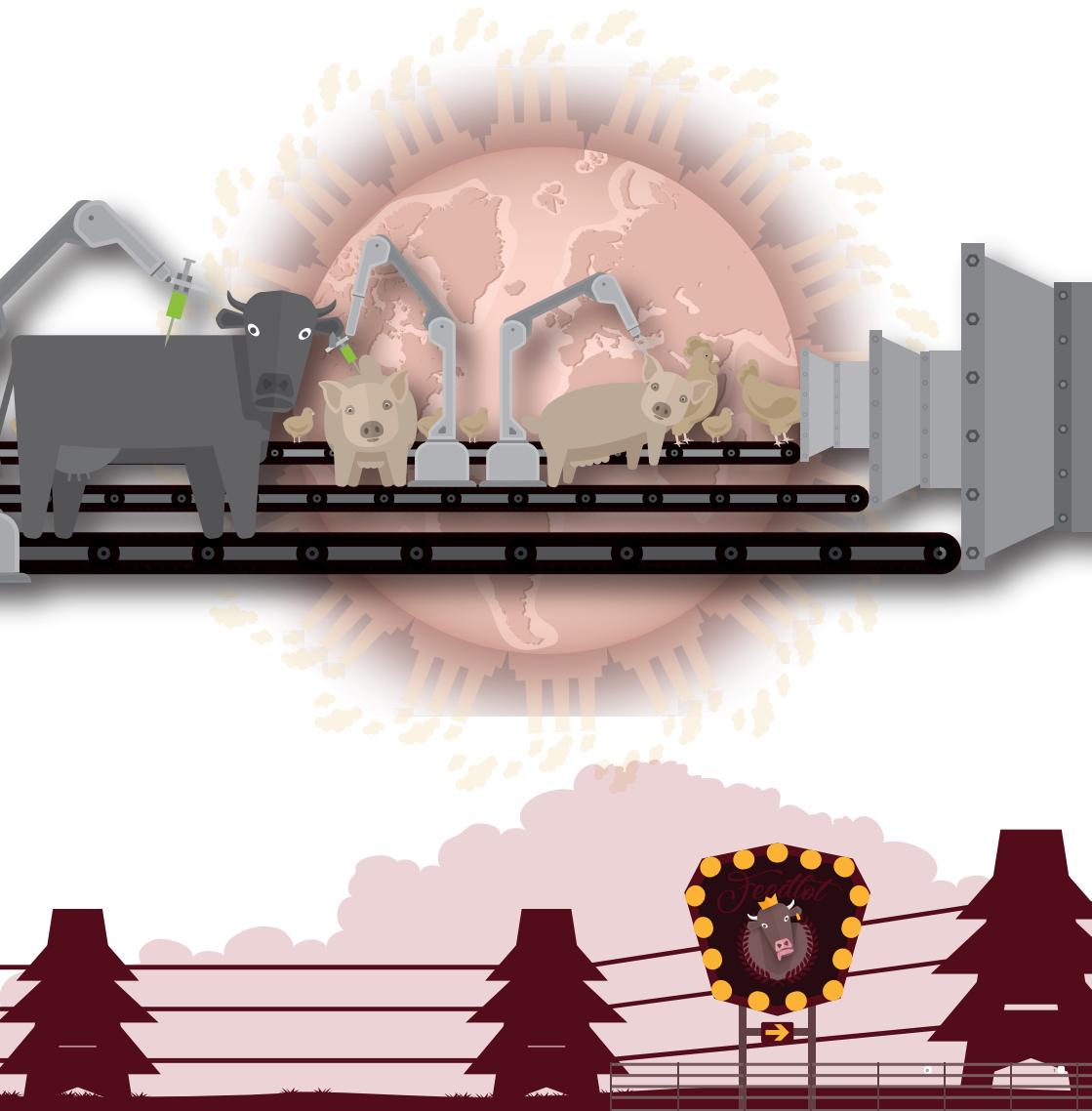
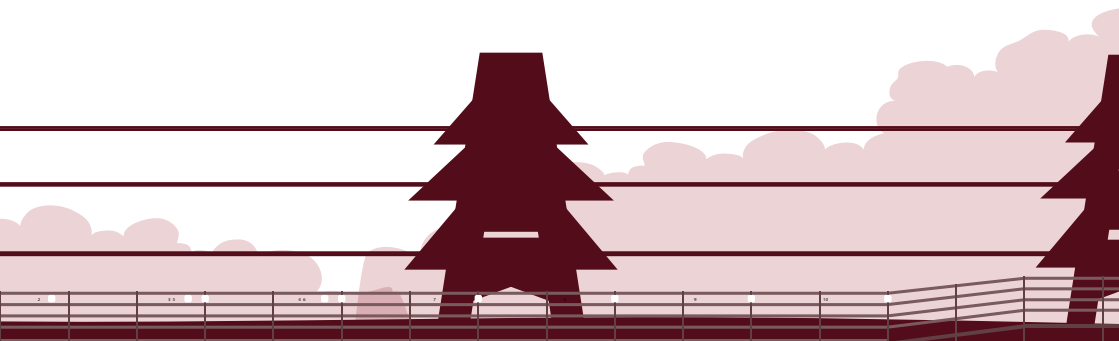


