

Climate Change, Economic Justice & Farmed Animal Welfare

Worldwide, more than 70 billion fellow land creatures and up to 7 trillion sea animals are killed for food each year! Almost all of the animals raised for food in the U.S. come from industrial farm animal production, a system known as “factory farming” or “concentrated animal feeding operations” (CAFOs). This system seeks to produce animal products as cheaply as possible and in the least amount of time and space, creating **conditions that are harmful to the animals, to the environment and to already marginalized communities.**

CLIMATE CHANGE

How we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used.

WENDELL BERRY

The world's largest user of land resources is livestock raised for the production of meat and milk. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' report on livestock's impact on climate change, states that animal agriculture, "currently amounts to about 14.5% of the global warming effect - an even larger contribution than the transportation sector worldwide." In addition to gasses expelled by cows themselves, this percentage also includes producing feed crops, the massive amount of manure by animals and deforestation for crops and pasture. Given that the majority of the global

poor rely on the agriculture sector for food and economic security, global climate change disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous and other marginalized people, and especially women.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

With respect to human impact, industrial agriculture disproportionately harms Black, Indigenous, and poor people in the US and Indigenous and poor people globally. From the placement of CAFO's to the conditions that factory farm and slaughterhouse workers are subjected to, "it is clear that *environmental practices are always racialized and racializing practices are always environmental.*" ~Christopher Carter

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

PSALM. 36:5-6

- Factory farms are disproportionately located in black and brown communities and in regions of poverty.
- Factory farms create pollution and waste which threaten the health of workers, nearby residents, and ecosystems.
- Many slaughterhouse workers are people of color and/or people living in low-income communities. Some workers are undocumented leaving them even more vulnerable to unjust conditions.
- Rural communities, the very places our food is grown, make up 63% of counties in the US and 78% of counties with the highest rates of overall food insecurity.
- In the developing world, women are the foundation of the agricultural economy, even though they receive only a fraction of the land, training, economic support and agricultural training as men.

Adapted from Christopher Carter's "Food Ethics in Practice" presentation.

CreatureKind's mission is to encourage Christians to recognize faith-based reasons for caring about the wellbeing of fellow animal creatures used for food, and to take practical action in response. Our core message is that we are CreatureKind together with other animals, and ought to be CreatureKind in how we treat them.

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ADVOCACY

There are so many ways you can make a difference!

Whether you are just starting your CreatureKind journey or have understood the effects of factory farming on animals, workers, and the environment for decades—whether you have five minutes to spare or are looking for in-depth engagement—there's a way to participate in the CreatureKind Mission. **Click on the links below for more information or check out our website under the "Resources," and "Partner With Us" tabs!**

For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.

PSALM 50:10-11

1 Sign the CreatureKind Commitment!

If you have already begun to take action for animals, or you plan to start now, take just a moment to add your name to our pledge alongside other Christians who are concerned about farmed animal welfare.

2 Lead the 6-Week CreatureKind Course!

Through videos, short readings, and lots of dialogue, the CreatureKind Course for Churches encourages Christians to consider what we believe about God's creatures and how we might move toward living out those beliefs as members of the body of Christ.

3 Run the Friendly Food Challenge!

Explore faith-based reasons for caring about the wellbeing of animals with fellow students, faculty and staff, and encourage animal-free meals on your campus with this toolkit.

4 Become a CreatureKind Affiliate!

CreatureKind Affiliates are teams of two or more people who are working to raise awareness of farmed animal welfare issues in their communities. Commit to 2-3 actions each year from our suggested list or create your own.

5 Join our Clergy or Advocates Zoom Calls!

Sign up for these calls to connect with other Christians working to mobilize their communities and congregations for farmed animal welfare.

The first law of our being is that we are set in a delicate network of interdependence with our fellow human beings and with the rest of God's creation.

ARCHBISHOP
DESMOND TUTU

Contact us: www.becreaturekind.org
Let us help you put your ethics into practice!

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