

CK 101: ANIMAL FARMING, THE FOOD ON OUR PLATES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Aline Silva, Executive Director | she, her
Ashley M. Lewis, Contributor | she, her



ALINE & PAÇOCA

Aline Silva, Executive Director | she, her
ah-lee-nee



ASHLEY

Ashley M. Lewis, Contributor | she, her



CREATUREKIND'S MISSION

...is to advance collective liberation — for animals, peoples, and the earth — with a special focus on farmed animals and food systems. We encourage and equip Christians to embody the interdependence of God's whole Creation by creating educational and worship resources, and curating sacred spaces for spiritual formation, leadership development, and community change-making.



**CREATURE
KIND**

for Animals, Peoples and the Earth

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To equip

Christians with a theo-ethical framework from which to discuss animal issues in the church and the place of animals in Christian life.

To provide

education and support... on the importance and validity of including animals... in Christian life and practice in order to change the way that animals are viewed by Christians.

To seek

commitments from churches, institutions, and individuals to a new approach regarding their sourcing and consumption of animal products – the CreatureKind Commitment.

To strengthen

the church by affirming the call and meeting the spiritual needs of individuals working in animal protection; to provide a community in which they can express their experience, strength, and hope.

GOALS



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Define "human"

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Define "human"



Define "neighbor"



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A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT BEING HUMAN

"decolonizing Western Christianity's assumptions of the human requires us to view 'being human' as praxis, a process of learning, unlearning, applying, and realizing our humanness in antioppressive ways...Our humanness is reflected in our commitment to living in ways that undo the structures of coloniality."

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice* (Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2021), 88.

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3 PRINCIPLES OF BEING HUMAN AS PRAXIS



self-love



solidarity



holistic
interdependence

TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- 1. Ashley**  Shalom and its implications in our food choices
- 2. Aline**  How the Farming of Animals has Changed Landscapes
- 3. Q&A**
- 4. Next Steps**  resources, and some practical ways to take action

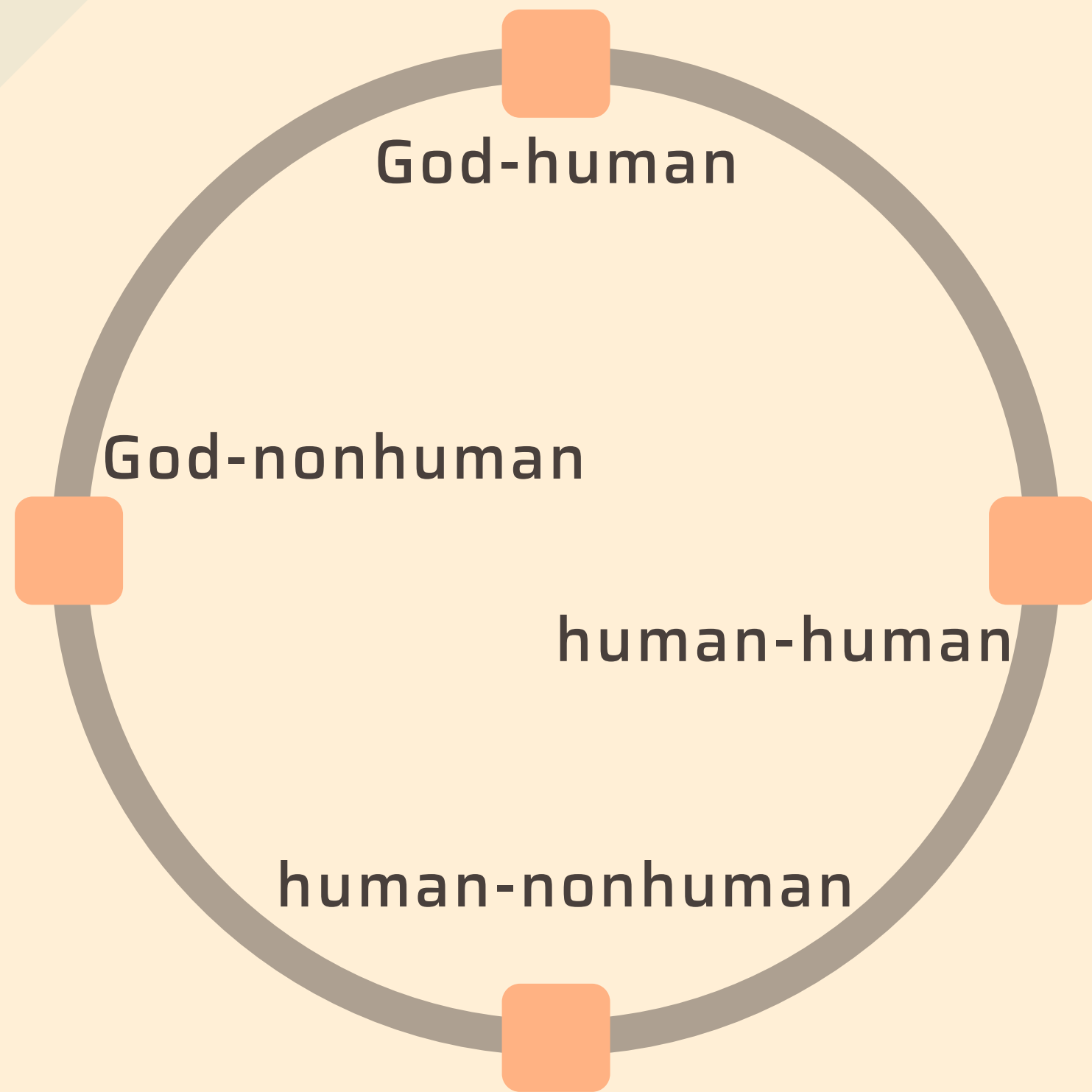


SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES

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SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES



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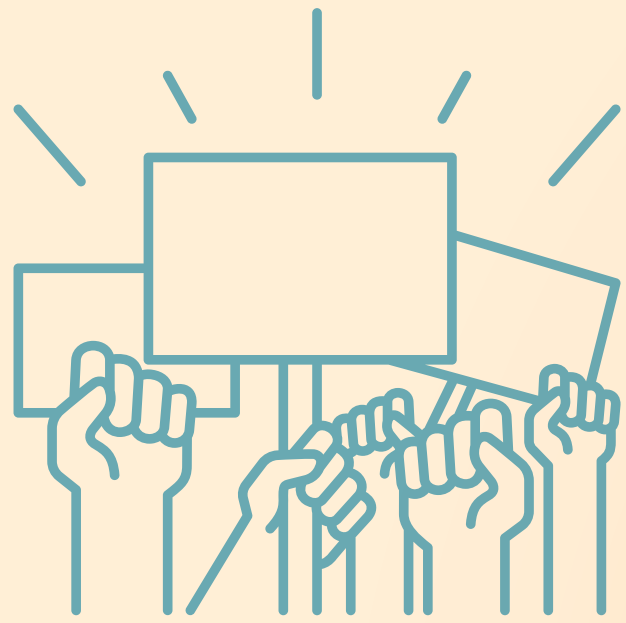
SHALOM FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

"Shalom is meant to be both personal... and structural...In such relationships human beings should make room for the possibility that all creation, in some way, bears the image of the Creator. In other words, there is something of God in all of Creation. Living out these relationships as sacred is living in shalom."

