# Factory Farming in Canada: Health, Environmental and Animal Welfare Impacts

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## Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| **$CO_2$ equivalent ($CO_2$eq)** | This is the amount of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions that would have an equivalent effect on a specified key measure of climate change, over a specified time horizon, as an emitted amount of another greenhouse gas (GHG) or a mixture of other GHGs. For a mix of GHGs, it is obtained by summing the $CO_2$-equivalent emissions of each gas. It is the UNFCCC standardised metric for quantifying the global warming potential of all greenhouse gases relative to carbon dioxide ($CO_2$). |
| **Equitable, humane and sustainable food system** | "Equitable, humane and sustainable food system" refers to systems that produce food in ways that protect animals, human rights, and the environment, while ensuring food justice, food sovereignty and food security, and guaranteeing that all workers including smallholder farmers and small-scale fishers live in dignity and have a sustainable livelihood. Animal products from these systems are produced in high welfare conditions, where farmed animals' physical, environmental and behavioural needs are met, where resource use is sustainable and where benefits flow in an equitable way across the value chain and to local communities. |
| **Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)** | A widely accepted concept for measuring the burden of disease in the human population. It estimates the years of life lost to premature death (YLL) and the years of life lived with disability and disease (YLD). In the Factory Farming Index (FFI), this serves as the basis for calculating healthy years lost (see definition below). For farmed animals, years lived with disease and disability is calculated on the basis of their welfare conditions, and premature mortality considers mortality due to culling, slaughter, and on-farm mortality. |
| **Healthy Years Lost** | The metric used in the Factory Farming Index (FFI), analogous to DALYs but extended to farmed animals. The units are the years of human and farmed animal life lost to premature death plus the number of years of life in reduced physical and/or mental state. |
| **Factory farming, industrial animal agriculture or intensive animal agriculture** | Refers to animal breeding, rearing, slaughtering, processing and/or feed operations involved in the mass production of meat, dairy and eggs. Often controlled by multinational corporations, this production involves breeding and/or rearing from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of animals in concentrated feeding operations (mostly chickens, layer hens, dairy cows, pigs and aquatic species), feedlots (beef cattle) or extensive controlled grazing systems (beef and dairy cattle) that feed into massive vertically integrated supply chains. These production models do not acknowledge the sentience, or prioritise the welfare, of farmed animals. There is no single universally agreed definition of a factory farm. **The Factory Farming Index** considered three characteristics when defining factory farms. These are: stocking densities – how closely animals are confined together; farm size (number of animals), and animals' (lack of) access to outdoor space. See Appendix 1 for detailed criteria. |
| **Just transition of animal production systems** | Refers to shifting the global system of protein production from industrial animal production (which favours high-quantity, low-quality meat and other animal-derived products, and maximising corporate profits at the expense of workers, animals, public health and the environment) to one that is based on agroecological practices that produce equitable, humane and sustainable proteins, in order to alleviate animal, human and environmental suffering on a global scale. The just protein transition applies throughout the supply chain from farm to fork and protects and empowers smallholders by adhering to agroecological principles. |
| **Plant-based foods** | Refers to fruits, vegetables, legumes, grains, nuts and seeds; their derived processed counterparts such as breads, pasta, and cereals, cooked and fermented vegetables and legumes, processed fruit products, and derived ingredients such as oleaginous seed-derived oils and sugars. |

## 1. Introduction: A New Lens on the True Costs of Factory Farming

Factory farming has become the dominant system for producing the world's animal-sourced food, yet its full impacts on animals, people, and our planet remain largely hidden from public and political discourse.

The Factory Farming Index "Quantifying factory farming's effects on animal welfare, human health, and the environment" (FFI), World Animal Protection's innovative ranking system covering 151 countries, challenges this silence and complacency.

This summary report centres on Canada, examining how its industrial food system operates and impacts animals, human health, and the environment. Using the FFI framework, it situates these effects within a global context, providing crucial evidence of their interconnected harms.

Canada's ranking is examined from both an animal protein production and consumption perspective and the methodology used to quantify these wide-ranging impacts is outlined.

