

Abstract

Although animal husbandry is vitally important to most of us, its impacts on nature are alarming. In this work I deal with the environmental impacts of keeping farm animals, in particular in the area of their impact on global climate change, soil contamination and pollution, atmospheric emissions, water management and the impact of animal husbandry on biodiversity. I also ask whether the impacts of animal husbandry differ in developed and developing regions of the world and look at future trends in animal husbandry. Meat consumption is rising significantly in developing countries, whereas in developed countries its production is, if anything, stagnant. The means of production differ fundamentally. The predominant form of production in the developed countries is intensive, which is primarily characterised by high concentration of the kept animals in halls and large production of manure, increased utility of animals and associated reduction in their numbers. The predominant form of production in developing countries is extensive, which is associated with increasing the numbers of animals, in particular by grazing. Keeping animals outside on pasture has a negative impacts on natural stands and the erosion process. A global reduction in meat consumption and the utilisation of new alternative nutritional solutions in the form of insect products appears to be a suitable solution.

Keywords: developing and developed countries, intensive production, extensive production, production, consumption, climate change, pollution, emissions, animal husbandry