Rev. Dr. Randy S. Woodley, *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* (Grand Rapids, Cambridge: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012), 20.

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SHALOM

throughout Creation
animals, humans, and ecologies

TESTED AT THE MARGINS

treatment of the poor, oppressed, and
disempowered

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SHALOM

throughout Creation
animals, humans, and ecosystems

**INDUSTRIAL
ANIMAL
AGRICULTURE**

**TESTED AT
THE MARGINS**

treatment of the poor, oppressed, and
disempowered

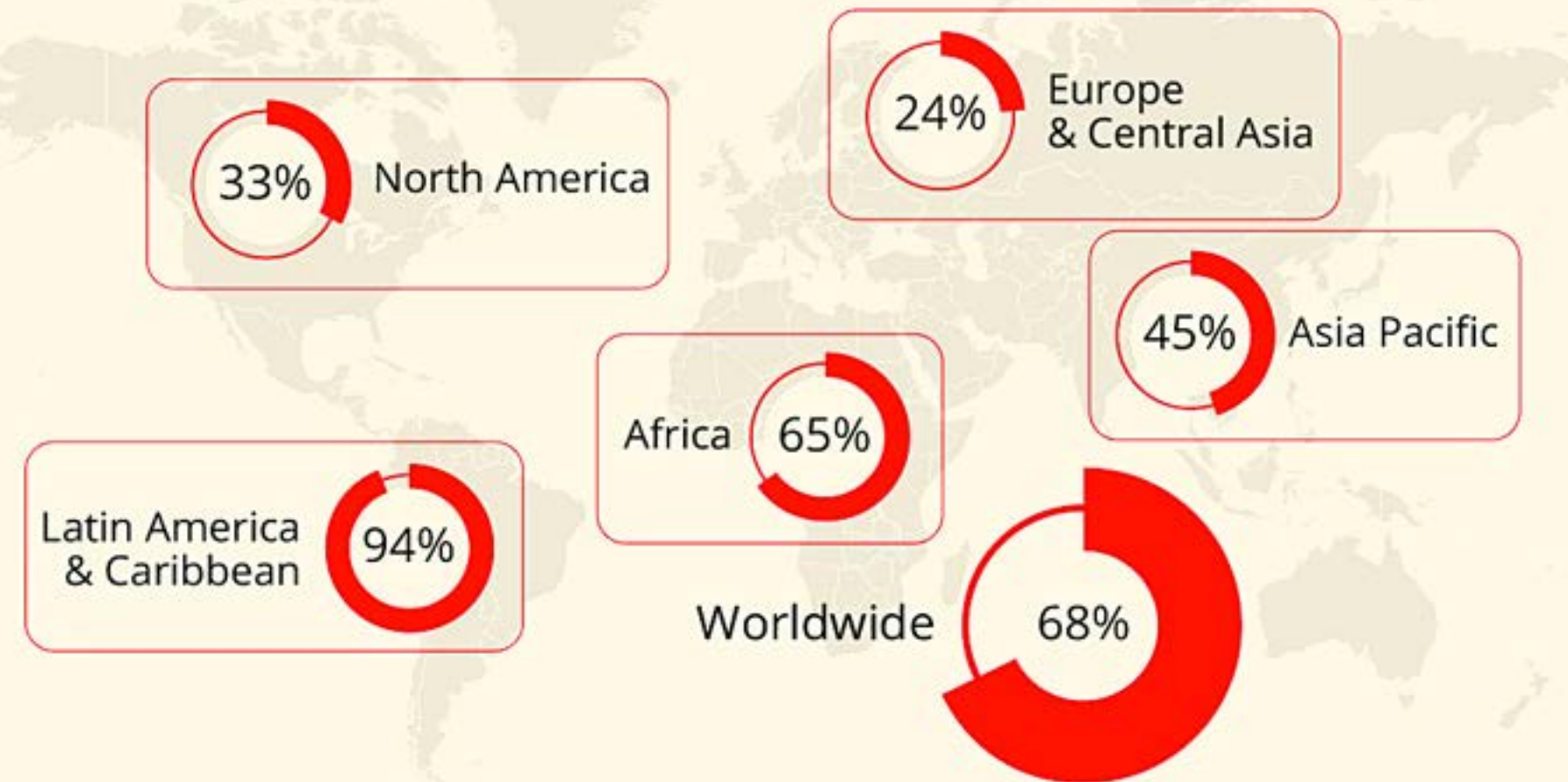
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Global Wildlife Populations Suffer Catastrophic Collapse

Decline in monitored vertebrate species populations between 1970 and 2016*



* Based on 20,811 populations of 4,392 species (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish).

Source: 2020 Global Living Planet Index



statista

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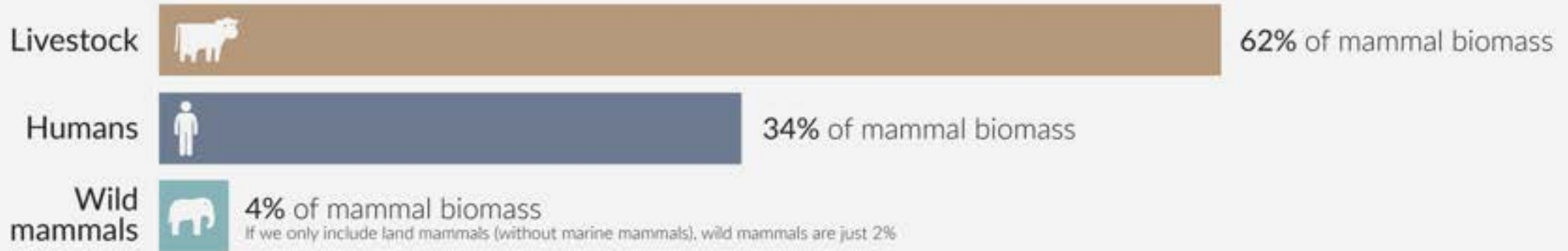


Wild mammals and birds are just a fraction of humans and our livestock

Animals are compared in terms of biomass, measured in tonnes of carbon.