What does industrial meat production have to do with the climate crisis?



The following is based on GRAIN's research over the last years examining the impact of industrial meat production and its by-products on climate.



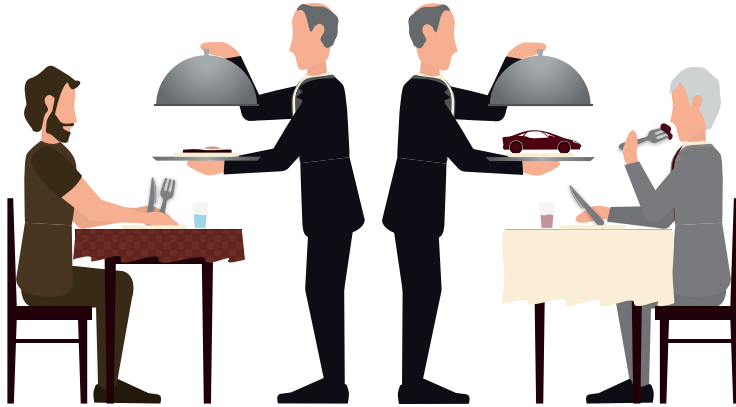
What does industrial meat production have to do with the climate crisis?



For thousands of years, peasant farmers around the world have raised animals for human consumption, whether it be for food, the textile industry, or to enrich the soil where other foods will be grown.



Today's consumer society – a creator of symbols – presents **meat as a status symbol**, an improvement in quality of life and the possibility of upwards social mobility.

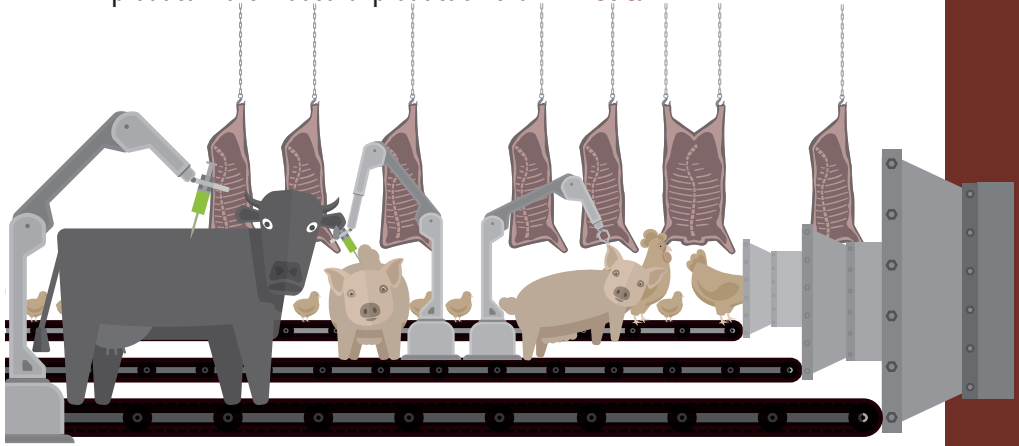


This leads to a huge demand for meat that can only be met through **meat factories.**

