

CHARTER FOR A HEALTHY, HUMANE AND REGENERATIVE FOOD POLICY

**Transforming the World's Food
Systems to meet Climate Targets
& the Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)**



Contents

SECTION 1: OUR CORE POLICIES.....	3
SECTION 2: DETAILING AND DELIVERING OUR POLICIES.....	4
WE CALL ON THE UN & NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:	4
1. End the use of human-edible grain and soy to feed farm animals.....	4
2. Encourage adoption of balanced diets with a lower proportion of meat	4
3. Promote modern foods	5
4. Move away from grain-based animal production and reducing meat consumption would facilitate a shift to regenerative agriculture	5
5. Move to 'health-oriented systems' for rearing animals	5
6. Develop policies that provide everyone with access to affordable, nutritious food	6
7. Support small-scale farmers in the developing world	6
8. Public information and education	6
9. Labelling	6
10. Better public procurement: taking the lead, setting the standard.....	6
11. Introduce high standards of animal welfare	6
12. Use fiscal measures to reflect negative and positive externalities.....	7
13. Banks should stop financing factory farming.....	7
14. Trade policy reform	7



SECTION 1: OUR CORE POLICIES

Food policy - the way we feed ourselves - has an important bearing on our health, climate change, the environment, animal welfare and the ability to feed future generations.

Industrial livestock production – factory farming – is the norm in many countries. It risks unleashing future pandemics. It harms our health and our antibiotics. It outcompetes small-scale farmers in the developing world, so undermining their livelihoods. Its need for feed crops causes deforestation and destroys wildlife habitats as well as overusing and polluting water, degrading soils, and eroding biodiversity. Yet our ability to feed the growing world population is dependent on the continuing availability of healthy and plentiful land, water, and biodiversity.

A new food and agriculture model is needed to replace the industrial paradigm. The new model should put animals back on the farm instead of in factories, focusing on extensive farming connected to the land, and providing nutritious food in ways that are better for the environment, farmers and animal welfare while safeguarding future food supplies.

Compassion in World Farming calls on the UN and national governments to adopt the following core policies:

- **END FACTORY FARMING: no new industrial farms should be established, and existing ones phased out**
- **MOVE TO REGENERATIVE, AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING: such as pasture-fed, agroforestry, and organic farming**
- **MOVE TO HEALTHY DIETS - REDUCE GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: by eating more plants and less, but better, meat and dairy from higher welfare regenerative and organic farms**
- **ACHIEVE SOCIAL JUSTICE: by supporting small-scale farmers in improving their productivity through regenerative agriculture. Everyone, including the most disadvantaged, must have access to nutritious food**
- **ADOPT A GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: to end factory farming and diets high in livestock products in favour of a regenerative food system combined with lower consumption of meat and dairy. Only through such an agreement can food and farming play their urgently needed role in addressing the world's growing health, climate, and environmental challenges.**



SECTION 2: DETAILING AND DELIVERING OUR POLICIES

WE CALL ON THE UN & NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

1. End the use of human-edible grain and soy to feed farm animals

40-45% of global cereals are used to feed animals; they convert them very inefficiently into meat and milk.^{i ii iii iv v} Using grain as animal feed is a wasteful use, not just of these crops, but of the scarce land, water and energy used to grow them. **A substantial reduction in the use of grain to feed animals would enhance resource-efficiency and food security** as more people are fed when scarce arable land is used to grow food for people rather than feed for animals.

Industrial livestock's huge demand for feed has fuelled the intensification of crop production which, with its use of monocultures and agro-chemicals, has led to overuse and pollution of ground- and surface-water,^{vi} soil degradation,^{vii viii} biodiversity loss^{ix} and air pollution.^x

USDA data shows that 99% of global soymeal is used as animal feed; 82% is used for industrial pigs and poultry.^{xi} Industrial livestock's huge demand for soy, plus a growth in cattle ranching, has led to the expansion of farmland into forests.

