

Explorative Information Visualization - Topic

Antoine LOUIS (784915)

1 Topic

I would to illustrate the effects of livestock farming on climate change and so, indirectly, on people's life. The goal would be to aware people of the destructive effects that increasing livestock farming has on the planet, principally in terms of water consumption and pollution, deforestation, methane emission and biodiversity loss. I would even like to go further than just illustrating the current situation: I would like to show the benefits on the planet of changing one of our daily habits concerning meat consumption.

2 Motivation

My keen interest in climate change comes mostly from two points that I really do consider that important. First is the beauty of our planet. Since I am a child, I travel the world with my family and have the chance to see amazing landscapes, islands and species that this planet shelters. I am very grateful for that and I want to be able to offer the same experience to my children. Second is the challenge. Solving climate change is one of the biggest challenges that we ever had to solve, and I want to be part of it, I want to create an impact. Why tackling livestock farming among the other causes of climate change (electricity generation, transportation, manufacturing...) ? Because the former can be influenced by individuals, whereas the others depends on some political changes within our governments. If people decide to change their eating habits, then the consumer demand will decrease and so will the supply.

3 Approach

To illustrate this topic, some reliable datasets are needed, not only on the locations and sizes of livestock farming, but also precise and correct data about the presumed consequences (deforestation, water pollution...). One could also rely on already existing studies (a lot of them have interesting numbers and figures that could have more impact presented in a more creative way). The difficulty here is that there are a lot of contradiction among these kinds of studies and the question is who to believe ? Once the correct data collected, I will either use a visualisation software like Tableau or implement my own interactive tool in Python.

4 Expected results

I would like to create an interactive tool showing the impacts of livestock farming on our planet (water consumption and pollution, deforestation, methane emission and biodiversity loss). A timeline could be integrated in order to see how it was before, how it is now, and how it will be in the future if (1) we continue to eat like we do and (2) we change some of our eating habits. I expect that the difference between option 1 and 2 will be significant and that this tool will raise awareness about the negative effects of over-consuming meat.