**DEFORESTATION & LAND USE**

In the Amazon and its surrounding regions, 5,800 sq km is cleared annually for conversion into pasture for cattle ranching. 2019 saw the most active year for fires in the Brazilian Amazon in nearly a decade, with 70% of these fires occurring in buying zones of cattle slaughterhouses. A quarter of a million fire alerts occurred within estimated operating zones of JBS alone, while 66,000 fire alerts were attributed to Minerva, and almost 80,000 occurred near abattoirs owned by Marfrig.

Confined to small spaces and close to one another, animals are heavily reliant on antibiotics to keep them alive. They are often stressed with depressed immune systems, providing pathogens with an endless supply of hosts.

**KEY ISSUES**

The industry recruits some of the world’s most vulnerable people to work their lines in order to keep meat cheap.

On average, one Tyson employee is injured and amputates a finger or limb per month.

1/3 of the industry’s workforce are immigrants, and both Cargill and Tyson have exploited the unauthorised status of some employees, making them endure harsh and often illegal conditions. This includes exposure to extreme temperatures and high speeds of production, resulting in regular illness and high risks of injury.

Deforestation, overmedicating livestock, and overcrowding farms create favourable conditions for antibiotic-resistant bacteria to persist and spread. The increased occurrence of viruses is closely linked to food production and its profitability.

**THE CASE TO DIVEST**

Industrial meat and dairy production is incompatible with a safe, ecologically sustainable life on earth. While curbing meat consumption can be a step in the right direction, it is not always in our own hands. These are choices overshadowed by the structural issues and corporate powers that monopolise the industry – from systemic racism in access to nourishing food, to the wild success of meat and dairy lobbyists. It’s time we move beyond framing this as a ‘lifestyle’ issue and mobilise collectively against industrial agribusinesses.

Big Livestock relies on the financial, moral, and political backing of thousands of institutional investors and creditors around the world – university endowments, sovereign wealth funds, banks, asset managers, and public pensions. We must end funding to the industry and banks and investors that prop up this industry need to be exposed. Divesting from Big Livestock will not only cause financial damage to some of the world’s worst polluters, but it will also open up new ways of thinking and talking about food. We must recognise this across society and make funding Big Livestock unacceptably risky and socially toxic.
Recalled 36 million pounds of ground turkey linked to a nationwide outbreak of salmonella—one of the largest meat recalls on record. Long history of E. Coli contamination resulting in outbreaks linked to deaths and miscarriages.

Fined $7.7 million for buying cattle on illegally deforested Amazonian land. Estimated area of forest felled for cattle this year: 23,976 hectares.

In 2016 Tyson employees stated they had been denied bathroom breaks so frequently that they started wearing adult diapers to work.

Operation Carne Fraca: one of many firms accused of bribing food sanitation inspectors, resulting in rotten meat exported worldwide.

Smithfield accused of mishandling hog waste in North Carolina for years. Over 3,300 lagoons of contaminated waste containing faeces, urine, blood, and bodily fluids are causing fly swarms, a stench of ‘decomposing bodies’, and asthma. Damaging impacts on local health and wellbeing, particularly of the Black Caribbean community.

Major UK supermarkets, including Tesco, Aldi, Marks and Spencer, and Lidl, use ‘fake farm’ branding on own-brand products, disguising industrial chicken produced by the likes of Cargill and Moy Park behind names such as “Woodside Farms” and “Oakham” chicken.

McDonald’s, Nando’s, Pret a Manger and Five Guys sell British meat reared on soya shipped from deforested regions of the Cerrado. 91% of deforestation in the rainforest comes directly from animal agriculture.

Smithfield accused of conspiracy to smuggle undocumented workers onto its production lines. Later accused of hiring illegal immigrants on “starvation wages”.

‘Operation Carne Fraca’: one of many firms accused of bribing food sanitation inspectors, resulting in rotten meat exported worldwide.

Between 2010 and 2016, 4,000 small-scale farms in the UK closed down, according to Defra.

Fonterra’s Chinese partner, Sanlu Group, was embroiled in a contaminated milk scandal that affected 300,000 Chinese infants and killed 6. It was accused of using melamine in watered-down milk to cheat quality checks.

Cheap European milk powder is sold to countries in West Africa and mixed with water and vegetable oil to be sold as liquid milk. West African farmers are struggling to compete with the prices, driving them out of business.

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Feedback regenerates nature by transforming our food system. To do this we challenge power, catalyse action and empower people to achieve positive change.