Mammals

All mammals – including land and marine – have a combined biomass of around **162 million tonnes of carbon**.
Wild mammals are just 4% of global mammal biomass



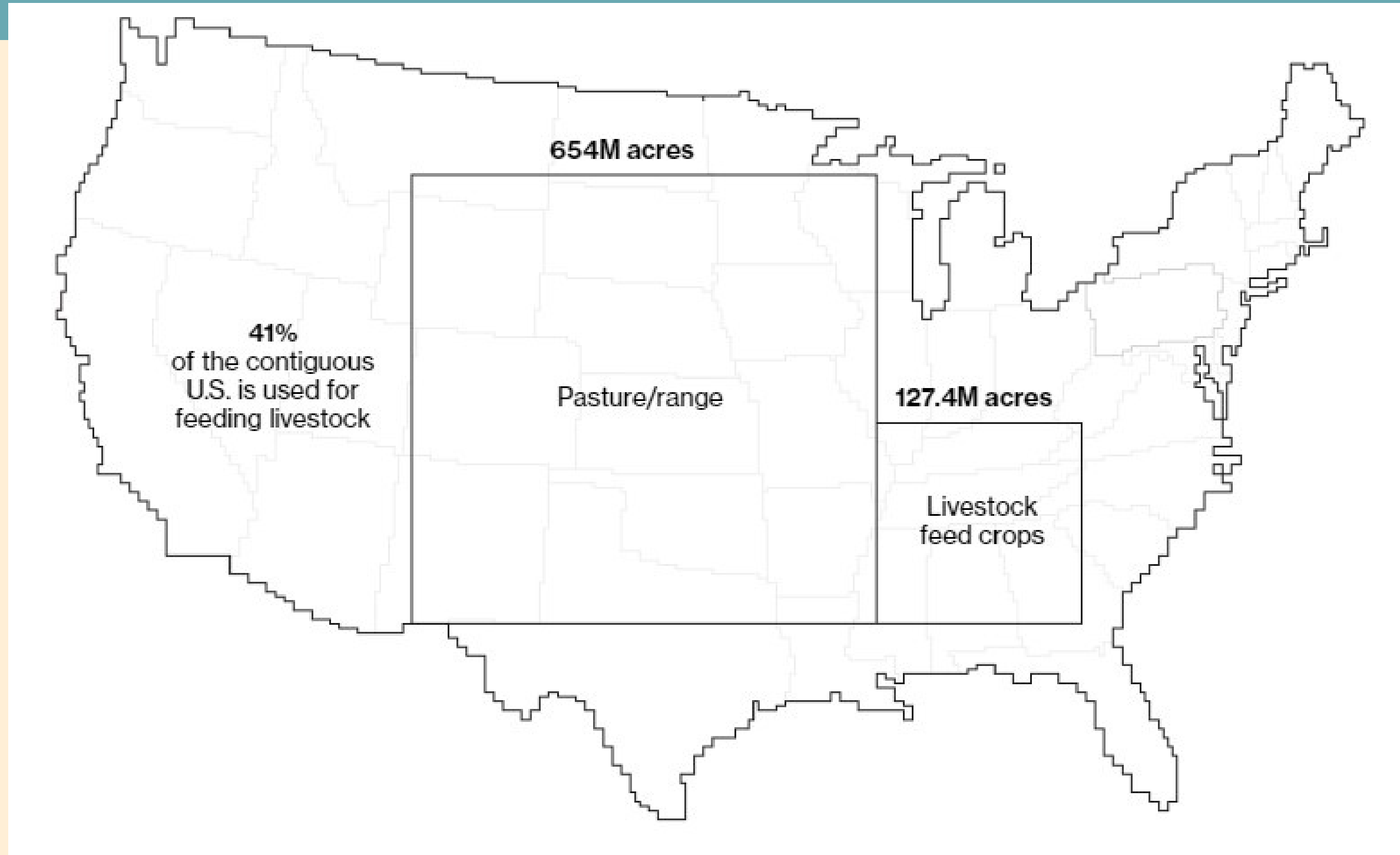
Birds

All birds have a combined biomass of around **7 million tonnes of carbon**.
Poultry – mostly chickens – biomass weigh more than twice that of wild birds.



Source: Bar-On et al. (2018). The biomass distribution on Earth. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under [CC-BY](#) by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Klara Auerbach.

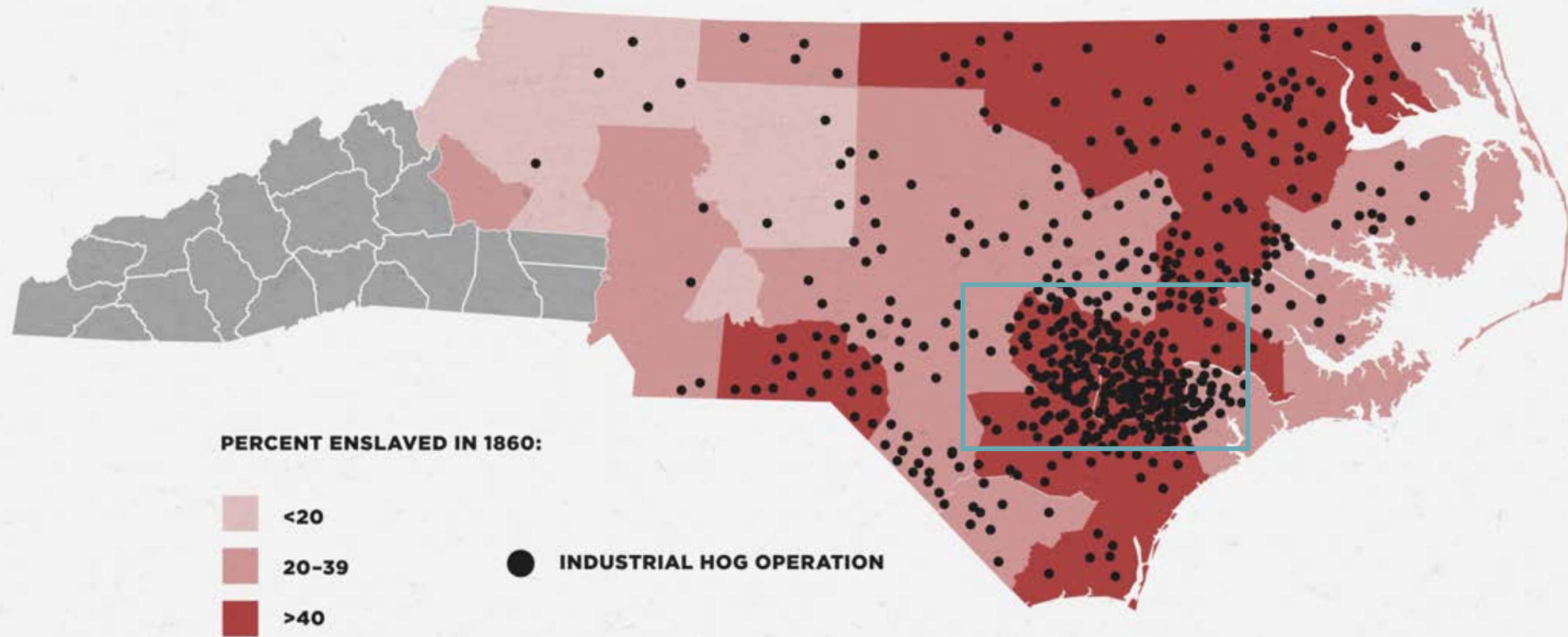
LAND USAGE FOR INDUSTRIAL FARMING



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Here's How America Uses Its Land, *Bloomberg*, July, 2018 <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-us-land-use/>.