The FFI covers chickens raised for meat, layer hens, pigs, dairy cattle and beef cattle, five of the most intensively and widely farmed land animals. The indicators are expressed in two ways: total national production, and national consumption per person. FFI production looks at the total impacts of factory farming caused by farmed animal production in a country. Countries rank higher (i.e. perform worse) if they produce more animals in factory farming systems and / or their systems cause more harm to animals or humans. If a country were to produce no factory farmed animals, its score would be 0 and larger countries with high levels of intensive animal production tend to rank higher. FFI consumption presents the total impacts of factory farming according to the number of animal products consumed per person. This includes animals imported and those produced domestically. A countries' ranking is influenced by the numbers of animals farmed (more animals is equal to higher ranking) and by the amount of animal products consumed per person, thus causing more harm to animals overall.

## 2. The Global Impact of Industrial Animal Agriculture

To fully appreciate Canada's role and responsibility, one must first grasp the global scale of the issue as revealed by the FFI. Understanding the global scope of factory farming is relevant to quantifying its impacts. This system has transcended borders to become the primary method of producing meat, dairy, and eggs worldwide, and its profound consequences, from greenhouse gas emissions to the rise of antimicrobial resistance, are borderless. The FFI provides the first integrated assessment of these harms, offering a clear, data-driven picture of the global crisis.
The top-level global findings of this research reveal a system operating at an unsustainable scale:

- **Scale of Production:** An estimated **76 billion** chickens, pigs, and cattle were factory farmed worldwide in 2020. A staggering 46% of these animals originated from just four countries: China, the USA, Brazil, and Indonesia. Globally, this equates to an average of 10 factory-farmed animals raised and slaughtered per person each year.
- **Human Health Burden:** The FFI calculates that factory farming causes an average loss of 1.8 healthy life years per person globally. This includes death caused by air pollution originating from factory farms, disease related to high consumption of animal products, and antimicrobial resistance. The primary driver of this staggering health burden is factory farming's contribution to antimicrobial resistance, fuelled by the industry's massive overuse of antimicrobial drugs.
- **Environmental Degradation:** The environmental footprint of factory farming is immense. The system is responsible for approximately 3.5 billion tonnes of CO2 eq. emissions annually, a figure that nearly matches the European Union's total domestic emissions (3.6 billion tonnes). It consumes 530 trillion litres of water each year, which represents ~14% of the world's irrigation water to grow feed crops, and uses 350 million hectares of cropland for animal feed, an area the size of India, making it a significant contributor to biodiversity loss.
- **Animal Suffering:** Factory-farmed animals spend their entire existence in environments characterized by extreme confinement or crowding, deprivation, and chronic stress. Denied the ability to express natural behaviours such as foraging, nesting, or social interaction, they live under artificial conditions designed solely for rapid growth/production and efficiency. Chickens, pigs, and cows kept in optimal welfare conditions could be expected to live for 7.5, 15, and 20 years respectively. However, in industrialized countries such as Canada, where fast-growing chicken breeds are the norm in the chicken industry, chickens raised for meat ('broiler chickens') are typically slaughtered after only 35 days, around 1.3% of their potential lifespan, while pigs are killed after approximately 160 days, or 3% of their natural life expectancy. Thus, these animals experience a lifetime of physical and psychological suffering condensed

into a fraction of their natural longevity, with their short existence dominated not by freedom or comfort, but by unrelenting pain and suffering. Within this alarming global context, the FFI provides a clear ranking of individual nations, allowing for a detailed analysis of the industry's contribution to the problem, including in Canada.

Photo credit: World Animal Protection / Lynn Kavanagh

## 3. Analysis of Canada's Factory Farming Footprint

This section provides the core analysis of Canada's significant role in the global factory farming system. Canada's ranking among the top 20 nations globally, with respect to both production and consumption, indicates a substantial national contribution to the animal welfare, public health, and environmental crises associated with industrial agriculture.

The *Factory Farming Index* data reveals that Canada's livestock sector is highly industrialized, with particularly intensive poultry and pig farming relative to its population size. While overall numbers of farmed animals are smaller than those in the U.S. or China, per-capita production and consumption are among the highest globally.

### 3.1. Production Impact Ranking

From a production perspective, which measures the total harms generated from factory farming of meat, dairy, and eggs produced within a country's borders, **Canada ranks 21st alongside European countries like the United Kingdom, France and Spain** .

This high-ranking positions Canada as one of the world's major producers of factory-farmed animals, especially considering its relatively small population (~41 million). Consequently, the nation is a significant contributor to the harms associated with the factory farm production model.

### 3.2. Consumption Impact Ranking

From a per-capita consumption perspective, which accounts for trade (imports) and reflects the impact of an average citizen's diet, **Canada ranks 16th alongside countries like Australia, Colombia and Brazil**.