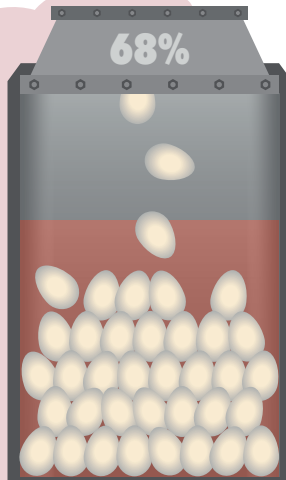
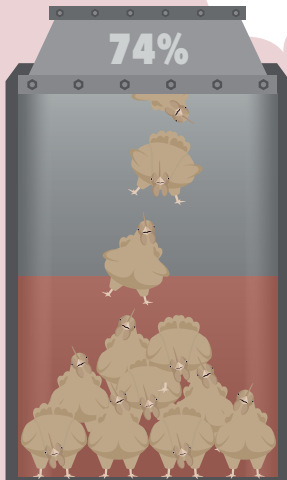


It is there that millions of cows, pigs, and birds are born, grow, reproduce and die standing in **crowded conditions**, with cables, hoses and funnels fattening them for slaughter.

They are kept alive in miserable conditions to later be turned into the final product in the industrial production chain: **meat**.



These factories produce **74% of the chicken and other poultry**, **68% of the eggs**, and **40% of the pork** around the world.

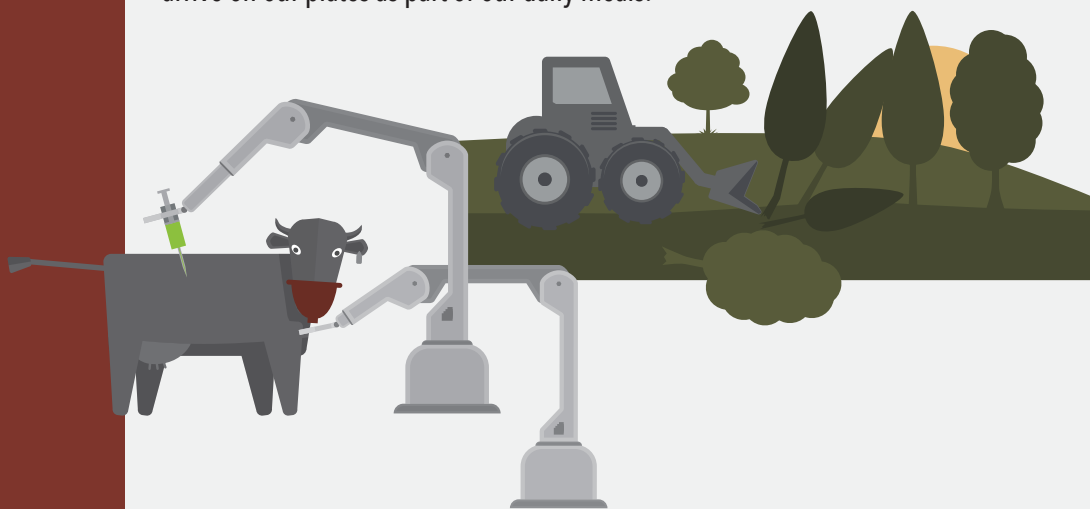


This mode of production bears a great responsibility for climate change.

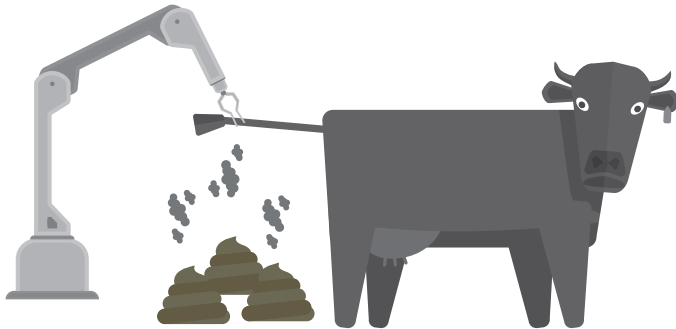
But, why?



● In the first place, these factories feed animals with huge amounts of genetically modified (GM) soybeans and maize, produced at a large scale by an industry that is largely responsible for global deforestation. So much so that **in 2010, one third of global GM soybean and maize production was used for fattening meat.** It is expected that by 2050, half of this production will go towards animal feed, which will then arrive on our plates as part of our daily meals.



