



Animal Agriculture and Environmental Protection: A Multi-Jurisdictional Legislative Review



Speakers



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Manitoba, Director of the
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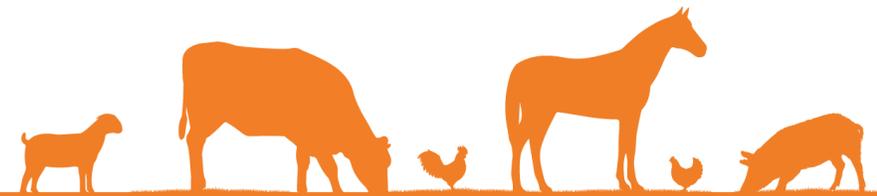


Moderator
Holly Lake,
Freelance journalist and
lawyer





Transitioning to a humane and sustainable food system



Lynn Kavanagh, Farming Campaign Manager

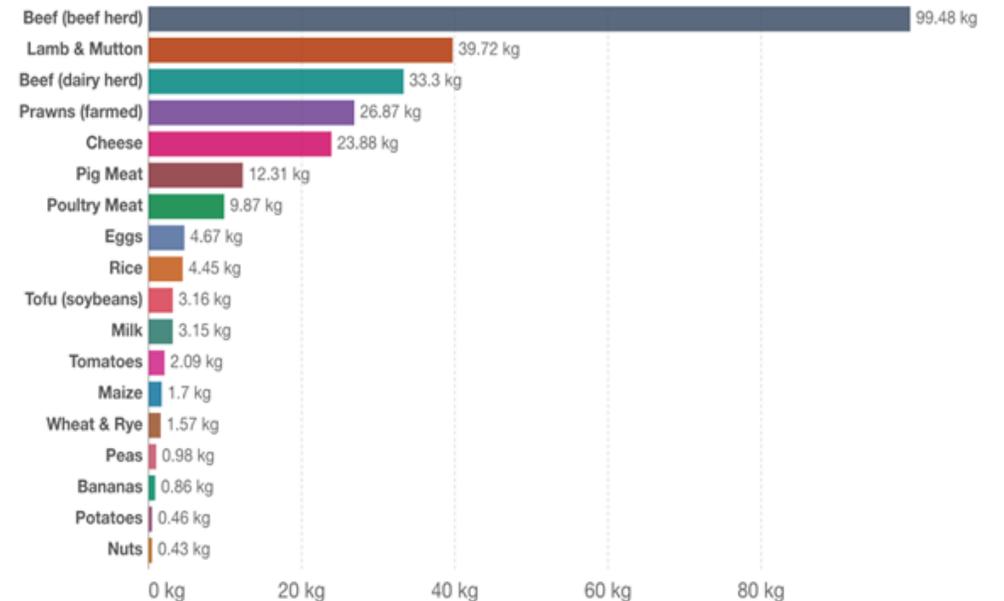
Impacts of intensive animal agriculture



- Environmental – pollution, climate change
- Public health – antimicrobial resistance (AMR) & & pandemic threats
- Animal welfare

Greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of food product

Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents (kgCO₂eq) per kilogram of food product. This means non-CO₂ greenhouse gases are included and weighted by their relative warming impact.



Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY

Overarching goal - 'No Future for Factory Farming'



- Advocate for higher welfare farming systems
- Phase out antibiotic use in farm animals
- Promote meat reduction and increased plant-based consumption and production



Advocacy approach



- Research
- External communications
- Government lobbying and private sector engagement
- Public education and grassroots mobilizing