This ranking signifies that in Canada, each year, approximately 858 million animals are consumed. With a population of

about 41 million people, the average amount is estimated at 21animals consumed per person annually. This represents a very high per capita consumption rate, comparable to that of the United States (about 29 animals per person per year) and Australia (around 24 animals per person per year), and significantly higher than consumption levels in most European or Asian nations.

### 3.3. Canada's Contribution to Key Impact Areas

Canada's high rankings in both production and consumption imply a significant contribution to the three core areas of harm identified by the FFI. Table 1 presents key national indicators related to population, animal agriculture, and associated environmental and public health impacts in Canada comparing them with global averages.

**Animal Welfare:** Canada's use of large-scale intensive production as the predominant model of animal agriculture contributes directly to the global animal welfare crisis. This system is defined by crowding or intensive confinement and severely shortened lifespans with poor quality of life for billions of sentient beings. Canada recognizes animal sentience, has legislation against cruelty, regulations pertaining to slaughter and transport, but there are significant legislative gaps in its protections for farmed animals, including lack of minimum standards on farms. In the absence of welfare outcome-based data on the conditions of farmed animals, the FFI uses World Animal Protection's Animal Protection Index (API) as a proxy for the welfare conditions of farmed animals, assuming compliance with legislation. The API (based on country animal protection legislation) ranks countries from A to G, with A being the best and G being the worst. Canada has an API ranking of "D" indicating partial, not comprehensive, protection for farmed animals.
Overall, Canada ranks in the **mid-to-high range** of the FFI, with higher rankings indicating worse animal welfare, health, and environmental outcomes. Some aspects of its regulatory environment and efficiency are strengths, yet high consumption levels and environmental externalities limit sustainability and animal welfare outcomes.

**Human Health:** Canada's role in the production and consumption of factory farmed animals is intrinsically linked to the global human health antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crisis. Per capita consumption of factory farmed animals in Canada is more than twice the global average of  factory farmed animals consumed per person; considering only red meat and poultry consumption, that is an average of 90 kg of meat per person per year.[1] High levels of factory farmed animal production and consumption are linked to higher levels of antimicrobial use; between 2019 and 2020, the quantity of medically important antimicrobials sold for use in all animals in Canada increased by 6.5% (from 980 tonnes to 1,050 tonnes)- this does not include category IV antimicrobials, which account for up to 60% of the antimicrobials used in poultry production.[2] This in turn contributes to a concerning rise of antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) superbugs. In Canada, invasive pneumococcal (IPD) infections that are multidrug-resistant increased by **93.2%** between 2018 and 2022. Salmonella isolates from human infections have shown increased resistance to key antimicrobials since 2019.[3] In 2021, there were an estimated 2,840

Photo credit: World Animal Protection

[1] IBISWorld. (2025, August 26). *Per capita meat consumption – Canada*. https://www.ibisworld.com/canada/bed/per-capita-meat-consumption/15047

[2] Public Health Agency of Canada. (2022, November 28). *Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS) Report 2022*. Government of Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/drugs-health-products/canadian-antimicrobial-resistance-surveillance-system-report-2022.html#a4.1

[3] Public Health Agency of Canada. (2024, November 20). *Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (CARSS): Executive Summary 2024* (Cat. HP37-21/1E-PDF). Government of Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/drugs-health-products/canadian-antimicrobial-resistance-surveillance-system-2024-executive-summary.html#a4.1

deaths attributable to AMR and 13,300 deaths associated with AMR in Canada.[4]

Canada's factory farming sector also emits **94.6 kilotonnes of ammonia**, **2.1 kilotonnes PM 2.5** (particulate matter with a diameter smaller than 2.5 micrometres), and **2.0 kilotonnes of nitrous oxide** annually from livestock production, far exceeding global averages. These emissions are **greater than the median country level**, underscoring Canada's disproportionate contribution to agricultural air pollution. Ammonia emissions from livestock are **almost twice the global mean of 52.2 kilotonnes**, driving fine particulate matter (PM2.5) formation that increases the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease in nearby communities. Nitrous oxide emissions, including 2.0 kilotonnes from intensive animal waste management are **also above the global average**, of 1.8 kilotonnes contributing significantly to greenhouse gas accumulation and ozone depletion. Overall, these pollutants reflect a **systemic nitrogen imbalance** in Canada's factory-farming model, one that threatens **public health, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability** under the **One Health** framework linking human, animal, and ecosystem wellbeing.