- Additionally, **manure from the animals produces methane gas**, which is 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.



- However, this is not the only polluting waste. **The waste** from meat by-products produces nearly one gigatonne of greenhouse gases. This **represents 20% of all harmful gases** (4.5 gigatonnes) produced by food waste.



● Also, factory farms use large amounts of fossil fuels like gas and oil throughout their production process: during mechanisation, refrigeration and industrial processing. **Twenty percent of greenhouse gas emissions are produced by fossil fuel use during the production of meat and dairy.**

In brief, **the meat industry produces a significant part of the greenhouse gases** responsible for the current climate crisis.



But that's not all. **The five main meat and dairy companies are responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than the big oil transnational corporations.**



Of course, the companies call for silence, lobbying and campaigning to hide the damages they create.



But a series of alternatives
are already within our reach.



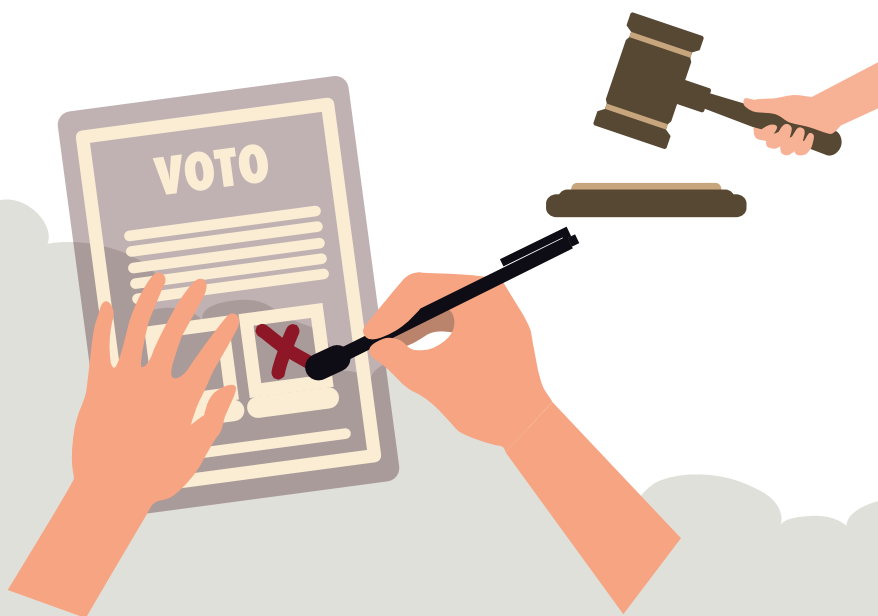
● At a personal level, we can **reduce our meat consumption**. This not only reduces the demand for meat, but it is also good for our health.



- At a community level, **eating meat produced by small-scale peasant farmers** can make a difference, and it promotes sustainable animal husbandry.



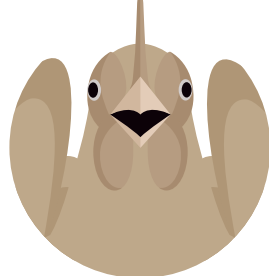
- At the national level, we can **demand legislation to limit abuses by the livestock sector**, and to promote nutritious food and support small-scale peasant farmers.



● At the regional and global levels, we can **support struggles against the agro-industrial food system**, against corporate power, and against free trade agreements.



**We must inform ourselves in order to
organise, organise in order to break
the silence, and break the si-
lence in order to denounce.**





It is not a campaign
against meat consump-
tion, **it is a campaign**
against the
industrial modes
of livestock
production that
destroy our health and
our planet.



ALIANZA
BIODIVERSIDAD



AGROECOLOGÍA CAMPESINA
PARA EL SUSTENTO

Publication based on the animation *"What does industrial meat production have to do with the climate crisis"* by Vaca Bonsai, audiovisual collective.

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Pablo André

Script revision

Paula Castello

Proofreading

Pablo Capiello

Publication design

Ailín Vicente



More information

www.grain.org

www.biodiversidadla.org

Contact

grain@grain.org

See the animation here!



Be part of the solution!

Please distribute this cartoon in your community and through social media, use it in discussions and workshops, multiply it!



ANOTHER MODE OF PRODUCTION IS POSSIBLE