Studies show that livestock only enhance food security when they convert materials that we cannot consume – grass, by-products, food waste, crop residues - into food we can eat.^{xii xiii} **The use of human-edible grain and soy as animal feed should be halved by 2030 and be reduced by 75% by 2035.** The emphasis should instead be placed on:

- **raising animals on extensive pastures:** Extensively reared cattle and sheep convert grass into food that we can eat efficiently when grazed on land that is not suitable for other forms of food production. Crucially, no new land must be converted into ruminant pastures. Silvo-pastoral systems which, in addition to grass, provide shrubs and trees with edible leaves and shoots can increase meat and milk yields per animal and per hectare;
- **integrated crop/livestock production:** The link between animals and the land should be restored through mixed rotational farming. Here animals are fed on pasture, crop residues and forage crops grown on the farm and their manure fertilises the land, rather than being a pollutant;
- **pigs and poultry are nature's great foragers and recyclers:** Most pigs and poultry today are factory farmed. They should instead be kept outdoors and farmed in far fewer numbers, where much of their diet can come from pasture and foraging, by-products, cull vegetables and fruit, as well as unwanted bakery products and properly treated unavoidable food waste. Already, some farmers are able to provide 70% of their pigs' feed in these ways.

2. Encourage adoption of balanced diets with a lower proportion of meat

This would deliver health benefits by reducing the incidence of heart disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers. Studies show that a **substantial global reduction in consumption of meat and dairy is essential if we are to meet the Paris climate targets.**^{xiv xv}

The consumption of meat (including fish), milk and eggs from farmed animals should be reduced by at least 50% - in high-consuming nations by 2035 and globally by 2050. The Planetary Health Diet proposed by the EAT-Lancet report recommends per capita consumption of no more than an



average of 300g of red meat/poultry and 200g of fish per week for a diet that is both healthy and environmentally sustainable.^{xvi xvii} This would enable some people in poor countries to increase their consumption, while requiring many consumers in the developed world to substantially reduce their consumption.

3. Promote modern foods

As livestock production decreases, some consumers will turn to meat analogues based on plants that resemble meat in flavour, texture, and appearance. Cultured meat and precision fermentation are also poised to replace a high proportion of traditional meat. Cultured meat is made from cells collected from an animal which are then grown in a culture medium.

Precision fermentation entails programming micro-organisms to produce complex organic molecules. It is based on the same symbiotic relationship formed over millions of years between the cow and the microbes in her gut, only without the cow. It is based on the idea that microbes can be programmed to produce specific building blocks of food without any need for an animal.

Governments should support the development of such foods as these eliminate the risk of pandemics and antibiotics resistance associated with industrial animal agriculture and their production uses much less cropland, water, and energy than livestock.^{xviii xix} Governments should ensure that unnecessary regulatory barriers do not impede the market entry of such alternative proteins.

4. Move away from grain-based animal production and reducing meat consumption would facilitate a shift to regenerative agriculture

Regenerative farming minimises the use of agro-chemicals, while enhancing yields and boosting farmer livelihoods in developing countries – it does so by supporting and harnessing natural processes.

Regenerative agriculture is able to:

- **Rebuild soil fertility:** by the use of cover crops, composts, animal manure, rotations and legumes which are able to fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil. Enhanced soil structure minimises erosion while improving water retention, soil biodiversity and carbon storage;
- **Conserve water:** by improving the water-retention in healthier soils;
- **Restore biodiversity:** by farming in harmony with nature in ways that provide food and habitat for wildlife, including farmland birds, as well as pollinators and other beneficial insects;
- **Minimise the use of pesticides through Integrated Pest Management:** This allows the natural enemies of pests to thrive and develops healthy soils which can support strong plants that are better able to resist disease and pest attacks. The use of rotations can impede the build-up of pathogens and pests that often occurs when the same plants are continuously cropped.

5. Move to 'health-oriented systems' for rearing animals

Globally, around 70% of all antibiotics are used in farm animals.^{xx} Industrial production depends on the routine use of antibiotics to prevent the diseases that are inevitable when animals are kept in crowded, stressful conditions. To prevent future pandemics and save our antibiotics, we need to move to 'health-oriented' systems for rearing animals in which good health is inherent in the farming system, rather than being propped up by routine use of antibiotics.

Such systems would avoid overcrowding, stress and large herd and flock size. They would ensure that animals can perform their natural behaviours, provide good air quality, and avoid the use of



animals selected for excessive yields and growth rates as these are vulnerable to metabolic and immunological problems.

6. Develop policies that provide everyone with access to affordable, nutritious food

Generally, the poorer people are, the worse their diet, and the more diet-related diseases they suffer from. Social policies should ensure that everyone can access nutritious food. A report by the *International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems* stresses that “cheap calories can no longer be a substitute for social policies, which must be rebuilt and redesigned to tackle the root causes of poverty and promote access to healthy food for all”.^{xxi}

One radical approach would be to create a *National Food Service*. This could provide healthy food – such as local, seasonal fruit and vegetables – free of charge to those on low incomes. Such food would be available at retailers who would receive the price for the food from the government. The cost of such a scheme could be paid for out of taxes levied on unhealthy food and would be partially recouped by reduced healthcare costs and the benefit to farmers of being able to supply more high-quality food.