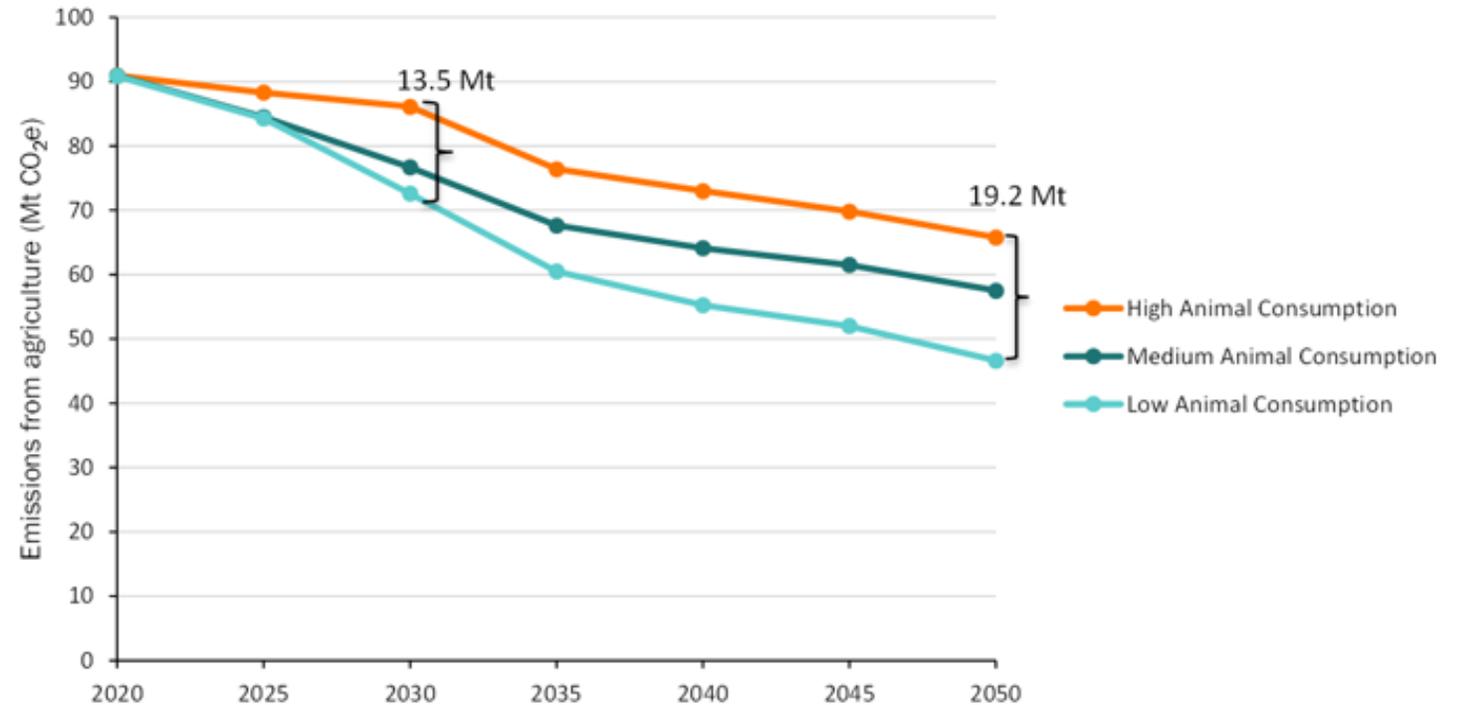


Dietary shifts and Canada's climate targets



Part I: Animal-sourced food consumption and Canada's emissions targets

Report Prepared for World Animal Protection Canada

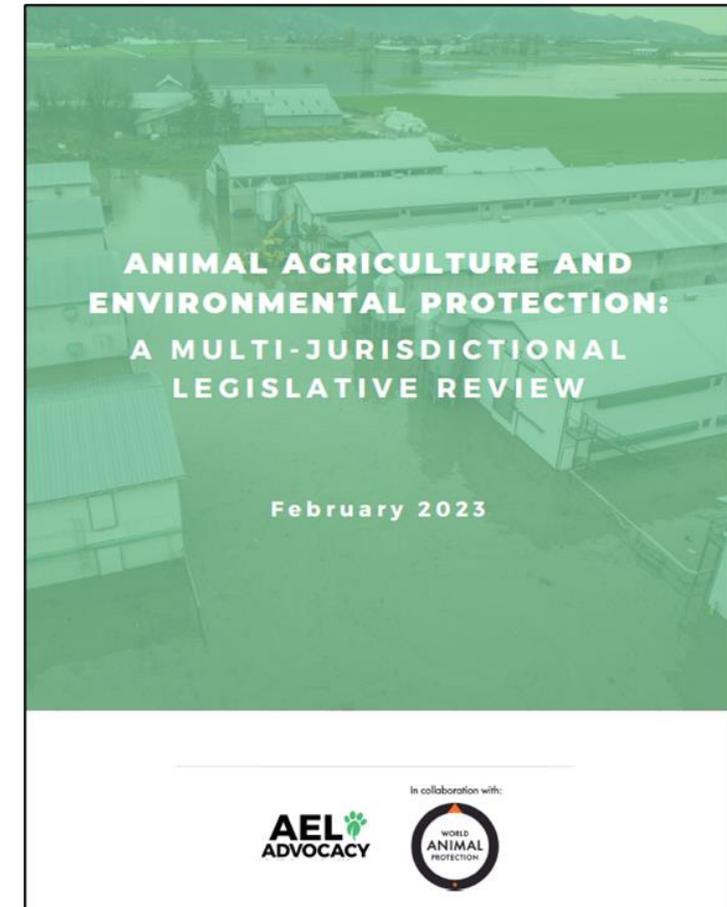
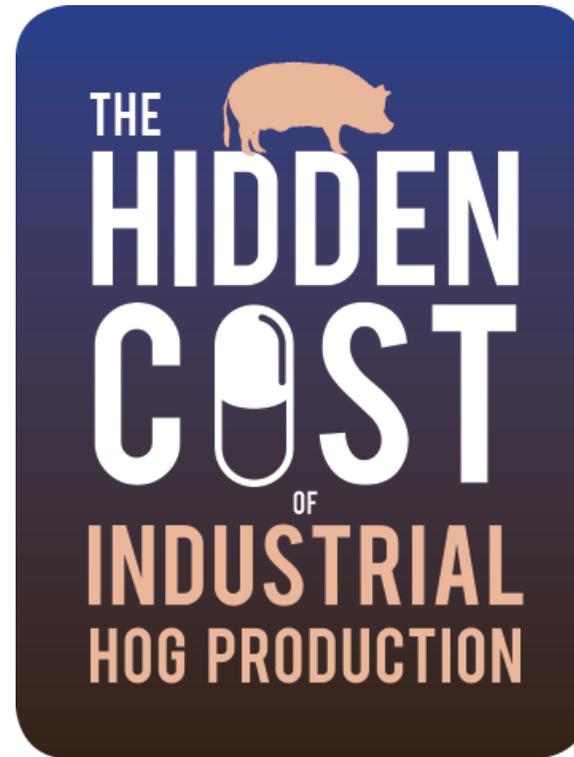