INDUSTRIAL HOG FARMING IN NORTH CAROLINA

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How Black North Carolinians pay the price for the world's cheap bacon, Vox, April, 2022, <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/23003487/north-carolina-hog-pork-bacon-farms-environmental-racism-black-residents-pollution-meat-industry>





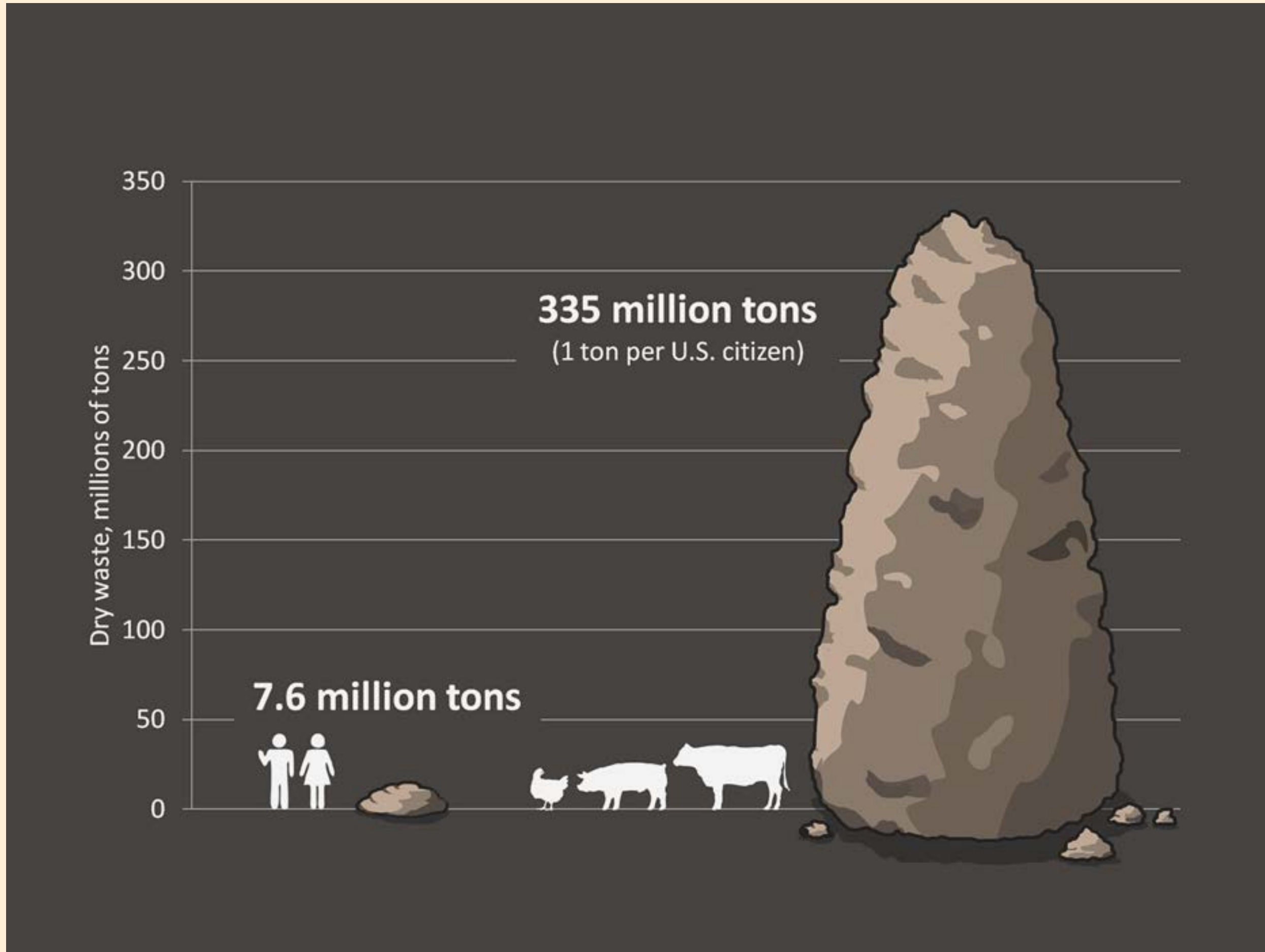
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

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N.C. Residents Living Near Large Hog Farms Have Elevated Disease, Death Risks, *Duke Health*, September, 2018,
<https://corporate.dukehealth.org/news/nc-residents-living-near-large-hog-farms-have-elevated-disease-death-risks>





Industrial Food Animal Production, *Food System Primer*, accessed March 16, 2023, <https://www.foodsystemprimer.org/food-production/industrial-food-animal-production/index.html>

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In North Carolina, New Pollution Allegations Add to Residents' Woes Over Factory Farms, *Civil Eats*, June, 2018,
<https://civileats.com/2018/06/26/in-north-carolina-new-pollution-allegations-add-to-residents-woes-over-factory-farms/>





HOG FARM, BEFORE AND AFTER FLOODING

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Manure Happens, Especially When Hog Farms Flood, *NPR*, November, 2016, <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/11/04/500701098/manure-happens-especially-when-hog-farms-flood>



THE HUMAN TOLL



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How Black North Carolinians pay the price for the world's cheap bacon, Vox, April, 2022, <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/23003487/north-carolina-hog-pork-bacon-farms-environmental-racism-black-residents-pollution-meat-industry>





WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

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A CREATUREKIND WAY OF THINKING ABOUT FOOD CHOICES

“As human beings in the West, we are all mired in an unjust food system, and in some ways, we are all complicit in the oppression of others; moral purity is not an option, nor should it be a realistic goal. Rather, our goal must be to dismantle the logics of coloniality, reduce ecological harm, and promote sustainable ways of being in the world...”

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice* (Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2021), 137.

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**A
CREATUREKIND
WAY OF
THINKING
ABOUT FOOD
CHOICES**

“In this way, how individuals and institutions choose to practice seeking justice for food workers and caring for the earth will play a critical role in increasing food access to those who would struggle with the economic and access implications of soulful eating”

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, *The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice* (Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2021), 137.

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- **practically wise**
- **attention to particularity and complexity**
- **self-love, solidarity, holistic interdependence**
- **(aspirational) radical compassion**

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SHALOM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD CHOICES

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HOW THE FARMING OF ANIMALS HAS CHANGED GLOBAL LANDSCAPES

history, theology, current effects

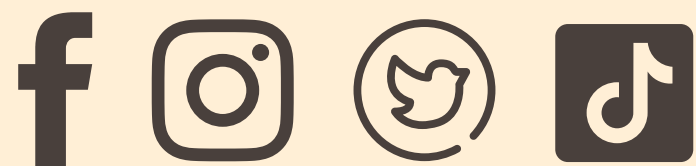
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Anderson documents the use of domesticated animals to attack Native American communities in North America, by driving animals towards said communities, would forcing Native populations to either kill the animals and depend on violence, or allow the animals to do significant damage to the homes.

Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America, Virginia DeJohn Anderson

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COLONIZATION OF THE AMERICAS



A Plague of Sheep Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico

By Elinor G. K. Melville

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"By the end of the sixteenth century, only eight decades after the Spaniards arrived, the picture had changed. The Indian populations were decimated and their fields reduced. The once fertile flatlands were covered in a dense growth of mesquite-dominated desert scrub, the high, steep-sided hills were treeless, and the piedmont was eroded and gullied. Sheep grazing, not agriculture, took precedence in regional production...Sheep did not simply replace men ... although that was the final outcome; rather, they displaced them—ate them, as the saying goes. The processes by which sheep grazing displaced agriculture, and sheep displaced humans, resulted in the formation of a new and far less hospitable landscape within which the indigenous populations were marginalized and alienated, their traditional resources degraded or lost, and their access to the means of production restricted” (p. 39).