7. Support small-scale farmers in the developing world

The former Director-General of the FAO highlighted the danger of small-scale livestock farmers being “pushed aside by expanding large capital-intensive operations”.^{xxii} Smallholder farmers must be helped to increase their productivity through regenerative agriculture which can increase yields while reviving degraded land. They should be helped to provide improved healthcare and nutrition for their animals through better disease prevention and the cultivation of fodder crops such as legumes. Better animal health and nutrition result in increased productivity and longevity. This will improve smallholders’ purchasing power, making them better able to buy the food that they do not produce themselves and to have money available for other essentials such as education and health care.

8. Public information and education

Programmes are needed to increase public awareness of the implications of different livestock farming methods and consumption levels for human health, the environment, food security and animal welfare. This would be in line with SDG 12.8 which provides that people should have “the relevant information for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature”.

9. Labelling

Consumers should be empowered to play a greater part in driving improvements in animal welfare. Mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products as to method of production would enable consumers to make informed choices when buying food.

10. Better public procurement: taking the lead, setting the standard

Public sector bodies should use their buying power to augment the market for food produced to high nutritional, environmental and animal welfare standards. Public bodies’ commitment to quality will help change our attitude to food.

11. Introduce high standards of animal welfare

- **cages and crates should be phased out:** they thwart many of animals’ basic instincts: to roam, to forage, to explore;
- **animals should be kept in outdoor systems:** unless they are housed during winter, or by exception, they should be kept in large barns with ample space, plenty of straw, natural light and effective ventilation;



- **natural behaviours:** husbandry systems must enable animals to express their natural behaviours;
- **genetic selection:** selecting for fast growth or high yields should be avoided where this results in compromised welfare such as ill-health or pain;
- **routine mutilations:** systems should not be used that require routine mutilations.

12. Use fiscal measures to reflect negative and positive externalities

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says: “In many countries there is a worrying disconnect between the retail price of food and the true cost of its production. As a consequence, food produced at great environmental cost in the form of greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, air pollution and habitat destruction, can appear to be cheaper than more sustainably produced alternatives”.^{xxiii}

Industrial livestock production produces a range of costly ‘negative externalities’ including damage to the environment and health. These negative externalities represent a market failure as the costs associated with them are borne by third parties or society as a whole and are not included in the prices paid by farmers for inputs or by the consumers of animal products.

An OECD study reports that policies in 54 of the world’s wealthiest countries provide over US\$ 500 billion in direct support to farmers each year and that much of this is for farming practices that harm the environment.^{xxiv} These huge subsidies should be repurposed to supporting regenerative forms of agriculture.

Farmers producing nutritious food to high environmental and animal welfare standards could benefit from subsidies and an extra tranche of tax-free income, as well as generous capital allowances when calculating net profits for tax purposes. These tax breaks and subsidies could be paid for out of revenue raised by placing taxes on the inputs of industrial agriculture, such as chemical fertilisers and pesticides and feed containing soy and human-edible cereals. Such kinds of feed as well as agro-chemicals are responsible for very substantial damage to the environment and human health.

An International Monetary Fund working paper proposes ‘feebates’ in which fees are charged for environmentally damaging farming practices, while rebates are given to farmers who adopt sustainable practices.^{xxv} For the government, feebates are revenue-neutral; they simply entail a redistribution of money between farmers.

Taxes could be placed on unhealthy, environmentally damaging food produced to low animal welfare standards. Crucially, all revenue raised from taxes on food must be used to subsidise the price of healthy food produced to high environmental and animal welfare standards. There must be no overall increase in the price of food, simply a rebalancing of the relative costs of sustainable and unsustainable food.

13. Banks should stop financing factory farming

International financial institutions and commercial banks provide billions of dollars to finance factory farming. They should end this funding and instead support systems such as regenerative farming, agroecology and agroforestry which can include farmed animals kept outdoors on a rotational basis.

14. Trade policy reform

Trade law can obstruct moves aimed at introducing sustainable and humane food policies, for example by making it difficult for countries to require imports to meet the sustainability standards placed on domestic producers. Reforms are needed to ensure that trade law does not impede



governments that wish to tackle priority issues such as deforestation, biodiversity loss and antibiotics resistance.

