

ANGLAIS

Expression écrite

Goodbye – and good riddance – to livestock farming

What will future generations, looking back on our age, see as its monstrosities? There are plenty to choose from. But one of them will be the mass incarceration of animals, to enable us to eat their flesh or eggs, or drink their milk. While we call ourselves animal lovers, and lavish kindness on our dogs and cats, we inflict brutal deprivations on billions of animals that are just as capable of suffering.

The shift will occur with the advent of cheap artificial meat. Technological change has often helped to catalyse ethical change. The \$300m deal China signed last month to buy lab-grown meat marks the beginning of the end of livestock farming. But it won't happen quickly: the great suffering is likely to continue for many years.

The answer, we are told by celebrity chefs and food writers, is to keep livestock outdoors: eat free-range beef or lamb, not battery pork. But all this does is to swap one disaster – mass cruelty – for another: mass destruction. Almost all forms of animal farming cause environmental damage, but none more so than keeping animals outdoors. The reason is inefficiency. Grazing is not just slightly inefficient, it is stupendously wasteful. Roughly twice as much of the world's surface is used for grazing as for growing crops, yet animals fed entirely on pasture produce just one gram out of the 81g of protein consumed per person per day.

A paper in *Science of the Total Environment* reports that “livestock production is the single largest driver of habitat loss”. Grass-eating livestock are a fully automated system for ecological destruction: you need only release them on to the land and they do the rest, eating tree seedlings, simplifying complex ecosystems. Their keepers augment this assault by slaughtering large predators.

One study suggests that if we were all to switch to a plant-based diet, 15m hectares of land in Britain currently used for farming could be returned to nature. Alternatively, this country could feed 200 million people. An end to animal farming would be the salvation of the world's wildlife, our natural wonders and magnificent habitats.

Adapted from www.guardian.co.uk, 4 October 2017

Question 1

According to the journalist, why should livestock farming be stopped? (80 words, ± 10%) Answer the question in your own words.

Question 2

In your opinion, are our eating habits likely to change over the coming decades? (180 words, ± 10%) Illustrate your answer with pertinent examples.

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Thème

Il s'empara du téléphone et commença une série d'appels destinés à des gens dont j'ignorais l'identité. Tout en buvant mon café noir, je décidai de me passer de son approbation et de continuer à aller sur la plage pour profiter au mieux de cette parenthèse.

Nager longtemps dans une mer pure et fraîche apaisa momentanément mes craintes. Je remontai à la maison à l'heure du déjeuner et les retrouvai à l'ombre, sur la terrasse. Ils avaient l'air tous les quatre de tenir un conseil de guerre. Quand je le leur dis, Jean-Luc me lança un regard noir.

— C'est pas le moment de plaisanter, dit-il. Cournot me sourit gentiment.

Rosier et Bambam me firent un résumé de leurs démarches matinales.

Ils étaient allés voir le chauffeur de taxi attitré d'Hélène Lazareff, Émile, qui se disait prêt à nous conduire jusqu'à Paris s'il se procurait suffisamment d'essence. Selon lui, c'était possible mais pas avant deux, trois jours. Jean-Luc en fulminait d'impatience.

D'après Anne Wiazemsky, *Un an après*, 2015