also hugely detrimental to the environment as one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss and water pollution.



In 2016 the world's meat production was an incredible **318 metric tonnes**.



The average American consumed **222 pounds** of meat and poultry in **2018**.



US citizens eat around **97kg** of meat per year.



70 billion farmed animals are reared annually worldwide and more than **6 million** animals are killed for food every hour.



There are **270 million** dairy cows in the world.

LIVESTOCK FARMING... IS A HUGE CONTRIBUTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Livestock production is the largest methane source emitter in the world. In fact, animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gases than all the world's transportation systems combined.



Raising livestock for meat, eggs and milk generates **14.5%** of global greenhouse gas emissions



Livestock farming is the 2nd highest source of emissions & greater than all transportation combined.



Animal farming is responsible for **14.5%** of all greenhouse gas emissions and red meat and dairy production accounts for **65%**.



Animals used for food in the US produce **10x** more excrement than the entire US population.



Livestock and their byproducts account for at least **32,000 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide per year or **51%** of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.

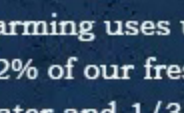


Red meat has a huge carbon footprint.

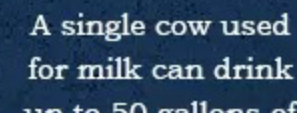


USES HUGE AMOUNTS OF WATER

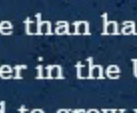
Around **700 million people** across **43 countries** are affected by water scarcity, whilst huge amounts of fresh water are used up in the process of livestock farming.



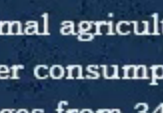
Farming uses up **92%** of our fresh water and **1/3** of this is because of the production animal products.



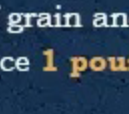
A single cow used for milk can drink up to **50 gallons** of water per day and twice that amount in hot weather.



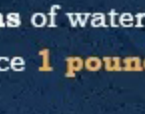
More than half the water in the US is used to grow water intensive crops to feed animals raised for food.



Animal agriculture water consumption ranges from **34-76 trillion gallons** annually.



It takes **13 pounds** of grain and **2,500 gallons** of water to produce **1 pound** of meat.



477 gallons of water are needed to produce **1 pound** of eggs.



900 gallons of water are needed to produce **1 pound** of cheese.



1,000 gallons of water are needed to produce **1 gallon** of milk.

USES LOTS OF LAND

The livestock sector is the world's largest user of agricultural land, through grazing and the use of feed crops.



Without meat and dairy consumption, global farmland use could be reduced by more than **75%** - an area equivalent to the US, China, EU and Australia combined -and still feed the entire world.



Livestock farming uses about **70%** of agricultural land.



Livestock uses **45%** of the earth's total land.



The meat industry is responsible for **85%** of all soil erosion in the US.



2-5 acres of land are used **per cow**.



Livestock grazing is the main reason for plant species going extinct in the US.

CAUSES DEFORESTATION

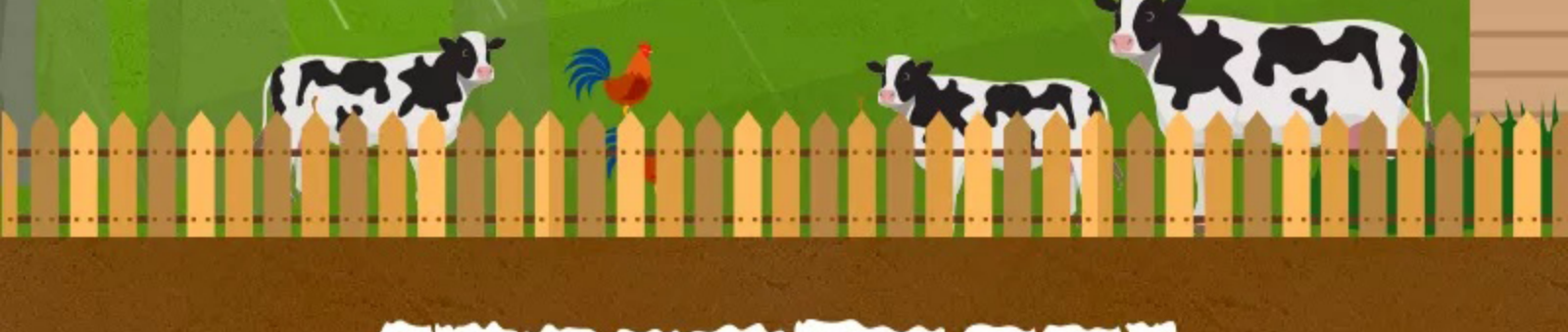
Livestock farming and the expansion of livestock grazing land is the leading cause of deforestation and rainforest destruction.

1-2 acres of rainforest are cleared every second for animal agriculture.

Animal agriculture is responsible for up to **91%** of Amazon destruction.

The use of wild areas for agriculture is the leading cause of the current mass extinction of wildlife.

55 square feet of rain forest is torn down for every meal containing meat.



WHY CUT DOWN ON MEAT & DAIRY CONSUMPTION?

Reducing your meat and dairy intake is the most effective way to reduce your environmental impact. It's also better for your health since meat and dairy products all contain cholesterol and saturated fat which contribute to heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and various types of cancer.



Eating high amounts of animal protein increases your risk of diabetes by **22%**.



Meat-eaters are **3x** more likely to be obese than vegetarians and **9x** more likely than vegans.



By going vegan, one person can save approximately **219,000 gallons** of water a year.



A global shift to a "flexitarian" diet is needed to keep climate change under 2C.



You'd save more water by not eating a pound of meat than you would if you didn't shower for 6 months.

Sources:

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