

## THE MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRIES ARE THE LEADING CONTRIBUTORS OF GREEN HOUSE GASES

- (1) According to a report released November 2006 by the United Nations, the meat and dairy industry “generates 65 per cent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of CO<sub>2</sub>. Most of this comes from manure. And it accounts for respectively 37 per cent of all human-induced methane (23 times as warming as CO<sub>2</sub>), which is largely produced by the digestive system of ruminants, and 64 per cent of ammonia, which contributes significantly to acid rain.” The report also notes that Live stock now use 30% of the earths land surface, which greatly contributes to overgrazing. 70% of former forest in the Amazon of have been destroyed to be used by these industries.
- (2) The Clean Water Act specifically exempted agriculture. According to the Environmental Protection Agency “291,000 miles of assessed rivers and streams do not meet water quality standards”. The number one cause listed was “agriculture run off”. In simpler terms, animal feces and pesticides are contaminating our water ways.
- (3) According to an article published by TIME Magazine, “To produce 1 lb. of feedlot beef requires 7 lbs. of feed grain, which takes 7,000 lbs. of water to grow. Pass up one hamburger, and you'll save as much water as you save by taking 40 showers with a low-flow nozzle.” It also notes, “India, China, North Africa and the U.S. are all running freshwater deficits, pumping more from their aquifers than rain can replenish.”

How can you make a difference?

**Go Vegan!**

In addition to taking simple precautions, you can further your environmentalist efforts by adopting a vegan diet. A well planned vegan diet is better for your health, the animals, and of course the environment. For more information please visit [VeganOutreach.org](http://VeganOutreach.org) or send an email to [javierhidalgo@vegpress.com](mailto:javierhidalgo@vegpress.com) to discuss these issues.

### Resources

- 1) The United Nations. Food and Agriculture Organization. Livestock's Long Shadow. 2006.
- 2) United States. EPA. National Water Quality Inventory: 1998 Report to Congress. USA: GPO, 1998.
- 3) Ayres, Ed. "Will We Still Eat Meat?" Time Magazine 09 Nov 1999 13 Apr 2008  
<[http://www.time.com/time/reports/v21/health/meat\\_mag.html](http://www.time.com/time/reports/v21/health/meat_mag.html)>.