

Animal Ag and Climate Summary

- **Animal ag impacts climate change in two ways**
 - CO₂ + methane greenhouse gas production from animals and operations
 - Forrest / biodiversity destruction, aka, “land use change”
- **Animal ag contributes 25% of global GHG production**
 - 13% from operations
 - 12% from change in land use
- **We have run out of land available to support animal agriculture**
 - Land can store far more carbon if allowed to grow forest or its native vegetation
 - The only way to get more, is to destroy rainforests; already destroyed 40%
 - Current growth rate for animal consumption = 88% by 2050
 - ...this equals destroying another ~30% of rainforests by 2050...if we're lucky.
- **Reducing methane has a very rapid payback because it breaks down 10–20 times faster than CO₂!**

Source: https://wriorg.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/creating-sustainable-food-future_2.pdf

Reality

- “If global trends in meat and dairy intake continue, global mean temperature rise will more than likely exceed 2°C, even with dramatic emissions reductions across non-agricultural sectors.
- Immediate and substantial reductions in wasted food and meat and dairy intake, particularly ruminant meat (e.g., beef and lamb), are imperative to mitigating catastrophic climate change.
- The urgency of these interventions is not represented in negotiations for climate change mitigation.”

Source: <https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/index.html>