Brazil is the world's second-largest livestock producer, behind only the United States. The 2022 Food and Agriculture Report of the United Nations (referred to as FAO report) forecasts that Brazil will soon become the largest exporter of cattle, surpassing even the US (FAO 2022). Livestock production generates significant profit for agribusiness at a very high cost for non-humans and all Brazilians, especially for the most marginalized populations and Indigenous peoples. The earth itself also pays the price. For instance, the desecration and devastation of the Amazon rainforest are caused by profitable industries — logging, mining, cattle grazing, and ranching, which have all become weapons of mass destruction.

BRAZIL



AUSTRALIA



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[Scorched country: the destruction of Australia's native landscape](#)

Michael Slezak

AUSTRALIA

“ —

The work of colonisation is always a multispecies affair but infrequently recognised as such. The [current] climate crisis is sedimented into the colonisation of the region by white invaders and the animals they/we brought here.

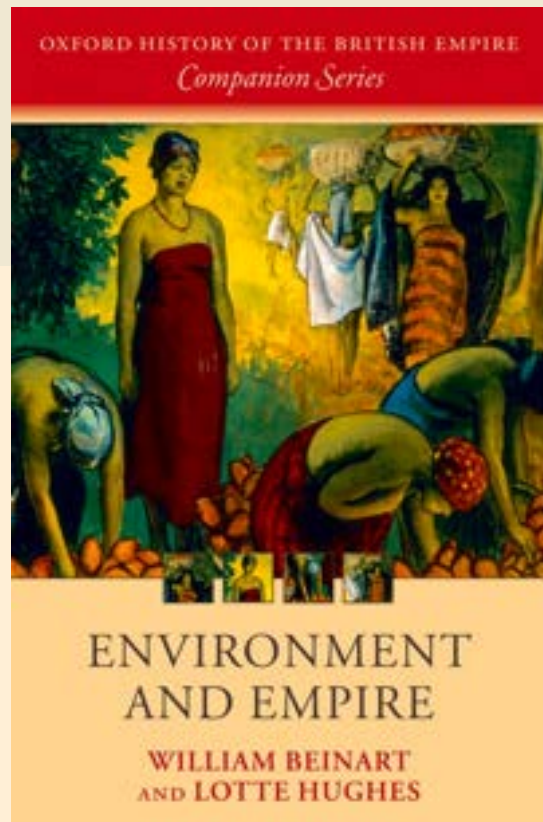
— ”

Fiona Probyn-Rapsey in **Cattle and colonialism: the animals that built Sydney**, published 8 FEBRUARY 2022 on [The Architectural Review](#)

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AUSTRALIA



CHAPTER 6: Sheep, Pastures,
and Demography in Australia
William Beinart, Lotte Hughes

“ —

Living and working on the land has been part of the popular image of Australia since the earliest days of settlement. Colonisation of Australia saw a transformation of the natural landscape of our continent through agriculture.

Life on the land Published on State Library of NSW
(<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au>)

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AUSTRALIA



Prior to colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples used 'fire-stick farming' to manage the landscape for sustainable food production, but the events of colonisation resulted in profound changes in the landscape.



Colonising the landscape, published on [the Indigenous Knowledge Institute](#)

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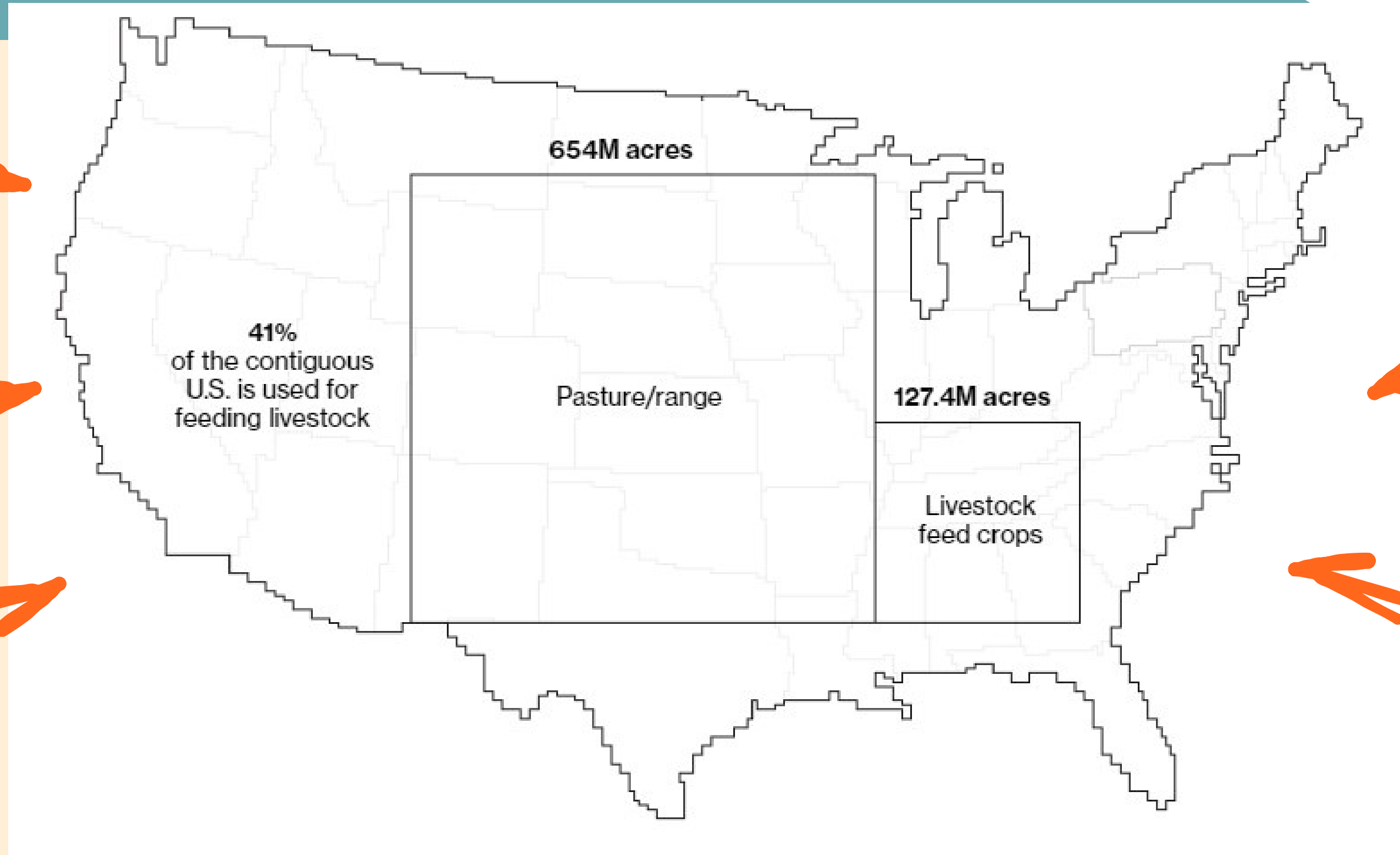


USA

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LAND USAGE FOR INDUSTRIAL FARMING - USA



REMEMBER

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

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Here's How America Uses Its Land, *Bloomberg*, July, 2018 <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-us-land-use/>.





