



January 29, 2020

Rachel Bronson, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Dear Dr. Bronson,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, following the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' decision to move the hands of the Doomsday Clock forward, reflecting increasing concerns about climate change. We thank you for calling attention to this critical issue. Since the United Nations has stated that a global shift toward vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change, we encourage you to consider the effects that animal agriculture has on the environment (let alone on animals and human health) and set an example by going vegan. Please also consider recommending that Americans eat less meat and encourage leaders to do the same or go as far as mandating restrictions on meat consumption or meat taxes. As we do with anyone interested in this important issue, we stand ready to provide you with resources, encouragement, and tips to make the switch to a vegan lifestyle.

The link between climate change and animal agriculture has been extensively documented. A recent analysis of the food system's impact on the environment found that massive reductions in meat consumption are essential to avoid dangerous climate change, including cutting beef consumption by 90% and dairy milk consumption by 60% in Western countries. Globally, the average person will need to eat 75% less beef, 90% less pork, and half the number of eggs. In fact, meat production has such a devastating effect on all aspects of our environment that the Union of Concerned Scientists lists meat-eating as the second-biggest environmental hazard facing the Earth.

When land is used to raise animals instead of crops, precious water and soil are lost, trees are cut down to clear land for grazing or factory-farm sheds, and untreated animal waste pollutes rivers and streams. Meat, dairy, and egg production is unsustainable. When it comes to land usage, it's 18 times more efficient to produce a plant-based chicken alternative than to raise flesh-and-blood chickens. Thankfully, there is also an endless variety of healthy and eco- and animal-friendly vegetables, fruits, grains, and legumes. A recent study by the University of Oxford found that eliminating animal products can reduce a person's food carbon footprint by 73%, and if everyone went vegan, global land use could be reduced by 75%.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the animal agriculture sector is responsible for nearly a fifth (18%) of human-induced greenhouse-gas emissions. In nearly every step of meat, egg, and milk production, climate-changing gases are released into the atmosphere, potentially disrupting weather patterns and ecosystems.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.

1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Oakland

554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Foundation (U.K.)
- PETA Asia-Pacific
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands

We all have the power to help protect the planet by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that our diets contribute to climate change by up to 60% simply by choosing delicious vegan foods. With all the scrumptious choices widely available at supermarkets and restaurants nationwide, there's no reason to keep eating foods made with animal-derived products. Please let me know if I can assist in any way. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President