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### The Animal-Agriculture Industry and its Environmental Impact

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# How Has the Animal Agriculture Industry Quietly Contributed to Climate Change?

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JUST-280G

## Top 35 Companies

- Reporting
  - Only 19/35 of the largest animal agriculture companies provided reports on their greenhouse gas emissions
  - Emissions will only increase, as projections show meat consumption will grow by 73% by 2050
  - Emissions numbers could be even higher than reported as the methodology used to estimate livestock emissions was created by the same companies being reported on
- Political Action
  - climate change counter-movement
- Emissions
  - Companies report that 90% of their emissions come from production activities rather than processing or other supply chain points
  - Mitigation attempts
  - Emissions compared to country totals
  - Only 7/16 countries where top 35 are located make explicit mention of indirect or direct emissions of animal agriculture in climate commitments

## US Companies

- Top 5 dairy producing companies in the US exceed Exxon Mobil in combined emissions
- 9 of largest 10 in the US represent 6% of total US emissions, increasing to 9% in 2025 if US complies with NDC
- Political Influence
  - lobbying
  - Political Candidates
- Public Opinion
  - Transparency
  - Sway Public Opinion

## Why Do We Eat Meat?

- The Meat Made us Human hypothesis
- Belief that meat is healthier than plant based diet

## Conclusion

The animal-agriculture industry is one of the highest greenhouse gas-emitting industries, rivaling other industries such as oil and gas. Despite the negative impacts that the industry has on the environment, there is limited regulation as companies lobby governments to exclude them from climate legislation and allow them to continue their practices. The industry ensures that the public does not know the true impact it has on the destruction of the environment and pushes the idea that eating meat is necessary to be healthy and a part of human nature. Corporations trick the general public into thinking that capitalism is human nature and that those who do not conform are outsiders and rightly ridiculed, such as vegans and vegetarians are mocked by meat eaters.

## GLOBAL EMISSIONS