GEORGIA

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Agriculture is Georgia's oldest and largest industry. Since 1733, settlers and colonizers stole and appropriated the knowledge of Native Americans on hunting and growing food, and changed the shape of the land to produce agricultural commodities for export, and profited from the enslavement and killing of Black and Indigenous Peoples.

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The 2020 GA census showed more than 42,000 farms operating across the state, with 9.9 million acres in production. More than 17,000 of those farms raised cattle, either beef cows or dairy cows.”



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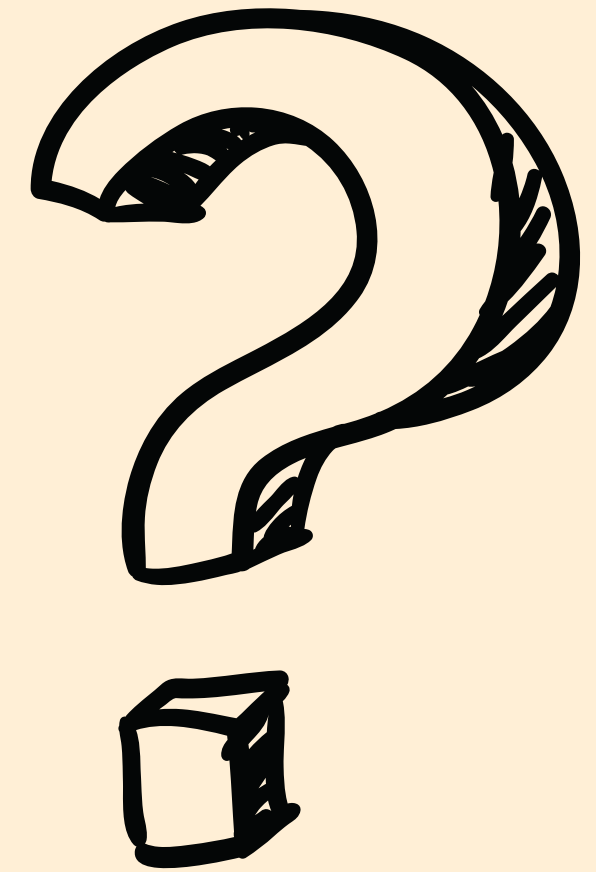
Top Environmental Concerns for Georgians: air quality and food safety.



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if there are more than 42,000 farms operating across the GA state, with 9.9 million acres in production, how are their practices impacting the air and food quality of our state



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if there are more than 42,000
farmer GA
state res in
pro their
pr air
and food quality of our state

9.9 million acres of
deforested land;

*what is the impact on
our water ways?*



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if there are more than 42,000
farms in the GA
state; res in
pro their
pr air
and food quality of our state

42,000 farms across one
state;

*what is the impact on
food security and access?*



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if there are more than 42,000
farmer GA
states in
pro their
pr air
and food quality of our state

Shalom; For Whom??





GEORGIA

#3 in the nation for
profiting from prison
food factory

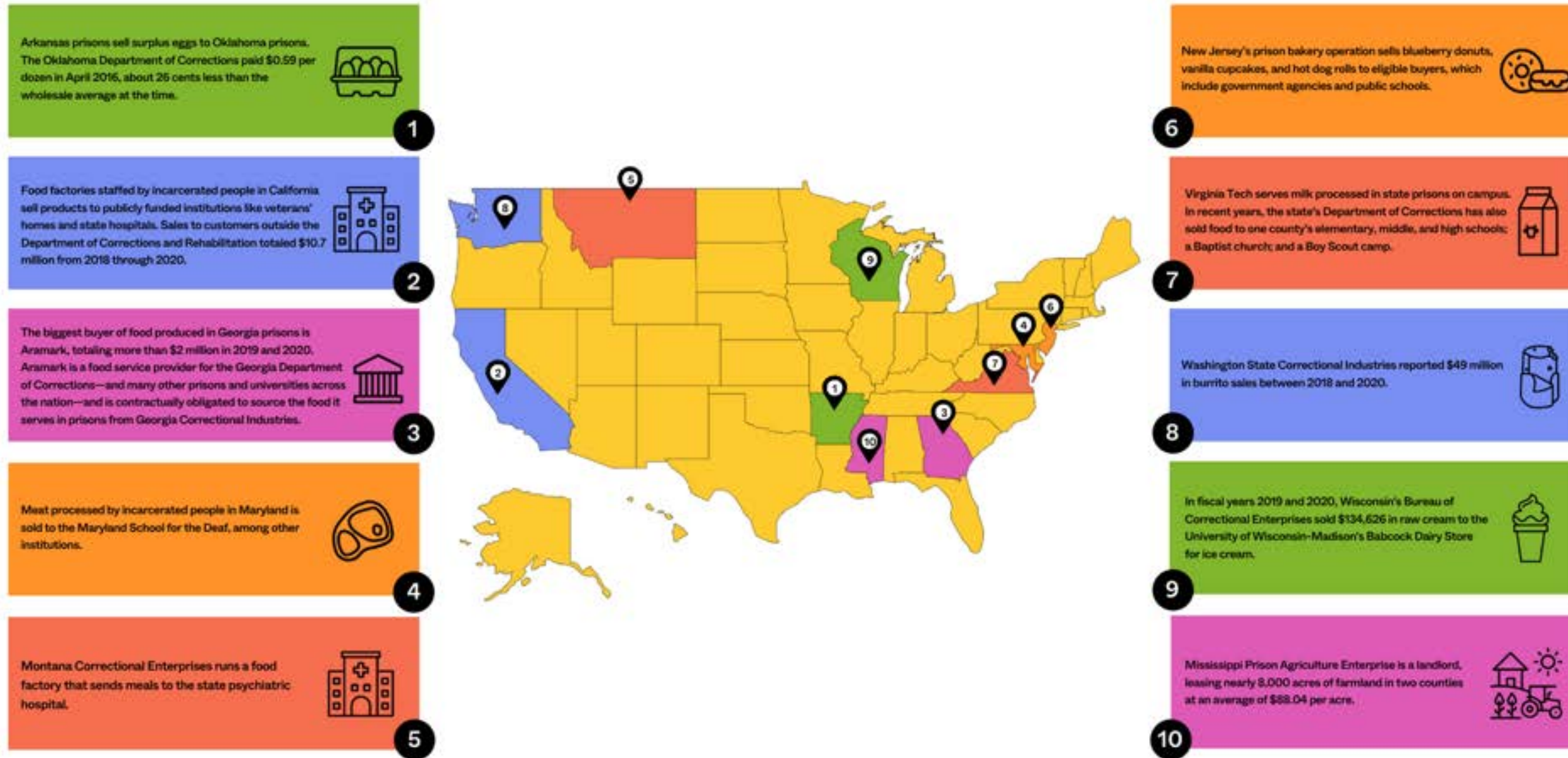
H. Claire Brown, [The Counter](#)

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Mapping prison sales across the public sector

The following represents a sample of select transactions between prisons and state institutions.



