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# Agriculture and Biodiversity

- UN Convention on Biodiversity - food production: main driver of species extinction
- Connection between biodiversity loss and intensive agriculture
- Intensive farming and demand for cheap meat
  - Harm to wildlife
  - Species extinction
  - Biodiversity loss
- A complete rethink of the way we produce food is urgently needed



# The two sides of factory farming



# Industrial animal agriculture contributes to many problems

- Intensive crop production for feed (monocultures and agro-chemicals), use of arable land to grow feed
- Dependence on feeding human edible cereals to animals who then convert them very inefficiently into meat and milk
- About 60% of EU cereals are used as animal feed, threat to food security
- Pollution and overuse of water
- Soil degradation
- Air pollution, ammonia, GHG emissions
- Deforestation, expansion of cropland into forests and grasslands
- Biodiversity loss, wildlife gets squeezed out
- Significant antibiotic use
- Public health concerns
- In EU 9 billion land animals used for food yearly, 2/3 on factory farms
- Increased animal suffering

**Over 70 billion farm animals**  
**Two-thirds on factory farms**  
**Responsible for 14.5% of GHG emissions**  
**As agriculture expands, wildlife gets squeezed out**



Farm animals

Trees

Bushes, hedges

Wildflowers

Seeds

Insects

Birds, bats, bees

Worms and other soil organisms

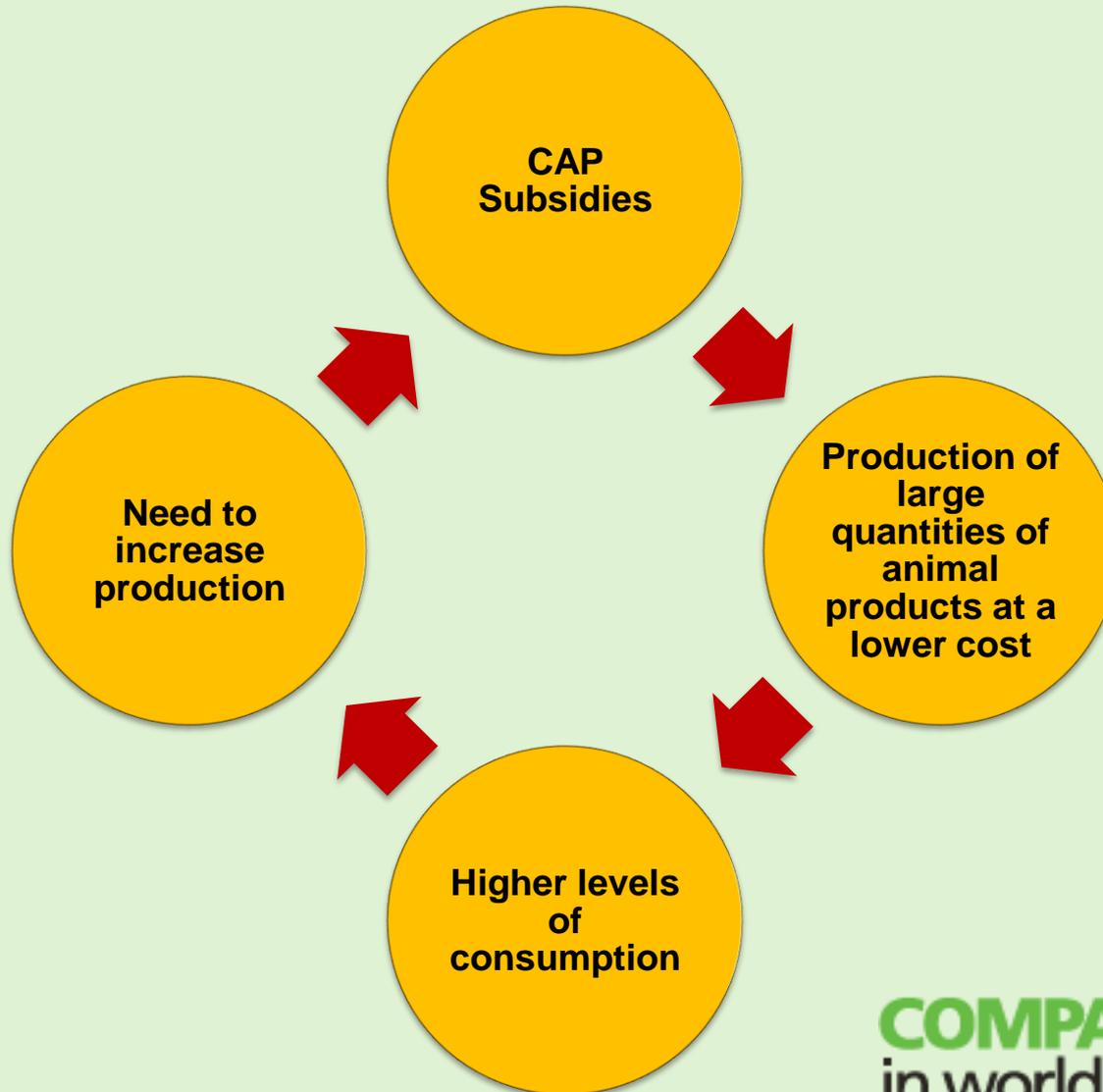
Leaving us with... confined animals and chemical monocultures.

- Nearly half the world's useable land surface used for food
- Area the size of EU devoted to growing industrial animal feed
- Forest half the size of UK cleared every year for farmland
- 70 per cent freshwater used for agriculture
- World's soils have 60 harvests left... (FAO)
- Wildlife disappearing 1,000 times faster than 'normal'
- Total number of mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and fish halved in last 40 years, 2/3 driven by food production
- 45 billion more farm animals per year by 2050
- Extra cropland the size of France & Italy combined
- Loss of a fifth of forests globally
- 20% increase in water from rivers & aquifers
- Commercial fish to run out 2048
- Climate change will alter water cycles, forests, ecosystems

# Cascade of cruelty... associated risks:

- Decline of pollinators means a third of crops at risk
- Decline of soils puts future harvests at risk
- Decline of seas puts future fish catches at risk
- Demand for more water puts rivers & aquifers at risk
- Pollution from chemical ag puts marine & fresh waterways at risk
- Decline of species puts whole ecosystems at risk
- Decline of forests puts oxygen & carbon-sink services at risk
- Decline in climate stability brings unforeseen risks...

# CAP - intensification - overproduction - overconsumption



# Addressing animal welfare

- The improvement of animal welfare should become a compulsory objective and priority of the CAP
- Public funding should be used to support concrete and measurable positive outcomes in animal welfare
- A mandatory animal welfare programme with a budgetary allocation to improve animal housing systems and management practices
- Payments should be conditional on compliance with all EU legislation on animal welfare, including poultry production, currently excluded
- An improved reporting mechanism in place with assessment of expected outcomes of payments and effective sanctions in cases of non-compliance
- Replacing industrial production with pasture-based farming, thus giving the opportunity to animals to engage in species-specific natural behaviours
- Food policies should address the overconsumption of animal products and promote more sustainable plant based diets

# On the path to a sustainable food and farming policy

- To address existing problems we need to develop a new model of food and farming
- Public funding should deliver positive outcomes for the environment, animals, farmers' livelihoods, public health and meet societal expectations
- Higher welfare and sustainable farming practices across the EU
- Comprehensive plan to transition toward a 'less and better' system; significant reduction in production and consumption of animal products
- Produce nutritious food and encourage healthy diets
- Support a holistic approach, connecting farmers and citizens, production and consumption, farming and food