Education and grassroots mobilizing



Silent superbug killers in a river near you

How factory farms contaminate public
water courses on three continents





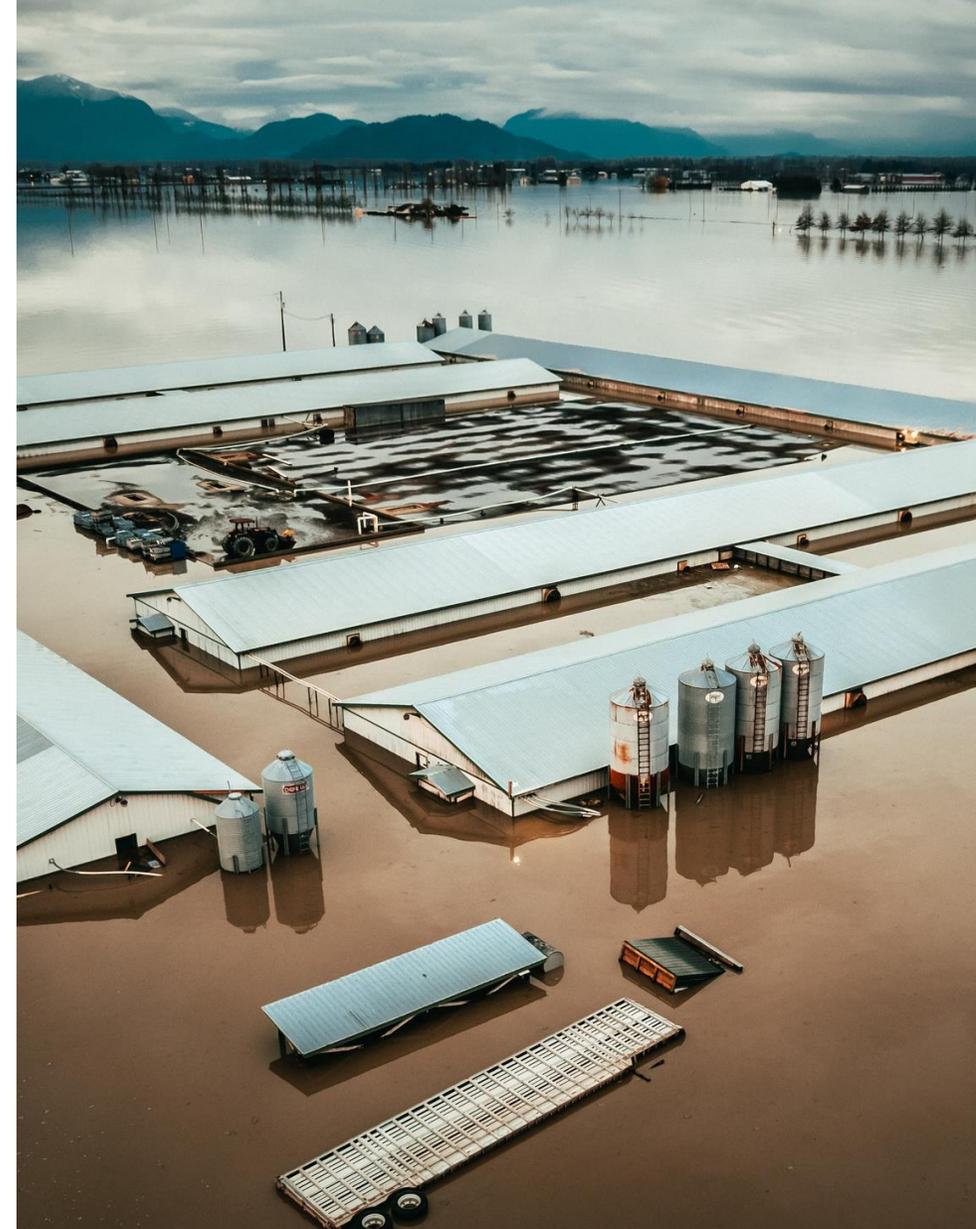
Thank you!

Lynn Kavanagh, Farming Campaign Manager

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Animal Agriculture and Environmental Protection: A Multi- Jurisdictional Legislative Review

Krystal-Anne Roussel, Co-Director and Counsel



Disclaimer: The information in this presentation is not intended to be legal advice.