Source: Public records obtained by The Counter

Credit: Talia Moore | Icons via The Noun Project/iconixar,

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Food factories staffed by incarcerated people in California sell products to publicly funded institutions like veterans' homes and state hospitals. Sales to customers outside the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation totaled \$10.7 million from 2018 through 2020.



2

The biggest buyer of food produced in Georgia prisons is Aramark, totaling more than \$2 million in 2019 and 2020. Aramark is a food service provider for the Georgia Department of Corrections—and many other prisons and universities across the nation—and is contractually obligated to source the food it serves in prisons from Georgia Correctional Industries.



3

Meat processed by incarcerated people in Maryland is sold to the Maryland School for the Deaf, among other institutions.

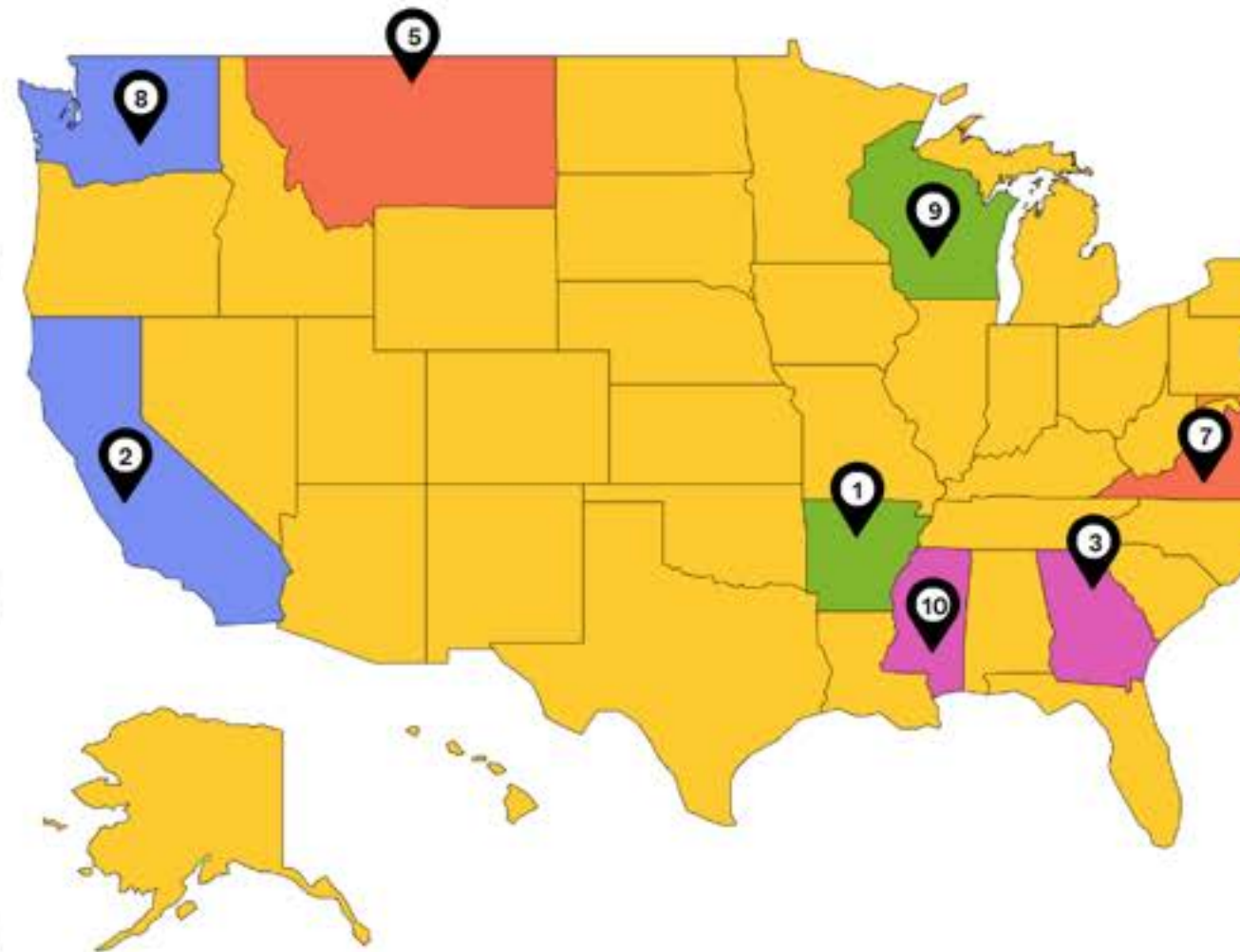


4

Montana Correctional Enterprises runs a food factory that sends meals to the state psychiatric hospital.



5



Source: Public records obtained by The Counter

Herschel Walker's chicken firm tied to benefits from unpaid prison labor

PBR News Hour

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**MANUEL TERAN
(TORTUGUITA)**





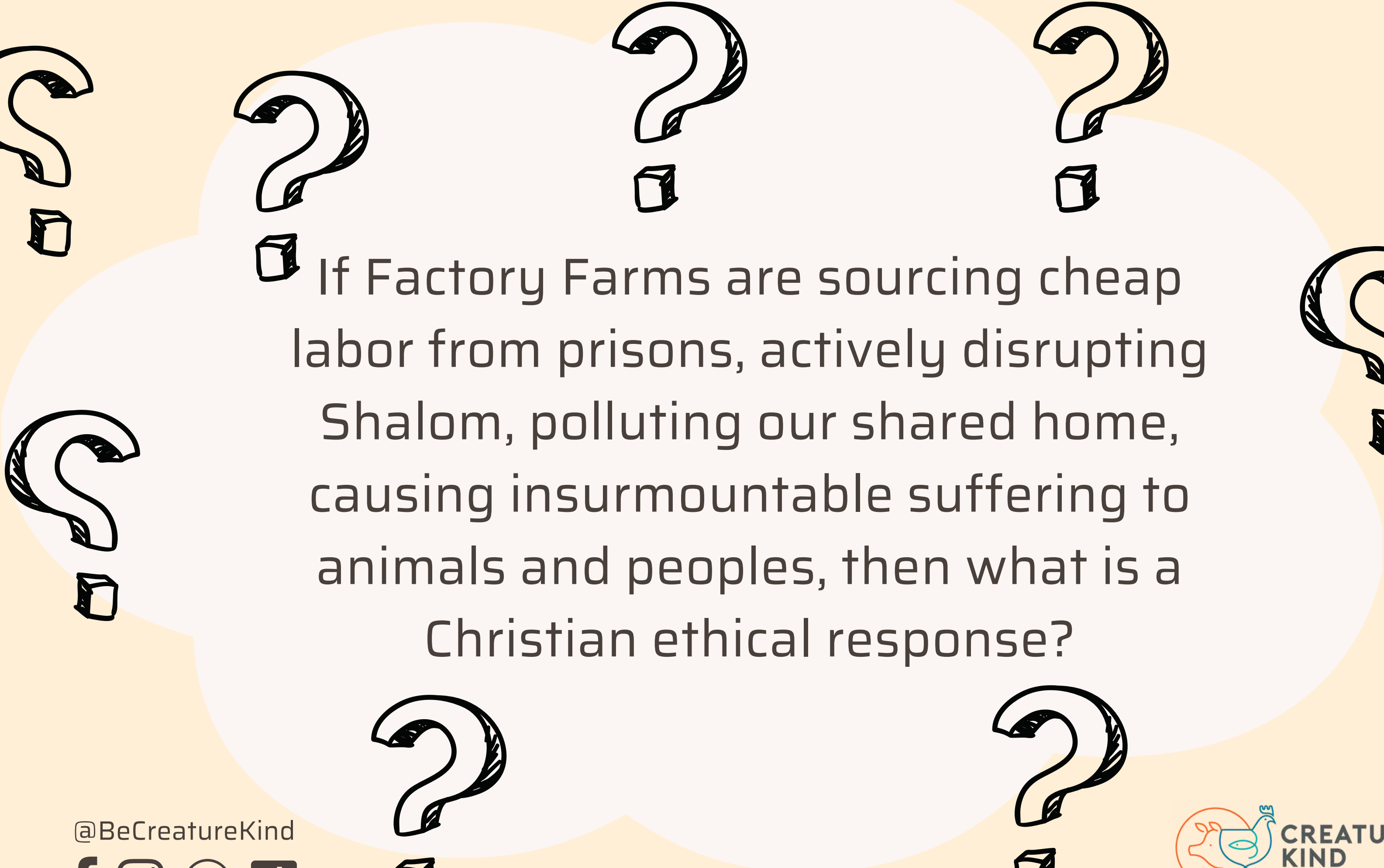
Is this a
 political issue?
 or is this a
 justice issue?