**Environmental Degradation:** For Canada, this stands out as a key concern. Greenhouse gas emissions, land use, and eutrophication (water pollution) from factory farming are significant, reflecting the dominance of cattle and pig production systems. Water use is moderate compared with more water-stressed countries, but biodiversity losses remain notable due to extensive agricultural land conversion and feed production requirements. As the top 21$^{st}$ producer and 16$^{th}$ consumer of factory farmed animal products per person, Canada is responsible for a significant share of the global environmental footprint of factory farming. Estimated greenhouse gas emissions from factory farming alone are 43% more than the global average of 24.38 Mt $CO_2$ eq.

Table 1. Key Statistics (2020)

| Variable | Canada | Average / Total* Global |
|---|---|---|
| • Population (million) | 41 | 7,814* |
| • Factory Farmed Animals Produced (million) | 870 | 501 |
| • Factory Farmed Animals Consumed per person | 21 | 10 |
| • Greenhouse gas emissions (from production, Mt $CO_2$ eq.) | 34.76 | 24.38 |
| • Water use (ML) | 5,244,745 | 3,644,831 |
| • Cropland use (thousand hectares) | 4,627 | 2,407 |
| • Antimicrobial Use (tonnes)[5] | 533 | 435 |
| • Health burden (DALYs, production-related) | 109,736 | 101,012 |
| • Nitrous Oxide factory farming (kilotonnes) | 2.9059 | 1.7607 |
| • Ammonia (kilotonnes) | 94.5812 | 52.2036 |
| • PM2.5 (kilotonnes) | 2.0659 | 1.5490 |

Source: FFI 2025

## Implications

On a per-capita basis, for every 1,000 Canadians almost a kilotonne of $CO_2$ eq. is effectively generated, and 138 million litres of water are consumed through factory-farm production alone. This amount of water is roughly the amount of water used by the entire population of Halifax in a single day.

Globally, livestock consume around **one-third of all cereal crops** grown, and feed conversion losses are a major driver of agricultural expansion, deforestation, and climate emissions. Canada's higher feed-to-food ratio implies that **over 95% of plant calories are lost** before reaching the human food chain. This inefficiency contributes to:

- **Food insecurity**: competing with direct human food use and raising grain prices
- **Environmental degradation**: expanding cropland for feed drives biodiversity loss and fertilizer-related emissions
- **Climate change**: intensive feed production accounts for a large share of total livestock GHG emissions.

[4] https://www.healthdata.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Canada.pdf

[5] FFI estimate used in factory farmed animals only in 2020

If Canada reduced feed conversion inefficiency even to the global average, it could free millions of tonnes of grains annually, equivalent to feeding **several million people** or cutting **thousands of kilotonnes of $CO_2$** from its agricultural footprint.

## 4. The Factory Farming Index: A Methodological Overview

The credibility of the Factory Farming Index and its findings rests on a robust and innovative research methodology. By integrating harms across animal welfare, human health, and the environment, the FFI provides a holistic picture of the true costs of industrial animal agriculture. This section explains in detail the core components of that methodology.

### 4.1. Quantifying Harm: Healthy life years lost and Biodiversity Loss

The FFI uses two primary metrics to quantify the multifaceted harms of factory farming on a comparable scale.

- **Healthy years lost:** This metric is analogous to the World Health Organization's 'Disability-Adjusted Life Years' (DALYs), a standard for measuring the human burden of disease. Healthy life years lost uniquely extends this concept to farmed animals, calculating the total years of life lost to premature death combined with the years lived in a state of reduced physical or mental welfare. Crucially, Healthy life years lost integrates "welfare ranges," which weight farmed animal lives based on the scientifically assessed capacity of different species to experience positive and negative states, thereby providing a more nuanced understanding of suffering (Figure 1.
- **Biodiversity Loss (PDF):** PDF stands for the 'Potentially Disappeared Fraction' of species. Derived from the established LC-IMPACT model, this metric quantifies the proportion of wild species expected to disappear due to the pressures of factory farming. These pressures include cropland use for animal feed, climate change driven by greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and eutrophication.