Part 1

Report Overview

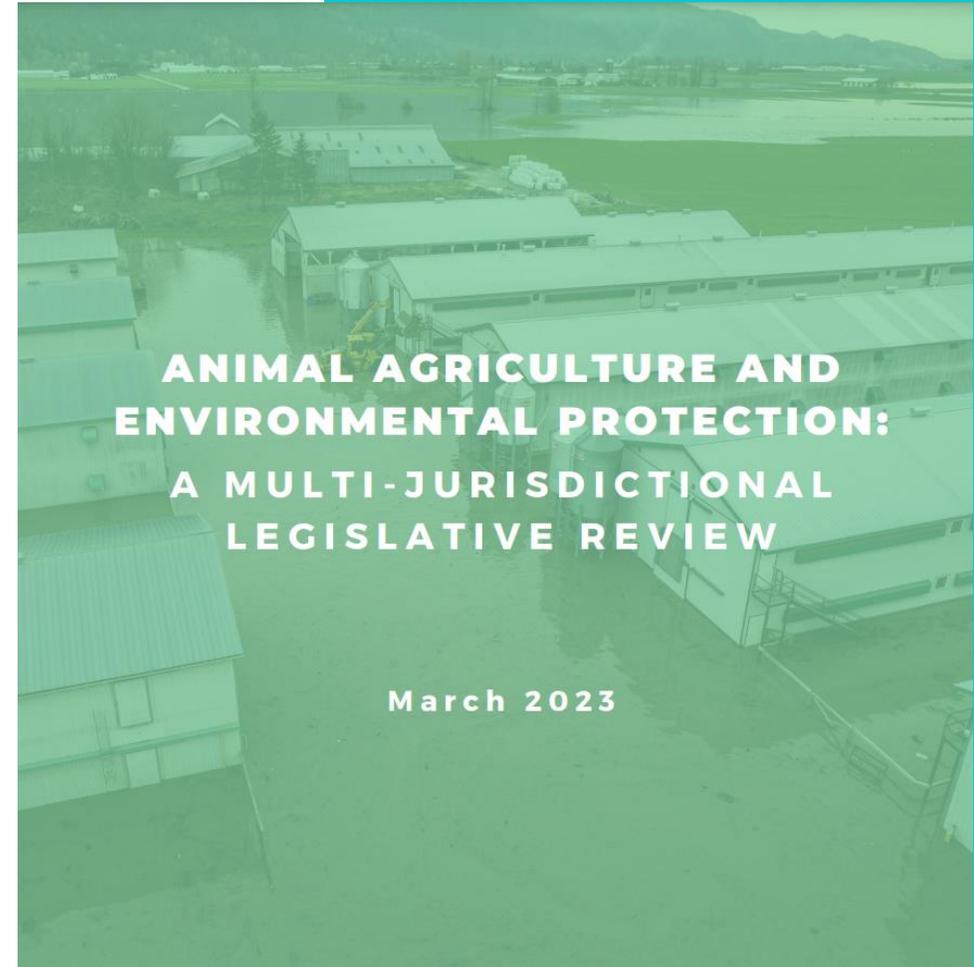


Introduction

- Multi-jurisdictional legislative analysis of select Canadian and international laws dealing with the environmental impacts of animal agriculture

Research Question:

- a. What laws and regulations are in place that could restrict the construction or expansion of factory farms due to their environmental impacts?
- b. What legislative and policy reforms are necessary?



In collaboration with:



Our Report



Part I. Introduction

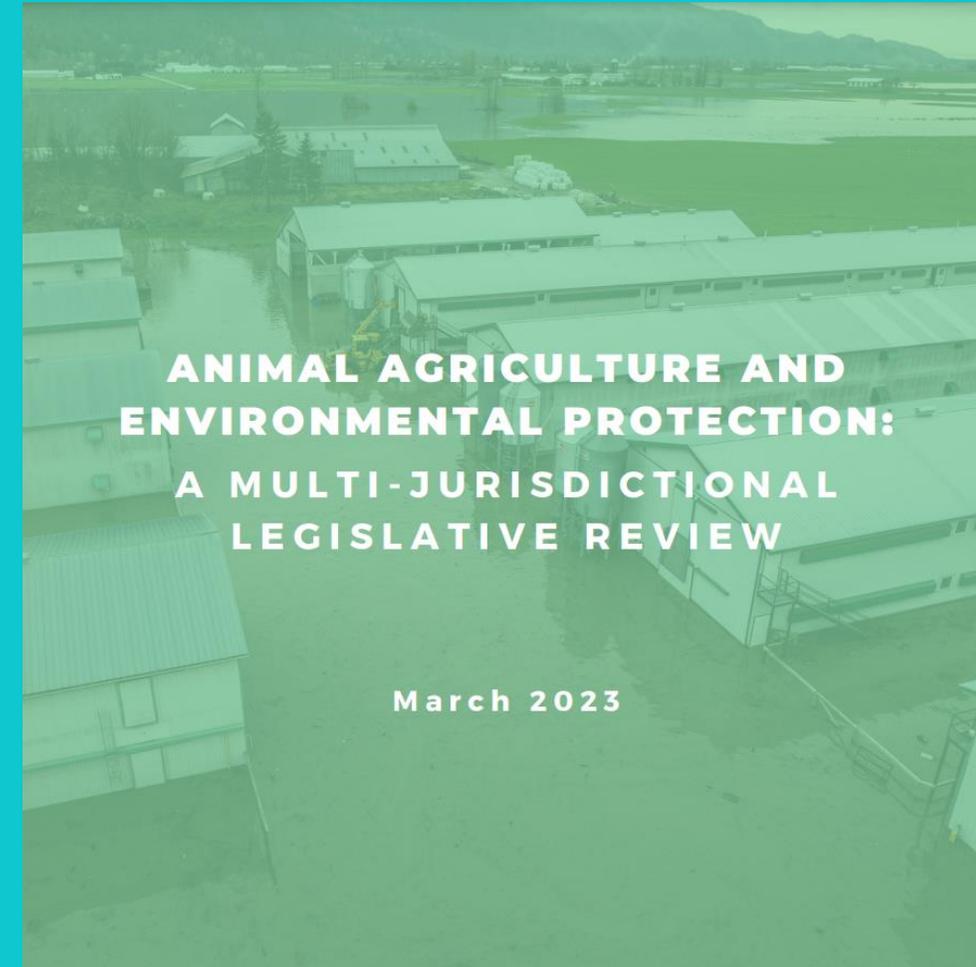
- The environmental impacts of animal agriculture

Part II. Laws and Policies

- Key components of the legislative and policy framework
- Summary of select Canadian and international jurisdictions

Part III. Comparative Analysis

Part IV. Conclusion and Recommendations



March 2023



In collaboration with:





Part 2

Our Findings



KEY TRENDS

1

LACK OF A COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Example: Ontario

- *Nutrient Management Act*
- *Environmental Protection Act*
- *Clean Water Act*
- *Safe Drinking Water Act*
- *Ontario Water Resources Act*