-
- ⁱ Pradhan *et al*, 2013. Embodied crop calories in animal products. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 8 (2013) 044044
- ⁱⁱ UNCCD, 2017. Global Land Outlook
- ⁱⁱⁱ Lundqvist, J., de Fraiture, C. Molden, D., 2008. Saving Water: From Field to Fork – Curbing Losses and Wastage in the Food Chain. SIWI Policy Brief. SIWI.
[http://www.siwi.org/documents/Resources/Policy Briefs/PB From Filed to Fork 2008.pdf](http://www.siwi.org/documents/Resources/Policy%20Briefs/PB%20From%20Filed%20to%20Fork%202008.pdf)
- ^{iv} Nellemann, C., MacDevette, M., Manders, et al. (2009) *The environmental food crisis – The environment’s role in averting future food crises*. A UNEP rapid response assessment. United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, www.unep.org/pdf/foodcrisis_lores.pdf
- ^v Berners-Lee *et al*, 2018. Current global food production is sufficient to meet human nutritional needs in 2050 provided there is radical societal adaptation. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 52
- ^{vi} Mekonnen, M. and Hoekstra, A., 2012. A global assessment of the water footprint of farm animal products. *Ecosystems*. DOI: 10.1007/s10021-011-9517-8
- ^{vii} Edmondson, J.L. *et al.*, 2014. Urban cultivation in allotments maintains soil qualities adversely affected by conventional agriculture. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 2014, 51, 880–889
- ^{viii} Tsiafouli, M.A. *et al.*, 2015. Intensive agriculture reduces soil biodiversity across Europe. *Global Change Biology*: 21, p973–985
- ^{ix} World Health Organization and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2015. Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health
- ^x Lelieveld *et al*, 2015. The contribution of outdoor air pollution sources to premature mortality on a global scale. *Nature*, Vol 525
- ^{xi} Food Climate Research Network, 2020. Foodsource Building Block. Soy: food, feed and land use change
- ^{xii} Bajželj B. *et al*, 2014. Importance of food-demand management for climate mitigation. *Nature Climate Change* <http://www.nature.com/doifinder/10.1038/nclimate2353>
- ^{xiii} Schader C *et al.* 2015. Impacts of feeding less food-competing feedstuffs to livestock on global food system sustainability. *J. R. Soc. Interface* 12: 20150891. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2015.0891>
- ^{xiv} Clark *et al*, 2020. Global food system emissions could preclude achieving the 1.5° and 2°C climate change targets. *Science* 370, 705–708
- ^{xv} Springmann *et al*, 2018. Options for keeping the food system within environmental limits. *Nature* <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0594-0>
- ^{xvi} Willett *et al*, 2019. Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31788-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31788-4/fulltext)
- ^{xvii} EAT. Diets for a better future https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2020/07/Diets-for-a-Better-Future_G20_National-Dietary-Guidelines.pdf
- ^{xviii} [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/215666764 Life cycle assessment of cultured meat production#:~:text=Cultured%20meat%20is%20produced%20in%20vitro%20by%20using%20tissue%20engineering%20techniques.&text=Life%20cycle%20assessment%20\(LCA\)%20research,source%20or%20muscle%20cell%20growth](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/215666764_Life_cycle_assessment_of_cultured_meat_production#:~:text=Cultured%20meat%20is%20produced%20in%20vitro%20by%20using%20tissue%20engineering%20techniques.&text=Life%20cycle%20assessment%20(LCA)%20research,source%20or%20muscle%20cell%20growth)
- ^{xix} Tubb, C. & Seba, T., 2019. Rethinking Food and Agriculture 2020-2030: The Second Domestication of Plants and Animals, the Disruption of the Cow, and the Collapse of Industrial Livestock Farming. RethinkX: San Francisco.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/585c3439be65942f022bbf9b/t/5d7fe0e83d119516bfc0017e/1568661791363/RethinkX+Food+and+Agriculture+Report.pdf>
- ^{xx} Boeckel *et al*, 2019. Global trends in antimicrobial resistance in animals in low- and middle-income countries. *Science* 365, 1266 (2019)
- ^{xxi} De Schutter O, 2019. Towards a Common Food Policy for the European Union. *iPES Food*



^{xxii} <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1098231/icode/> Accessed 15 July 2020

^{xxiii} FAO, 2015. Natural capital impacts in agriculture

^{xxiv} OECD, 2020. Agricultural policy monitoring and evaluation 2020

^{xxv} Batini N, Parry I & Wingender P, 2020. Climate Mitigation Policy in Denmark: A Prototype for Other Countries. IMF working paper