

NEWS RELEASE



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GOVERNMENT MUST INCLUDE LIVESTOCK GASES IN CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Leading farm animal welfare organisation Compassion in World Farming today (8 October) called on the Government to adopt the Climate Change Committee's advice that methane and nitrous oxide - the toxic gases associated with livestock production – should be included in the Climate Change Bill, which is currently going through Parliament.

Globally, 18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) are from livestock production. These include nitrous oxide from manure and the mineral fertiliser used to grow animal feed, and methane from the digestive systems of animals and from manure. The UK percentage figure is lower, but of course the climate itself is not geographically restricted, but globally sensitive and with a global impact.

The Climate Change Committee recommends that if and when their proposed 80 per cent reduction in GHG emissions is included in the Climate Change Bill, then it should include these non-CO₂ gases.

Compassion in World Farming is today writing to the new Climate Change Minister, Ed Miliband, asking him to follow the Committee's advice, and even at this late stage, to support an amendment to the Climate Change Bill, so that these gases are included.

Compassion recently hosted a lecture given by Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Speaking from his personal

viewpoint, Dr Pachauri recommended that consumers should reduce their meat consumption in order to lessen their personal impact on global warming.

Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Robert Watson, who was on the panel at Dr Pachauri's lecture, said: "He's absolutely right that the livestock sector does contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions...And we can improve the way we eat in moderation for healthy diet".

Joyce D'Silva, Ambassador for Compassion in World Farming said, "Compassion in World Farming believes that the contribution of livestock farming to global warming has been underplayed. It is vital that the government addresses this issue. There should be no "holy cows" when the future of our planet is at stake. Consumers can play their part by reducing their total meat consumption and buying only welfare-friendly animal products"

Ends

Note to Editors

Compassion in World Farming's report "Global Warning: Climate Change and Farm Animal Welfare" was published earlier this year and the full report and referenced summary are available at www.ciwf.org/globalwarning

For more information or interviews contact

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