KEY TRENDS

2

EXEMPTIONS FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Example: Ontario

- The general prohibition against contamination under Ontario's *Environmental Protection Act* does not apply to animal wastes disposed of in accordance with "normal farming practices"
- Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* does not generally apply to new or expanding animal agriculture projects



KEY TRENDS

3

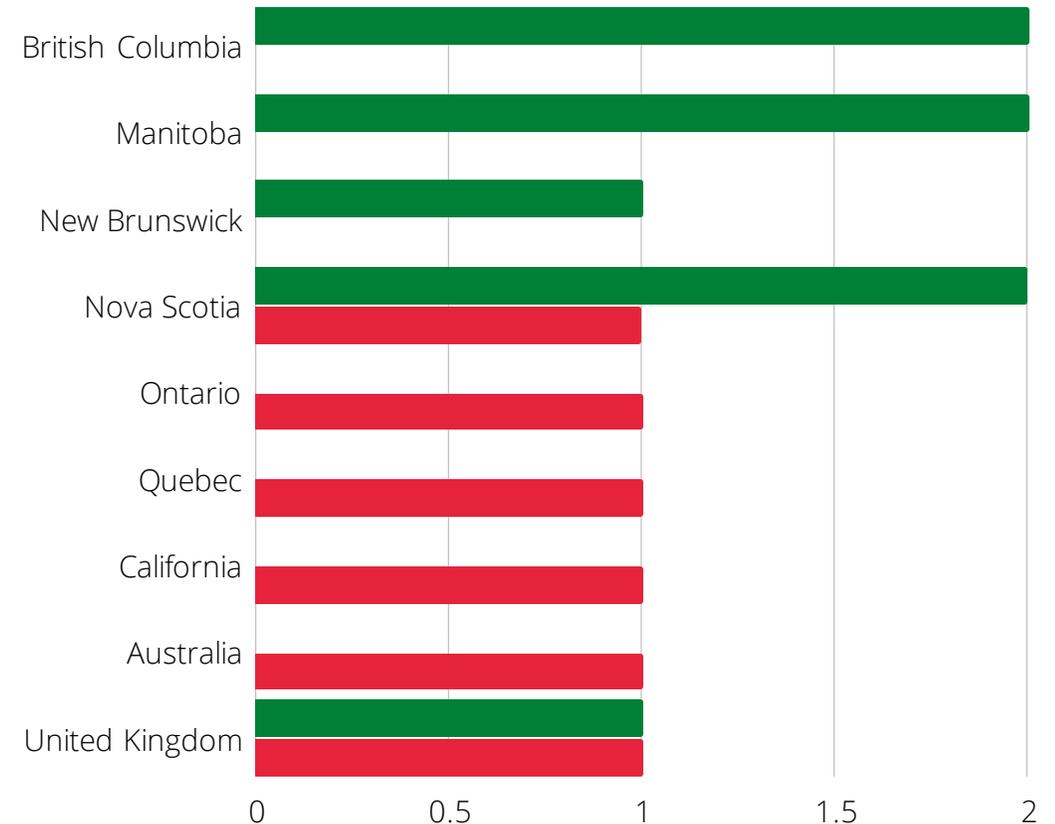
BROAD DISCRETION

- Use of terms such as “adverse effect” and “normal farming practices”
- In relation to investigation and enforcement

