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### **Naming Storms after Climate Crisis Contributor Animal Agriculture**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of PETA Switzerland. PETA's partner organizations are supported by more than 9 million people around the world. The occasion for this letter is the increasingly escalating climate crisis and the associated more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events such as storms and hurricanes.

The animal agriculture industry, and with that the consumption of animal products, are largely responsible for the alarming change of climate that we are witnessing and experiencing. We therefore think it is important to draw attention to this, by naming the storms and hurricanes after meat and dairy companies, that are responsible for a drastic amount of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, such as JBS, Tyson Foods or Cargill. Alternatively, upcoming storms and hurricanes could be named after the most emission intensive meat and dairy products, which are beef, butter and cheese. Another idea would be to name them after the highly harmful climate gases that are emitted through animal agriculture, adding the number of times they are more detrimental compared to carbon dioxide: e.g., carbon dioxide, methane<sup>84</sup> as well as nitrous-oxide<sup>268</sup>

Allow me to state several facts that will underline our position. The science is unambiguous: animal husbandry is one of the main causes of the greatest environmental problem of our time. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) made this clear as early as 2006: "The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global."<sup>1</sup> Globally, animal agriculture - and therefore foods made from animals, their secretions, and ova - produces more greenhouse gases than the entire transport sector worldwide.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the five biggest meat and dairy companies emit more greenhouse gases than multinational oil companies.<sup>3</sup> According to a study published in 2020, cattle and other ruminants produce nearly as many methane emissions as the fossil fuel

<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "Livestock's Long Shadow", 2006. <http://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e00.htm> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Xu et al. "Global greenhouse gas emissions from animal-based foods are twice those of plant-based foods", 2021. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00358-x> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Sharma, Shefali. "Emissions Impossible Europe", 2021. <https://www.iatp.org/emissions-impossible-europe> Accessed 4 September 2023.

industry.<sup>4</sup> Likewise, rainforest deforestation – which massively adds to the climate crisis - is related to animal agriculture. The more rainforest is cleared for pasture and to grow crops for farmed animals, the less CO<sub>2</sub> can be broken down and O<sub>2</sub> produced. Such deforestation also releases the carbon dioxide stored in the trees into the atmosphere.

Even the lowest-impact meat, fish and dairy have a higher CO<sub>2</sub> footprint than any plant-based foods and vastly exceed those of vegetable foods.<sup>5</sup> Butter is considered the most climate-damaging food, with cheese coming in third, after beef.<sup>6</sup> The IPCC-report pointed out: “Even if emissions from fossil fuels were stopped immediately, emissions from the food system would jeopardise the achievement of the 1.5 °C target and call the 2 °C target into question.”<sup>7</sup>

In 2018 an Oxford study had already concluded that shifting to a vegan diet is the best way to address the impact of climate change most effectively.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, a study published in 2020 concluded that we could stay within a 1.5°C temperature rise by adopting a global plant-based food system.<sup>9</sup> Another recently published study showed that a vegan diet produces 75 percent fewer greenhouse gases compared to an omnivorous diet.<sup>10</sup>

The climate crisis is among the most pressing issues of our time. Against this background, it is essential that the role of animal agriculture becomes more visible with regard to the climate crisis. We therefore ask you to set an example and inform the public more about the connection between the climate crisis and the consumption of animal products by naming future storms and hurricanes according to our proposals.

For questions and further information please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Yours truly,



Ingrid Newkirk  
Founder, PETA and its affiliates internationally

<sup>4</sup> IOP Science. “Increasing anthropogenic methane emissions arise equally from agricultural and fossil fuel sources”, 2020. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab9ed2> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Poore, J, and Nemecek, T. “Reducing Food’s Environmental Impacts Through Producers and Consumers”, 2018. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6392/987> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Ökotest. „Rindfleisch nur auf Platz 2: Diese Lebensmittel sind die schlimmsten Klimakiller“, 2019. [https://www.oekotest.de/essen-trinken/Rindfleisch-nur-auf-Platz-2-Diese-Lebensmittel-sind-die-schlimmsten-Klimakiller-600836\\_1.html](https://www.oekotest.de/essen-trinken/Rindfleisch-nur-auf-Platz-2-Diese-Lebensmittel-sind-die-schlimmsten-Klimakiller-600836_1.html) Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>7</sup> IPCC. “Climate Change 2022. Mitigation of Climate Change” 2022. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf) Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Poore, J, and Nemecek, T. “Reducing Food’s Environmental Impacts Through Producers and Consumers”, 2018. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6392/987> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew N Hayek et al. “The Carbon Opportunity Cost of Animal-Sourced Food Production on Land”, 2021. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-020-00603-4> Accessed 4 September 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Scarborough, P., Clark, M., Cobiac, L. et al. “Vegans, vegetarians, fish-eaters and meat-eaters in the UK show discrepant environmental impacts”, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-023-00795-w> Accessed 4 September 2023.