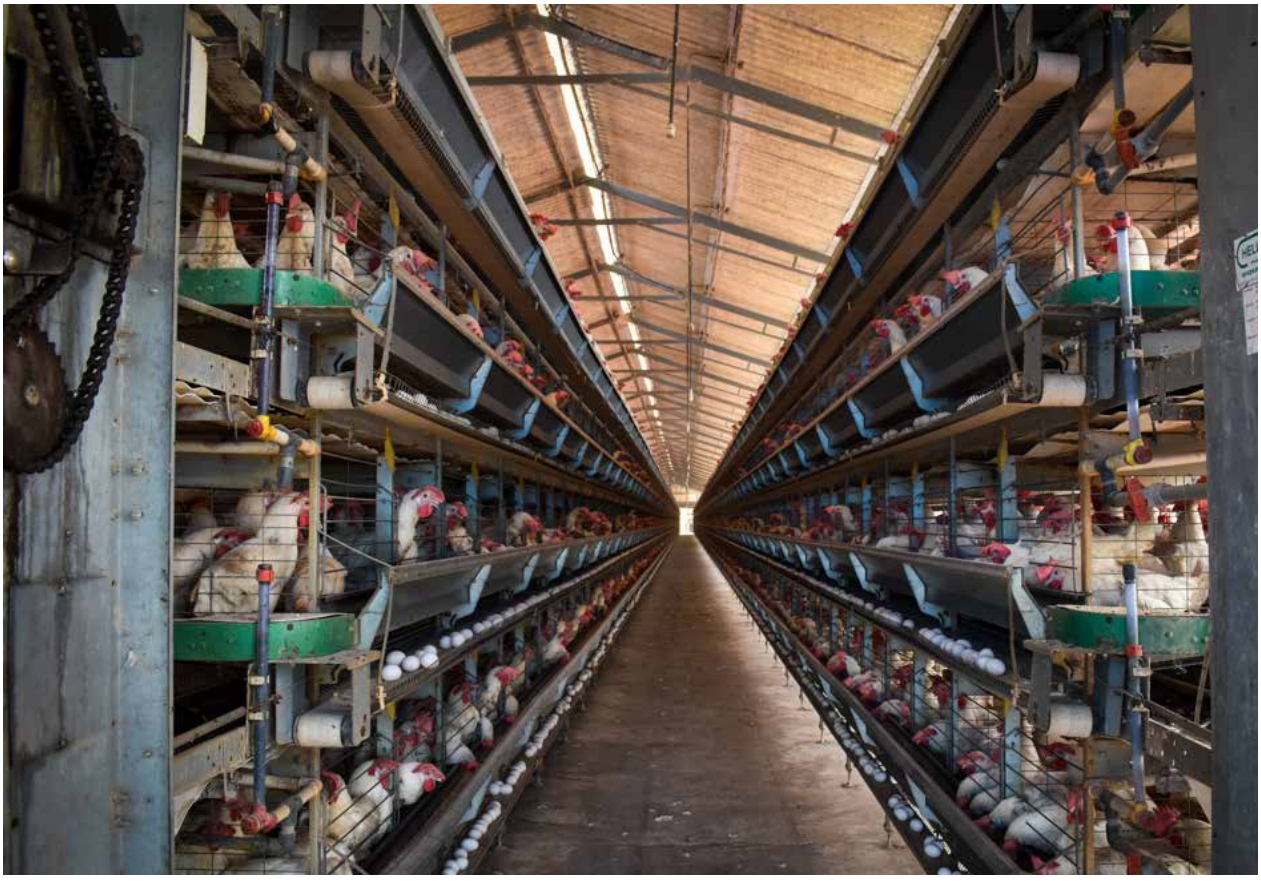
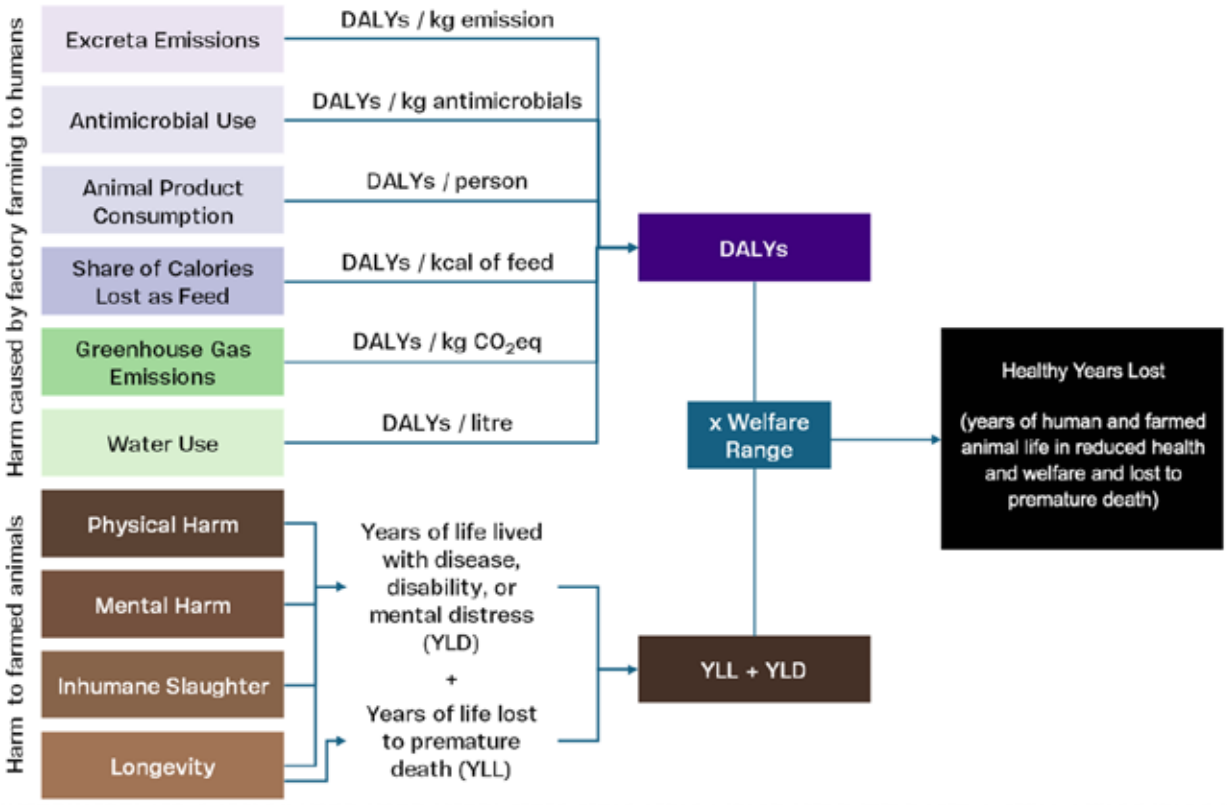