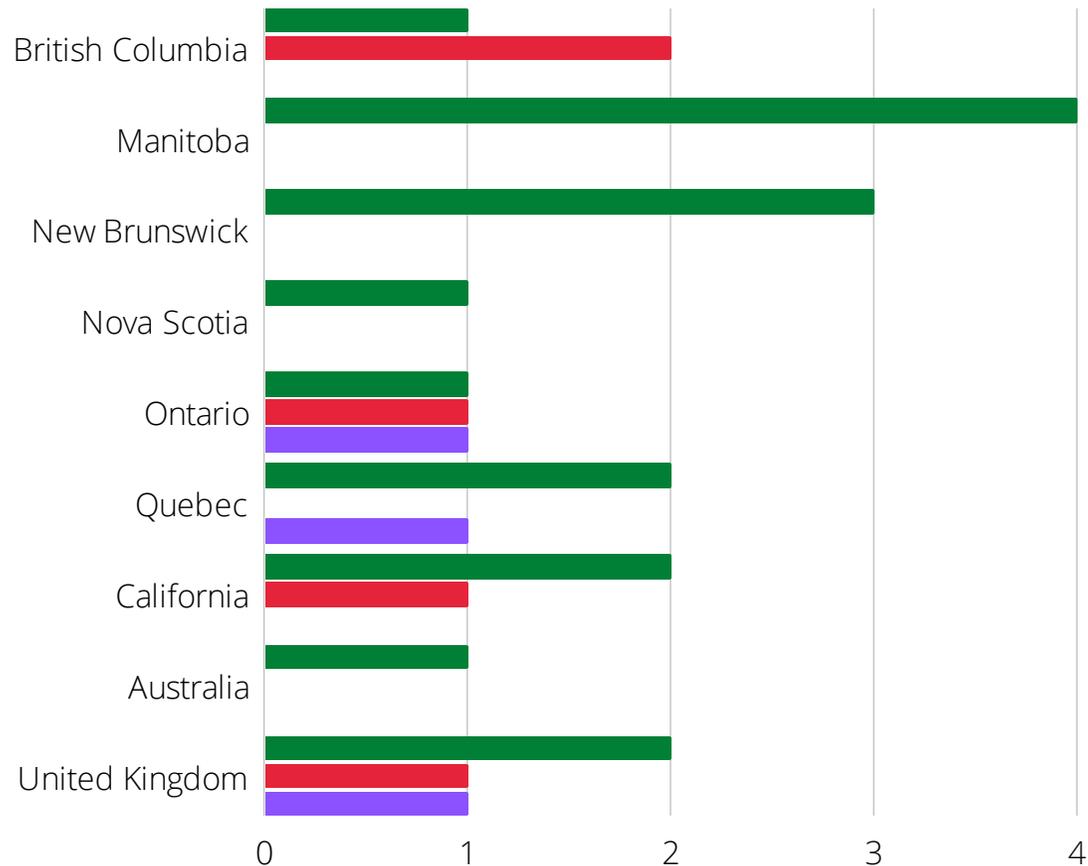


AIR POLLUTION

- **Legal frameworks typically exempt animal agriculture and/or use discretionary language**
- Manitoba has the strongest air pollution laws among the selected jurisdictions
- In Canada, Ontario and Quebec have the most room for improvement



WATER POLLUTION

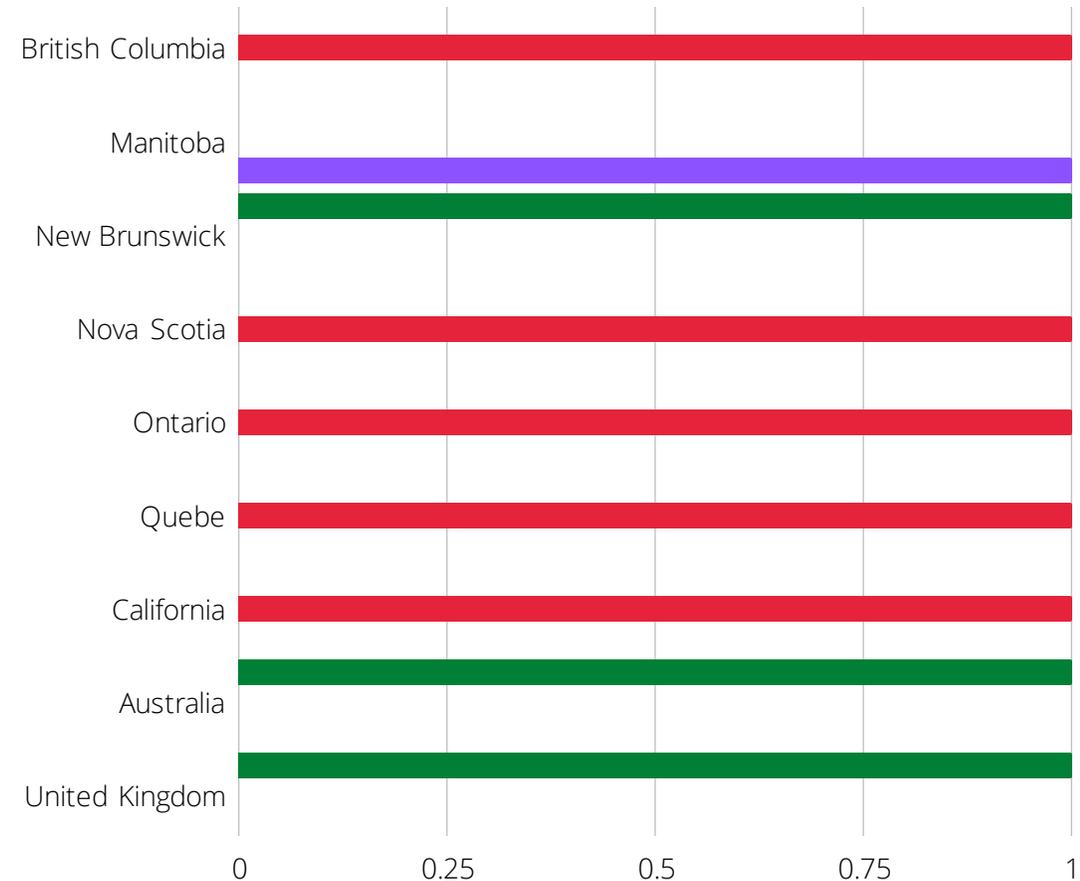


- **Disjointed legal frameworks and/or exemptions**
- Manitoba has the strongest laws and policies for protecting the waters
- In contrast, BC and Ontario's laws exempt the agriculture industry from their respective general prohibitions against introducing waste or contaminants into the environment



LAND DEGRADATION & BIODIVERSITY LOSS

- **The majority of the selected Canadian provinces are failing to address land degradation & biodiversity loss in relation to animal agriculture**
- This category holds the most room for improvement in Canada
- Queensland, Australia and the United Kingdom set out slightly better requirements to address land degradation and biodiversity loss



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Through our comparative analysis we have identified the key leading jurisdiction(s) in each category:

Category	Jurisdiction
Air Pollution:	Manitoba
Water Pollution:	Manitoba
Degradation & Biodiversity Loss:	Queensland, Australia & United Kingdom





