

Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Project



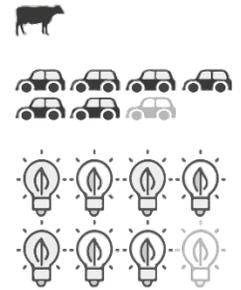
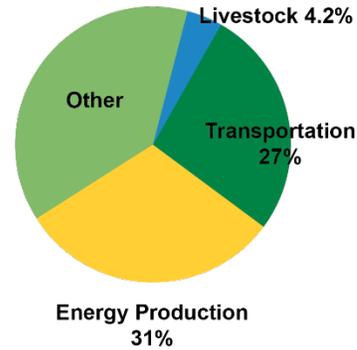
Institute for Feed Education & Research

About

The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership, is a multi-stakeholder partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the international feed industry. Its goal is to develop a global standard for assessing the environmental impact of poultry and livestock production and benchmark improvements. The partnership formed as a direct result of the incorrect and scientifically lacking data published in the FAO's "Livestock's Long Shadow" report in 2006, a report that has continued to plague the industry with misinformed news articles and activist claims for years. The report shed an incorrect, negative light on the animal feed industry, claiming that global poultry and livestock production contributed to 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions and stating it is more detrimental to the environment than the global transportation industry. The industry took exception. The IFEEDER, American Feed Industry Association, other international feed industry organizations, academics and scientists confronted the FAO and began a dialogue on how to more accurately measure livestock's environmental impact.

Results

As a result of these industry-initiated discussions, LEAP was formed. It recognized the global feed industry's strides in sustainability and called for intensification of sound, environmentally positive approaches. LEAP developed a gold-standard model for organizations around the world to accurately measure the environmental impact of their livestock feed production processes. This model, which is the result of more than three years of collaborative work between the American and European feed industries in cooperation with the FAO, provides a standard that all livestock and poultry organizations, universities and other organizations can use to assess the emissions generated by species over their total lifecycles. The tool also helped the U.S. feed industry conclude that America's livestock and poultry sectors only contribute about 4% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.



Impact

The AFIA shared the feed industry's environmental footprint with the White House and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, resulting in the removal of the recommended environmental criteria from the U.S. 2015 Dietary Guidelines. To date, LEAP's work has resulted in the development of one global gold standard for assessing global and regional environmental footprints of the animal production industry. Its methodology has been peer-reviewed and published for countries to use along with a sample ingredient database, which is required for species-specific assessments. The Global Feed LCA Institute will take the results of this study to the next level by turning this global standard into a practical modeling tool that countries can use to develop their own regional databases. This data can then be provided for free to all stakeholders to conduct livestock and poultry production assessments and benchmark their current status and ultimately, make informed decisions on how they can lower their environmental footprints.