Photo credit: World Animal Protection

Figure 1. A summary of the calculation of Healthy Years Lost.



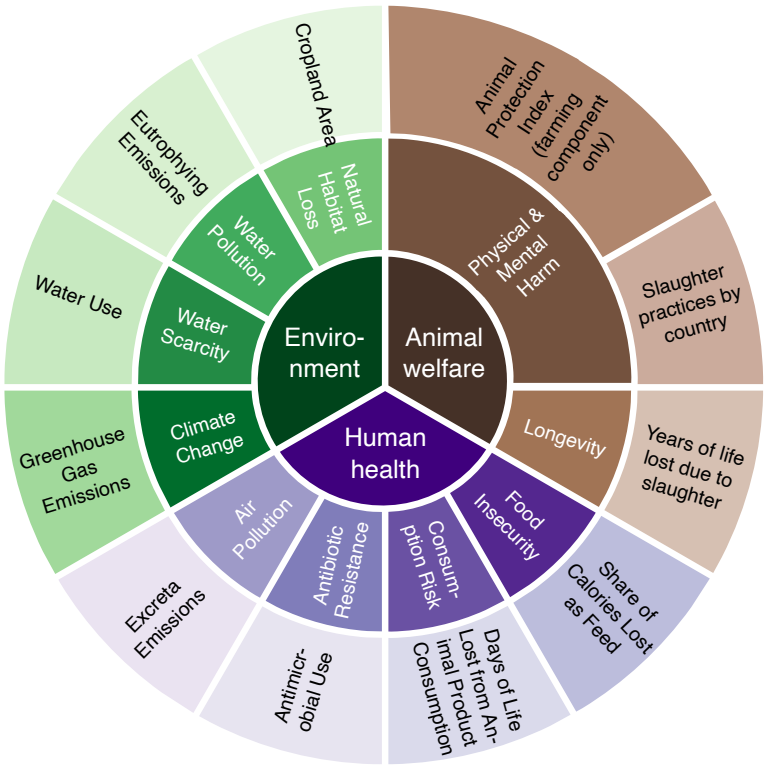

## 4.2. The Three Pillars of Assessment

The FFI's structure is built upon three key areas of concern, each measured using a set of specific, quantitative indicators (Figure 2).