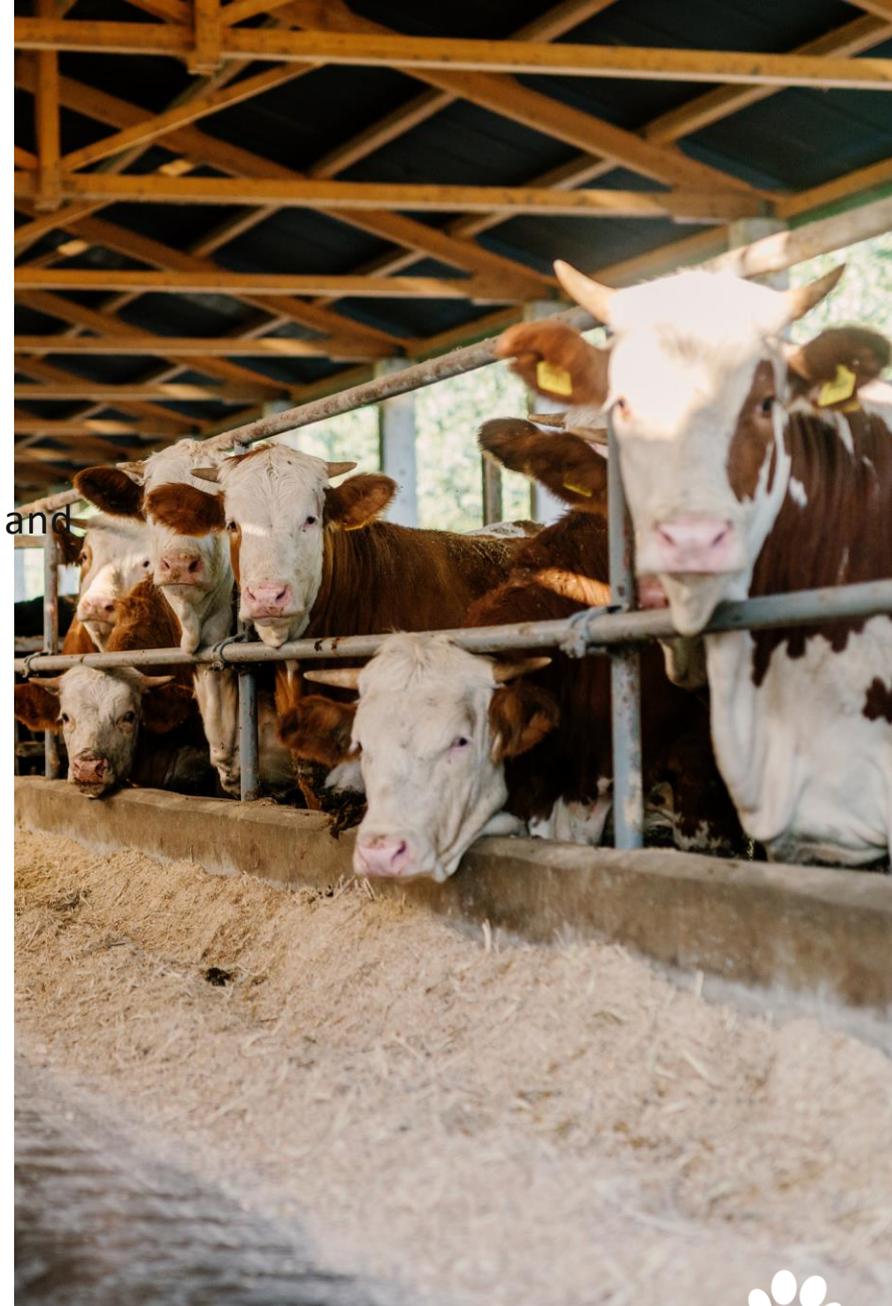
Part 3

Recommendations



Recommendations

- 1 Restructure government subsidies for the agriculture sector
- 2 Remove exemptions for animal agriculture from environmental laws and policies
- 3 Expand the application and enforcement of the Nutrient Management Act, 2022
- 4 Introduce mandatory best management practices
- 5 Impose a moratorium on the construction and expansion of ILOs





RECOMMENDATION 01:

Restructure government subsidies for the agriculture sector

- The government provides billions of dollars worth of subsidies annually to the agriculture sector
 - the bulk of it goes to the dairy, egg and chicken industries
- Instead, funds could be conditional on farmers demonstrating that they have taken measures to reduce their ecological footprints



EXAMPLE: UK AGRICULTURE ACT

In 2020, the UK introduced the Agriculture Act, which incentivizes a shift away from intensive animal agriculture by offering payments that reward farmers for managing “land or water in a way that protects or improves the environment”, “managing water or livestock in a way that mitigates or adapts to climate change”, and promoting animal welfare.

RECOMMENDATION 02:

Remove exemptions for the animal agriculture sector from environmental laws and policies

- The environmental laws and policies in many jurisdictions include exemptions for "normal farming practices" or do not apply to the animal agriculture sector altogether.
- By removing these exemptions provinces can motivate farmers to implement best management practices for the environment and support a shift away from intensive animal use.





RECOMMENDATION 03:

Expand the application and enforcement of the Nutrient Management Act, 2002

- The mandatory standards for nutrient management from manure and fertilizer under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 ("NMA") only apply to a minority of farms in the province
- The Government of Ontario should expand the application of the NMA to all farms in Ontario and strengthen its enforcement mechanisms



RECOMMENDATION 04:

Introduce mandatory best management practices

- Best management practices are only as good as their enforcement. Without oversight, accountability, and consequences, the industry will likely always put their economic needs above those of the environment.
- Implementing mandatory best management practices will improve compliance and therefore improve environmental impact.





RECOMMENDATION 05:

Impose a moratorium on the construction and expansion of ILOs

- A moratorium on the construction and expansion of animal feeding operations and slaughterhouses will ensure that environmental damage is not further aggravated by additional facilities.





