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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPASSION WELCOMES CALL FROM MEDICAL JOURNAL TO REDUCE LIVESTOCK

A new report highlighting the climate and human health benefits of reducing meat consumption has been welcomed by leading farm animal welfare charity, Compassion in World Farming. The report from one of the world's leading medical journals, [The Lancet](#), says that reducing adult consumption of animal products by 30% would lead to a 15% reduction in heart disease in the UK.

A particularly welcome key comment from the report states, "Achieving a substantial cut in greenhouse-gas emissions will depend on reducing the production of food from livestock and on technological improvements in farming".

Global livestock production is escalating and is predicted to double from 60 billion to 120 billion farm animals produced a year by mid-Century. Compassion in World Farming sees factory farming as the 'engine-room' of the livestock explosion, enabling large numbers of animals to be reared in small spaces.

New scientific research commissioned by Compassion in World Farming and Friends of the Earth shows that we *can* feed the booming world population sustainably without intensive livestock production, by choosing to eat less meat. The joint report, [Eating the Planet](#), finds that by distributing protein more fairly global health problems can also be tackled.

An urgent move away from consuming large quantities of 'cheap' meat from factory farmed animals, reared in appalling conditions, would not only have benefits for our future climate, but would enable farmers to move toward more humane and sustainable farming methods, like free range.

Philip Lymbery Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming said: "We are calling on policy makers to switch support for factory farming to sustainable and humane animal production methods to mitigate climate change and global nutrition issues as well as reduce animal suffering."

A realistic target for meat and dairy reduction by 2020 would be 30% below current levels. The *Eating the Planet* report recommends that livestock related climate mitigation measures, such as halting deforestation, better fertiliser management and switching to renewable energy sources on farm are taken to help meet the total UK climate target applicable to livestock by 2050 (a reduction to 80% below 2005 levels).

Compassion believes the most effective way to start to bring global livestock-related emissions under control within the next 10 years is a managed reduction in the production and consumption of meat and dairy products in developed countries.

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Notes to editors:

For more about the [Eating the Planet?](#)

To arrange an interview or for more information please contact Rebecca Deeny at Compassion in World Farming on 01483 521973 / 07771 926005 or email rebecca@ciwf.org

More about Compassion:

<http://www.ciwf.org>