- **Animal Welfare:**
  - *Animal Protection Index:* Assesses the strength of national legislation protecting farmed animals.
  - *Slaughter practices:* Evaluates national laws regarding stunning prior to slaughter.
  - *Years of life lost:* Measures the radical shortening of farmed animal lifespans compared to their natural potential.
- **Human Health:**
  - *Excreta emissions:* Quantifies harmful pollutants like ammonia and particulate matter from animal waste.
  - *Antimicrobial use:* Measures the volume of antibiotics used in farmed animals.
  - *Days of life lost from consumption:* Calculates the health burden from diets high in red and processed meat.
  - *Share of calories lost as feed:* Measures food system inefficiency and food insecurity caused by diverting human-edible crops to animal feed.

- **Environment:**
  - *Greenhouse gas emissions:* Assesses the climate impact of the production chain.
  - *Eutrophying emissions:* Measures nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in waterways.
  - *Water use:* Calculates the total freshwater consumed, primarily for feed crops.
  - *Cropland use:* Measures the area of land dedicated to growing animal feed.

Figure 2. The Factory Farming Index and areas of concern and indicators for each.




## 5. Canada's Livestock System: Scale, Efficiency, and One Health Implications

When compared with the United States and Australia (large, high-income, export-driven livestock producers with similar industrial systems, land bases, and diet) Canada's livestock sector mirrors the same intensive model: inefficient, emission-heavy, and welfare-poor. Yet Canada has a unique opportunity to lead reform through a One Health, One Welfare approach linking animal welfare, agricultural, health, and environmental objectives.

Canada produces about 870 million farmed animals annually, a smaller amount than the U.S. but larger than most European nations, making it a major producer, especially relative to its population. Feed conversion losses exceed 95% across Canada, the U.S., and Australia, reflecting dependence on grain and soy feed, and the inefficiency of grain-fed systems. Canada and Australia share similar herd structures and export dependence, while the U.S. operates on a larger but equally intensive scale. Despite its smaller size, Canada's per-capita impacts remain high, underscoring a resource-heavy, inefficient feed-to-food system.

Environmentally, Canada's livestock sector ranks above the global median for greenhouse gas emissions, eutrophication, water use, and cropland demand, comparable to Australia and Poland but below the U.S. Cropland and water use for feed are particularly excessive. Ammonia emissions total 94.6 kilotonnes and PM2.5  2.1 kilotonnes. These levels are almost twice the global average of 52.2 kilotonnes for Ammonia and 1.5 kilotonnes for PM2.5.

Health impacts are substantial. Livestock production contributes around 109,736 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) annually, lower than the U.S. but higher than most countries. Estimated antimicrobial use in factory farmed animals (533 tonnes) remains high, exceeding the global median tenfold and heightening antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks. Across all three countries, health burdens stem mainly from dietary red meat and air pollution (PM2.5, $NH_3$), alongside rising AMR threats.

Animal welfare performance is weak. Canada falls below the global median and behind most of Western Europe. Large-scale, intensive poultry production drives a heavy welfare burden, marked by limited legal protection and high years of life lost (YLL) for farmed poultry. These patterns are consistent across export-oriented systems.

Overall, Canada's industrial livestock model, characterized by low efficiency, high emissions, health risks, and poor welfare, presents a critical One Health challenge: the same production practices that sustain exports simultaneously harm human health, animal well-being, and ecosystems.

Photo credit: World Animal Protection / Lynn Kavanagh

## 6. The Path Forward: Recommendations for a Just and Sustainable Transition

The FFI's comprehensive findings and rigorous methodology point toward clear and urgent recommendations for mitigating these interconnected harms.

The FFI does more than just quantify a global crisis; it provides a clear mandate for systemic change. The research offers evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, corporations, and citizens to begin the critical work of transitioning away from industrial animal agriculture towards a food system that is equitable, humane, and sustainable.

Factory farming is a One Health crisis; it erodes human health through antimicrobial resistance, causes air pollution, drives dietary disease, harms animals through chronic stress and infection, and pollutes the environment we share. Phasing out industrial animal production in favour of equitable, humane, and sustainable production systems is critical for the substantial improvement of climate, health, and animal welfare outcomes. Governments, citizens, and the private sector all have a role play in driving this urgent change.