Part 4

Conclusion & Calls to Action



CALLS TO ACTION

1. Choose plant-based foods

2. Use to Environmental Bill of Rights to stop the expansion or construction of new intensive livestock operations

3. Build relationships and speak to your MPPs and MPs about the environmental impacts of animal agriculture



USING THE EBR TO STOP ILOS

- Businesses that conduct activities that result in the release of contaminants into the air, land or water must apply for an Environmental Compliance Activity ("ECA") under the Environmental Protection Act
- As required by the EBR, proposed ECAs are posted on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) ("ERO") and are open for public comment for a minimum of 30 days
- If you wish to stop the construction or expansion of an ILO, you should:
 - STEP 1** Submit comments on the ERO 
 - STEP 2** Seek leave to appeal (within 15 days) 



Thank you!

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Animal Agriculture and Environmental Protection:
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June 22, 2023

Vicki Burns
Hog Watch Manitoba Steering Committee

Manitoba has more pigs per farm than any other province

In 2021, Manitoba farms reported an average of 6,104 pigs per far reporting pigs. This was up from 5,087 pigs per pig-reporting farm in 2016. This was also higher than the national average of 1,963 pigs per pig-reporting farm and more than any other province and territory.

From Stats Canada



Blue-Green Algae
Lake Winnipeg 2008

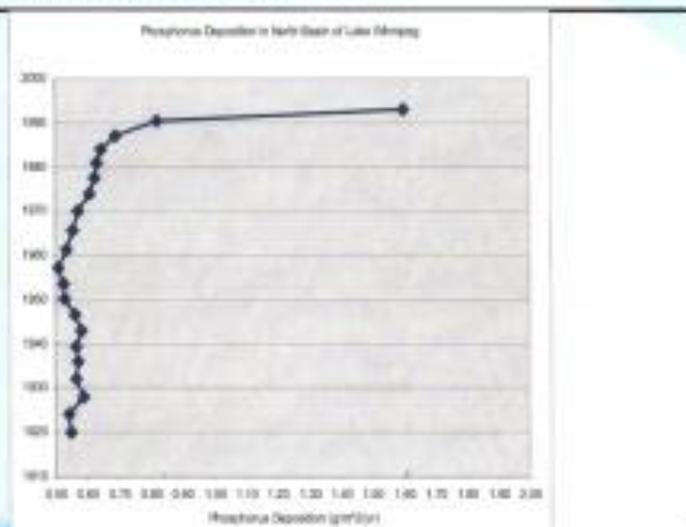


Southern Manitoba
Flood June 2022



Phosphorus Deposition in Lake Winnipeg

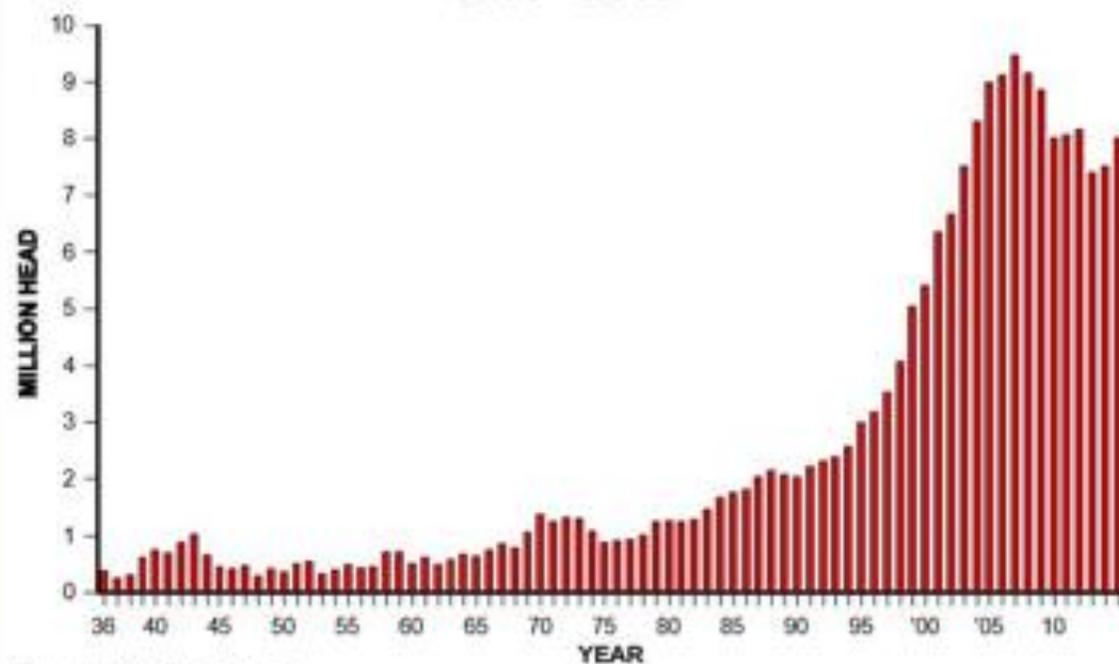
Phosphorus in North Basin Sediment Core



Manitoba 

Number of Pigs Produced in Manitoba Annually

MANITOBA PIG PRODUCTION 1936 - 2015



Source: MAFRI, author's estimate

Industrial Hog Barn
Sows in Gestation
Stalls
Pigs in Pens



Straw and pasture-based Pig Production

- Straw-based barns eliminate liquid manure collection.
- Allow pigs to express instincts like rooting, foraging, eliminates need for sub-therapeutic antibiotics
- Access to pastures in warmer weather
- Manure composted before spreading as fertilizer





Questions

