

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a member of various animal rights, and environmental activist groups, I wanted to outline the main bullet points that I (and the groups I work with) want to see incorporated and actioned upon in the scoping report stage of the CAP review process. Please find below 10 of the most important points that I expect to be taken into consideration in the scoping process, and later stages, to be enacted in the revised CAP.

1) As animal agriculture is proven to be the second leading cause of climate change, (more than ALL transport combined) and is second only to the fossil fuel energy industry when it comes to the emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH<sub>4</sub> (Methane), and N<sub>2</sub>O (Nitrous Oxide). The most important GHGs from animal agriculture are methane and nitrous oxide. These are among the more potent GHGs: one molecule of methane will trap 21 times more heat than carbon dioxide, while one molecule of nitrous oxide will trap 310 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

It is therefore crucial that, not just on an EU level, but globally, we move away from, and eventually eliminate animal agriculture entirely.

2) Water quality needs to be addressed by eliminating animal agriculture, which is the number one cause of water pollution, with the run-off from animal agriculture farms being the cause of the massive increase of the extinction rates of life in the rivers and seas. Animal agriculture is the leading cause of ocean dead zones, and since the life in the oceans is shown to absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> than all the forests in the globe, it is a crucial necessity that the life in the seas and oceans is not only preserved, but improved and encouraged to flourish.

3) Ireland used to be 95% forested centuries ago, with a temperate rain forest habitat before the country was invaded, and the trees were cleared by successive British invaders to control the land, and force the local Irish to provide food for Great Britain.

It's clear that such a habitat is unlikely to ever exist in Ireland again, but there needs to be a move to encourage much of the cleared agricultural land to be allowed to return to forest. Forestry is not only a valuable industry, but is the exact opposite of animal agriculture insofar as it absorbs and stores CO<sub>2</sub> from the environment, rather than contributing to it.

Ireland also has a perfect climate for growing hemp, which is an even more lucrative crop than forestry, and far more efficient as it takes only 1 acre of hemp to produce the same amount of paper as 4 acres of trees, doesn't involve as many environmentally damaging chemicals in the paper making process, and results in a far higher quality and much more durable paper. Hemp should be adopted and encouraged in Ireland (and the EU generally), along with the increase in forestry.

4) Along with the destruction of woodlands and forests to make way for animal agriculture, it is also responsible for the threat to native fauna. In particular the threat to native bees could in the future herald the end of farming as we know it, and lead directly to food scarcity, even famine. Farmers (both animal and plant based) need to be encouraged and paid grants to allow them adopt farming methods that protect native fauna and native pollinators like bees. Hedgerows need to be protected, and areas of the farms need to be allowed to be left fallow so that grasses and native flowers can provide natural corridors for the bees and other animals to travel and feed in. This requires grants that cover the farmer's loss of earnings by leaving say 10% of the farm to be 'wild'.

5) Farmers (and their livelihoods) should be supported to switch from the massively polluting and damaging animal agriculture industry to plant based agriculture. This needs to be achieved by firstly removing all of the massive subsidies for animal agriculture which only encourages over-production and breeding of animals (who as pointed out in points 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are responsible for climate change, deforestation, water pollution, species extinction, habitat loss and ocean dead zones), and instead encouraging environmentally friendly plant based farming or forestry by giving those industries generous subsidies, and also by providing grants to help animal farmers train and switch machinery to the different plant based (and environmentally friendly) form of farming.

6) Food waste is a massive problem, as it takes a huge amount of energy, water and resources, and results in a huge amount of pollution and GHG emissions to produce the food. So if the food goes to waste, and ends up uneaten and thrown in the bin (either compost bin - or worse still landfill) it has been a complete waste of all the farmers time, effort and all the mentioned resources.

It is crucial that the CAP is overhauled and changes are effected to discourage farmers from over-producing foods that are not needed. Supermarkets also play a massive role, and need to be discouraged from practices such as 'Buy two get one free' resulting in them dumping huge volumes of perfectly safe and edible food daily.

7) As the consumption of foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol (amongst other nasties), and which almost exclusively exists in animal flesh and secretions, is the leading cause of 8 of the top 10 dietary killers such as heart disease, various cancers, diabetes, osteoporosis, and brain diseases like dementia amongst many others, whereas a whole food plant based diet is proven to be the only diet to reverse heart disease and unclog arteries without surgical treatment, and reduce the chance of getting cancer, and if it does occur to reduce the chance of dying from it, the CAP needs to develop a farming and food production model based on human health that will encourage cheaper plant based foods, and discourage (maybe through highly taxing) animal based 'foods' as well as other unhealthy foods like highly manufactured and 'fast foods.'

8) Human hunger is a huge problem. Because animal agriculture is so massively inefficient compared to plant based farming, for eg it takes up to 16kg of feed to produce a mere 1kg of dismembered cow flesh, when those 16kg of plant foods could have gone to feed humans directly. Millions of humans are poor and go hungry every day, but no so called 'livestock' nonhuman animals ever went to sleep hungry. Instead of wasting resources feeding innocent nonhuman animals to be sent to a brutal murder so their dismembered bodies can be consumed, feed the healthy, environmentally friendly plant based foods to the population instead.

The only reason unhealthy animal flesh and secretions are so readily available is because of the subsidies (mentioned in point 5) which need to be switched to make healthy whole food plant based options cheaper and more attractive for the consumer.

9) Covid19 has demonstrated clearly the massive risks involved in animal agriculture, as like many of history's other zoonotic diseases, they resulted from human exploitation of nonhuman animals.

Animal agriculture has resulted in humans clearing more and more land to produce animals to feed a growing demand for their flesh and secretions. But, as point 8 points out, it's a massively inefficient system of food production, and clearing land only encourages more and more interaction between so called 'livestock' nonhuman animals, and free-living or 'wildlife' nonhuman animals.

It's only a matter of time before the cramped conditions of factory farms causes a mutation in a virus that is not only easily transmissible, but highly deadly.

Also, animal agriculture, due to the unsanitary, cramped and awful unhealthy conditions in factory farms, means that farmers routinely dose their nonhuman animals with anti-biotics. This means that the anti-biotic resistant strains of bacteria are becoming ever more numerous. At the rate we are progressing (or should I say regressing) within our lifetimes humanity will return to an era where medicines such as antibiotics are useless, and all medical procedures and surgeries will again become life threatening. Even a simple cut on the skin, if infected could again be fatal, thanks to the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture.

10) Animal rights, and not animal welfare, are also sadly lacking in farming. All animal agriculture is based on the premise that it is acceptable to use an innocent nonhuman animal, in any way up to and including their violent and brutal murder, when they do not consent to it.

Terms peddled to the public like 'humane slaughter', 'cage free', 'organic' are all a lie. They are nothing more than marketing terms designed to make the consumer feel better about their choices, and in reality does absolutely zero for the wishes of the innocent and non-consenting nonhuman animals.

Animal agriculture needs to be entirely abolished eventually, for the sake of the innocent nonhuman animals, and the sake of the environment and planet.

Thank you for considering the bullet points that I have laid out. If you have any further questions, or would like me to help by clarifying any of these points, then please do not hesitate to contact me, and I will gladly help you with your request.

Looking forward to a favourable response, and to seeing the points I raised enacted upon.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]