

It is obviously not practical to expect the entire human species to turn vegan overnight. Not every human has yet had the opportunity to grasp how urgently the Earth needs us to make this change. But ultimately, nothing less than the complete abolition of animal agriculture will do the trick, and the sooner we all we accept this, the better our chances of survival.

Jenny Goldie (Canberra Times 1/1/19) suggests that we can address the impacts of livestock grazing on Earth's climate simply by reducing the amount of methane sheep and cattle belch during rumination. The public should understand that greenhouse gas emissions from ruminants are less than half the problem posed for Earth's climate by animal agriculture. The bigger issue is the land used for raising livestock, not just the land used to pasture them but also the cropland where crops are grown exclusively to feed livestock.

Every bit of this land that is not needed to grow plant crops to feed humans (and any animals who remain in our care once we stop exploiting them), needs to be revegetated to restore greenhouse gas sinks and wildlife habitat. Even land that is so badly abused by human overuse that it will no longer grow anything, can be used for generation of electricity from the sun and wind.

All this is necessary, and it is doable. All it needs is the public and political will.

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