**MANUEL TERAN
 (TORTUGUITA)**

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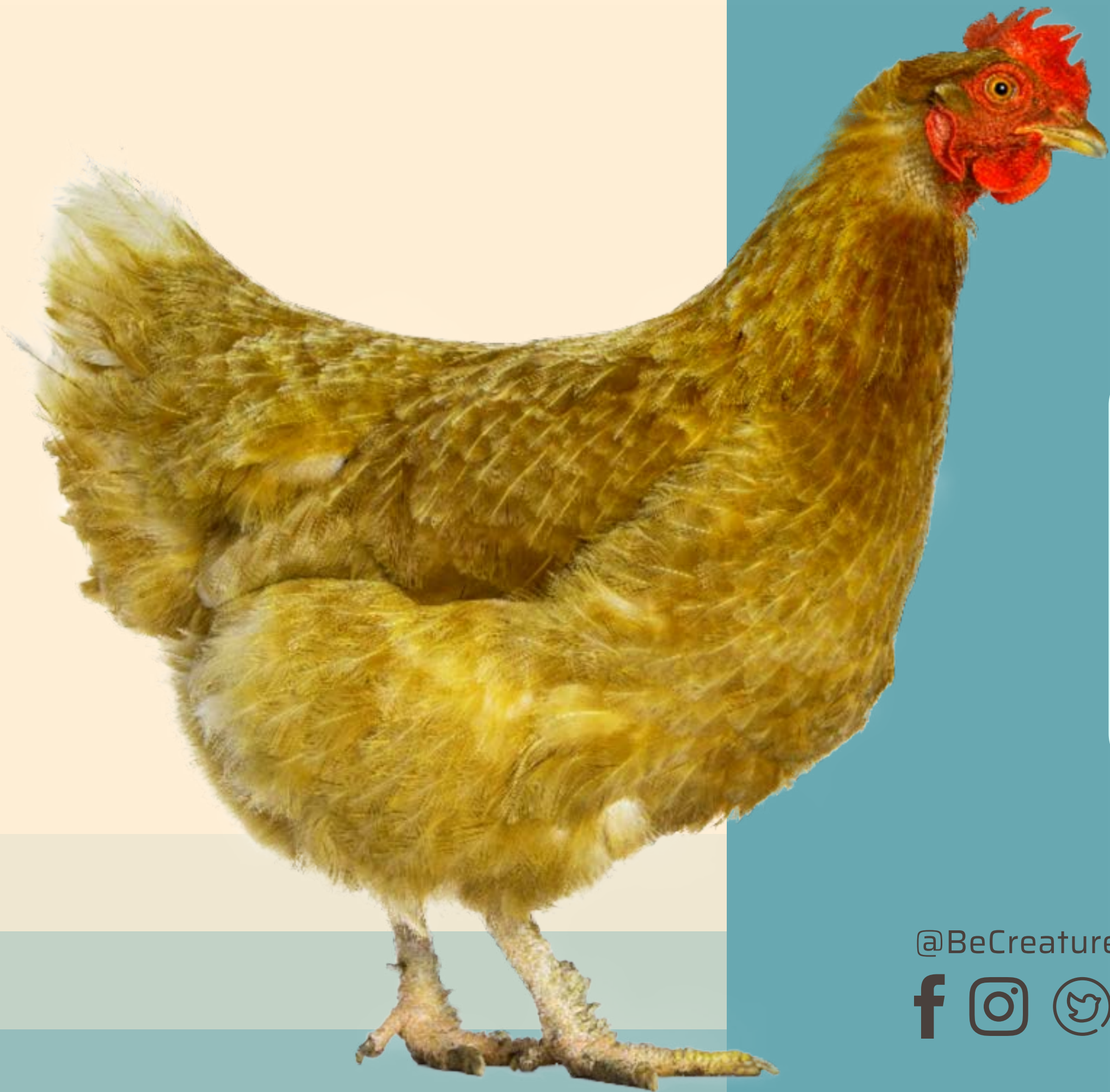




If Factory Farms are sourcing cheap labor from prisons, actively disrupting Shalom, polluting our shared home, causing insurmountable suffering to animals and peoples, then what is a Christian ethical response?

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INDIVIDUALS

- Consider how the food on your plate impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Reduce your animals consumption
- Add more veggies to your plate
- Get to know your food growers and handlers
- Commit to Learning more, start [here](#)
- Contact your local leaders and advocate for better legislation:
 - [The Farm Bill](#) has a huge impact on how food in the United States is grown, what kinds of foods are grown, and the livelihoods of the people who grow our food.
 - [The Justice for Black Farmers ACT](#) by the National Black Food & Justice Alliance [here](#), and updated legislation on Senator Cory Booker's website [here](#)
- Ask your religious leaders to preach, teach, and engage in animal advocacy



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Communities

- Consider our communion tables and how the food at our gatherings impacts animals, peoples, and the earth
- Participate or lead a Book, Devotional, or Bible Studies
- Use the **Christian Ethics and Animal Agriculture Framework Document** when speaking to your community. This document is a draft for discussion outlining the basis for a collaboration between US church organizations, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and CreatureKind on the Christian ethics of animal agriculture.
- Invite the CreatureKind staff to preach, teach, and share more with your community
- Apply to the CreatureKind Fellowship



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valid for conference attendees only*



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for Animals, Peoples and the Earth

CONTACT US

Mailing Address

590 Grove St. Suite 186, Herndon, VA 20172

Phone Number

(541) 525-0893

E-mail Address

aline@becreaturekind.org

ashley@becreaturekind.org