### 6.1. Policy recommendations

As a first step, the Canadian government must acknowledge animal agriculture as a significant contributor to climate change in Canada and **set emissions reduction targets for the agriculture sector** to help reduce this impact.

The government can also effectively influence Canadians' consumption patterns by promoting and implementing the **Canada Food Guide** recommendation to eat a **higher proportion of plant-based foods**, through educational programs, and requiring any funding tied to food procurement to comply with this recommendation.

The redirection of financial flows is also critical to the success of a just transition to equitable, humane, and sustainable food systems. In Canada, creating an "**Emissions Reduction Benefit" program** would allow the redirection of subsidies from large-scale intensive livestock operations toward more **equitable, humane and sustainable agriculture practices**, which entail a reduction in the overall number of animals farmed, support for small and midsized family farmers in their transition to a low-carbon and more climate-resilient food system, and greater investment in plant-based food production.

Implementing strategies to lower the number of farmed animals can also significantly decrease national emissions. Additionally, such a reduction would have positive ripple effects on plant-based agriculture, as decreased demand for animal feed

would free up resources and land for more sustainable agricultural uses which could also improve public health and food security. As Canada is a global leader in pulse production, this would also result in economic benefits. Increasing Canada's investment in the **Protein Industries Cluster** will strengthen the competitiveness of Canadian farmers in growing the global and domestic plant-based food sector.

An analysis conducted by Navius Research[6] of how policies promoting plant-based agriculture and diets can help Canada meet its 2030 and 2050 GHG reduction targets, showed that:

- Shifting toward a plant-based diet could significantly reduce agricultural emissions and decrease the cost of achieving Canada's overall emissions targets Canada's plant-based protein sector presents a significant opportunity for agricultural and food innovation and is expected to grow at 14% annually.
- Policies that limit animal agriculture production, are the most cost-effective policies for transforming Canada's food system by directly targeting the production of animals.
- Canada can lead globally by adopting integrated, cross-sectoral One Health policies, reducing antibiotics, improving welfare, and accelerating the transition to sustainable, health-positive food systems.

## 7. Conclusion: The Case for Transforming Canada's Food System

The evidence presented in this analysis is compelling. As a top 20 country in both the production and per-capita consumption of factory-farmed products, Canada is a significant contributor to the immense global harms quantified by the Factory Farming Index. The industrial agriculture model that dominates the nation's food supply is driving interconnected crises of staggering animal suffering, dire public health threats from antimicrobial resistance, climate change, pollution and other environmental degradation.

The scale of this system and its true costs can no longer be ignored. The findings of the FFI serve as an urgent call to action for policymakers, industry leaders, and citizens across Canada. A transition toward an equitable, humane, and sustainable food system is not merely an option but an urgent necessity for the well-being of animals, people, and the planet.

Photo credit: World Animal Protection

[6] Navius Research. (2024, June 7). *Part II: Impact and effectiveness of policies to promote plant-based agriculture production and food consumption*. World Animal Protection Canada.

## Appendix 1: Factory Farming Index criteria for the definition of factory farms

| | Broiler (Meat) Chickens | Layer Hens | Pigs | Dairy Cattle | Beef Cattle |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Density Based Definition** | More than 12 chickens per $m^2$ indoor, and access to less than 1 $m^2$ outdoor space per bird. | More than 9 hens per $m^2$ indoor, and access to less than 4 $m^2$ outdoor space per bird. | Access to less than 12$m^2$ of outdoor area per pig. | None | None |
| **Farm Size Based Definition** | Over 37,500 chickens | Over 25,000 hens | Over 750 pigs | Over 200 mature cattle | Over 300 cattle or cow/calf pairs |
| **Outdoor Access Based Definition** | Not certified using an outdoor related practice (e.g., free range). | Not certified using an outdoor related practice (e.g., free range). | Not certified using an outdoor related practice (e.g., free range). | Not certified using an outdoor related practice (e.g., free range). | Not certified using an outdoor related practice (e.g., free range). |

## About World Animal Protection

World Animal Protection is an animal welfare non-profit organization with local reach and global influence. From our Canadian office, we collaborate with other World Animal Protection offices in 12 countries. Together, we work with local communities, the private sector, civil society, and governments across 47 countries.

Every day, billions of animals experience unbearable suffering. At World Animal Protection, we move the world to protect animals because the life of every animal counts.

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