



United Nations Report Cites Livestock as the Major Contributor to Global Warming

The Food and Agricultural Organization's 400-page report, entitled "Livestock's Long Shadow," published December 11, 2006, holds livestock raised for human consumption as responsible for 18% of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, more than cars, planes and all other forms of transport put together. Of all animal foods, the report identifies the world's rapidly growing herds of cattle, and the pollution they produce, as the greatest threat to the climate, forests and wildlife, from producing acid rain to creating deserts, and dead zones in the oceans, from poisoning rivers and drinking water to destroying coral reefs. Dairy cows also soak up vast amounts of precious water: it takes 990 quarts of water to produce one quart of milk. The report concludes that, unless drastic changes are made, the massive damage done by livestock will more than double by 2050 as demand for meat and dairy products increases.

Source: EarthSave News, December 2006, the newsletter of EarthSave International, www.EarthSave.org