

Number crunching (*Food Ethics*, Winter 2007)

In 2006, globally, we slaughtered 24 million pigs, 884 million poultry, 6 million cattle and 17 million sheep and goats – every week.¹ That adds up to 276 million tonnes of meat, with demand expected to reach 465 million tonnes by 2050.² The livestock sector employs 1.3 billion people worldwide³ but in the UK only accounts for about 0.5 percent of the economy, with meat amounting to about half of that.⁴ The livestock sector contributes eight percent of UK greenhouse gas emissions by consumption and about 18 percent of global emissions, 35 percent of which are down to deforestation.⁵ Meat consumption ranges from an average 36 grams a day in Sub-Saharan Africa to 218 g/d in the UK and 342 g/d in the US – equivalent to three quarter pounders.⁶

¹ Ruth Layton (p.7)

² Ruth Layton (p.7)

³ Steinfeld, H. et al. (2006) Livestock's long shadow. FAO.

⁴ Garnett, T. (2007) Meat and dairy production & consumption. Food Climate Research Network.

⁵ Garnett, T. (2007) Meat and dairy production & consumption. Food Climate Research Network.

⁶ earthtrends.wri.org.