

## INTRODUCTION

In 2000, the International Food Policy Research Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Livestock Research Institute published *Livestock to 2020*.

The report projects a 65% and 87% expansion in worldwide consumption of meat and milk by year 2020, with 84% of that expansion will occur in developing countries.

To accommodate the projected increase in demand for animal products, the report predicts the increased use of western-style intensive farming systems (also known as factory farming).

To reduce the negative consequences of increased meat consumption, *2020* recommends promoting small-scale agriculture, biotechnology and population control.

In line with standard development recommendations, *Livestock to 2020* avoids advocating a reduction in global meat or dairy consumption as it is considered a demand-driven "given."

*Promoting more just, comprehensive and sustainable solutions, Well-Fed World expands the dialogue to more thoroughly consider the benefits of reducing meat consumption (and other animal products), in industrialized and developing countries.*

Reduced meat consumption will drastically increase plant-based food availability, while reducing prices of primary grains, soy and other "feed" (as global demand decreases). Reduced meat consumption also protects the land, air and water. Of note, reduced meat consumption will reduce global warming and its consequences.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

### Hunger

#### Well-Fed World

[www.wellfedworld.org](http://www.wellfedworld.org)

#### Eat Less Meat (CIWF)

[eatlessmeat.org](http://eatlessmeat.org)

#### Global Hunger Alliance

[globalhunger.net](http://globalhunger.net)

#### Worldwatch Institute

[worldwatch.org](http://worldwatch.org)

#### Center for a Livable Future (JHU)

[jhspf.edu/clf](http://jhspf.edu/clf)

#### Food for Life Global (direct relief)

[ffl.org](http://ffl.org)

### Health

#### Physicians Comm. Responsible Med.

[pcrm.org](http://pcrm.org)

#### 5-a-Day

[5aday.org](http://5aday.org)

### Environment & Animals

#### Bite Global Warming

[biteglobalwarming.org](http://biteglobalwarming.org)

#### Grace

[factoryfarm.org](http://factoryfarm.org)

#### Sierra Club

[sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/](http://sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/)

#### FARM (Farm Animal Reform Movement)

[farmusa.org](http://farmusa.org)

### WELL-FED WORLD

promoting sustainable, plant-based solutions

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# FEEDING THE WORLD TO 2020



*Contrasting Livestock  
&  
Plant-Based Positions*

# DEMAND FOR MEAT

## LIVESTOCK POSITION

- Given sufficient economic resources, people *naturally* choose meat and dairy.
- Demand for meat and milk will rise by 87% and 65% by 2020 (2000 baseline).
- 84% of the increase for meat and milk will occur in developing nations.
- The major reasons are increases in population, urbanization, and affluence.
- Vertically integrated intensive farming systems will be used to meet the demand. Small-scale production should be encouraged to offset the negative consequences of intensive farming.

## PLANT-BASED POSITION

- ▲ Diet preferences are not fixed. Social traditions, economic circumstances and government policies mold preferences.
- ▲ Public education campaigns and subsidies should promote healthy, varied diets centered on fresh fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains.
- ▲ Food policy should be strategic in the interest of the public health, not steered by profit-maximizing commercial interests or political maneuvering.
- ▲ Increased awareness of the health, animal welfare, and environmental consequences of meat, combined with the increased availability of viable alternatives, will reduce demand for meat.
- ▲ Decreasing livestock production will decrease grain prices, thus increasing the availability of it and other food staples.

# USE OF RESOURCES

## LIVESTOCK POSITION

- Livestock provide income and assets to the poor.
- Draft power provides labor assistance and manure increases soil fertility.
- Waste will be handled by regulations and pollution control technology.

## PLANT-BASED POSITION

- ▲ The income and farming benefits that may be received with small-scale agriculture are lost with factory farming.
- ▲ Factory farmed livestock are not owned by the poor so they do *not* provide income or assets.
- ▲ Factory farmed animals do *not* provide draft power because they are confined in buildings.
- ▲ Manure is fertilizer only in small portions. The intensive land-to-animal ratios of factory farming turn manure into poison for the ground, water and air.
- ▲ Livestock contribute more pollutants to waterways than all other human activities combined.
- ▲ Regulation of farm discharges has proven inadequate in the US and is less reliable in developing countries.

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# SUMMARY

## LIVESTOCK POSITION

- Meat production and consumption is demand-driven. We should find the best method of meeting increased future demand by investing in biotechnology (to increase output), and working to limit population growth (to reduce demand).

## PLANT-BASED POSITION

- ▲ Animals are inefficient converters of food. Livestock provide only a small fraction of calories, protein and nutrients compared to plant-based options.
- ▲ The development, hunger/poverty alleviation and nutrition communities should embrace the benefits of plant-based solutions for improved health, higher food yields and environmental sustainability.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Encourage reduced meat and milk consumption in the industrialized countries to free up grains and legumes to feed people directly.
- ✓ Promote food self-sufficiency in developing countries through training in sustainable crop cultivation techniques.
- ✓ Promote nutrition, health and reproductive empowerment, and girl's education in developing countries.
- ✓ Regulate international agricultural trade policies that harm developing countries. Substitute free trade with fair trade.