

Hello, this is Katie and you have reached the end of More than Meat. In this episode, we will reflect on our major findings and discuss how we can go about to improve the meat industry.

Before we even started this podcast series, we wanted to focusing solely on Prevent Cruelty California; however, we quickly found that Prevent Cruelty California is only a small component of a larger entity: the meat industry. We decided to expand our research question to explore the meat industry through the lens of agriculture legislation. Throughout this series, we have explored Prevent Cruelty California, the Humane Slaughter Act, antibiotic use, lobbying and framing federal food safety laws, and sustainable meat.

The legislation we have studied demonstrates a systematic failure. Antibiotic use in animal agriculture is causing the rapid development of untreatable “superbugs,” and may even be causing the increase of obesity that the United States has seen since the 1950s. Upon examining the history of federal food safety laws, it becomes apparent that intensified animal agriculture has required more stringent food safety laws to protect consumers from bacteria. Unfortunately, federal food safety laws overlook the relationship between animal welfare and human health, and there have been several failed attempts to pass laws and amendments to existing laws to improve conditions for farm animals. Prevent Cruelty California, while it may create a minute increase in the space allocated for each animal, has negligibly weak enforcement mechanisms. Lobbying from corporate interest groups, like Big Meat and Big Pharma, challenge the implementation of effective legislation to improve conditions for farm animals. Although the Humane Slaughter Act attempted to provide more humane conditions for agricultural animals, it has failed to protect poultry and has failed to enforce the policies. Many people are opting to withdraw their monetary support from the industry altogether, despite the

social challenges that such actions may impose. Additionally, we found that animal welfare legislation in the United States is very weak in terms of protecting agricultural animals.

In short, our interviews, surveys, research, podcast, and website demonstrate failure to protect human health, environmental sustainability, labor conditions, and animal welfare. We conclude that the current system of animal agriculture is working poorly.

As a result, we believe that there needs to be concrete changes to be implemented into agricultural animal industry. A major action is to get the public more involved in the process of legislation. The Prevent Cruelty California, Humane Slaughter Act, Federal Food Safety and Animal Agriculture laws, and banning of antibiotics for agricultural animals are all controlled by powerful lobbyists who want to see all of these regulations fail. This is why the public needs to be aware of these regulations and laws because they impact human health, environmental sustainability, labor conditions, and animal welfare. When educated on these issues, people are more willing to be involved in the lobbying and voting process. Additionally, eating sustainable meat can promote healthier lifestyles. Meat doesn't need to be on your plate everyday. When eaten, it should be eaten mindfully. The agriculture animal industry not only hurts animals, it hurts humans and the environment, too.

A pressing issue we can work on is the Protect Interstate Commerce Act which is proposed in the 2018 Farm Bill. The Protect Interstate Commerce Act states its purpose: "To prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes. If this bill were to pass, no state could propose stricter animal welfare laws than another state and all states would need to

repeal current animal welfare laws. If we want to move forward, we need to make sure to NOT move backwards. By voting against the Protect Interstate Commerce Act, we can continue to modify our animal welfare legislation to ensure to protect animals, humans, and the environment alike.

This concludes our podcast series of More than Meat. We hope you enjoyed and will seek to reform the meat industry.