

Vegan Education in Schools

Case study of speciesism

Questioning meat - ethics, justice and the future

Years 7 to 12

Lesson 8: What would the end of animal farming look like?

Overview: This lesson will explore a future without animal farming, analysing the social, environmental and economic changes that would occur. Students will investigate how vegan food systems, rewilding efforts and policy changes could create a more sustainable, ethical world. They will also discuss the impact on rural communities and the workforce, countering common misconceptions spread by the meat industry.

Objective: Examine the transformative impact of ending animal agriculture and understand how transitioning to vegan food systems benefits animals, people and the planet.

Outcomes:

- Students will describe what a world without animal farming would look like.
- Students will evaluate the benefits of vegan agriculture in terms of sustainability, food security and economic shifts.
- Students will critically assess common concerns about job loss and economic instability.
- Students will propose policies and initiatives that could facilitate a transition away from animal farming.

Materials:

- Videos:
 - [How a vegan food system could feed the world](#) - Bite Sized Vegan
 - [Knepp Rewilded - a short film](#) - Kneppflix
- Articles:
 - [We Need a Vegan Food System to Feed the World](#) - A Well-Fed World
 - [Rewilding abandoned farmland has greater sustainability](#) - NPJ
 - [The benefits of a vegan economy](#) - Healio
 - [What would the end of animal farming look like?](#) - The Earthbound Report
 - [Goodbye – and good riddance – to livestock farming](#) - The Guardian

- Case studies:
 - Countries that have begun reducing meat consumption
 - Companies shifting from animal farming to vegan alternatives, including precision fermentation
- Handouts:
 - Infographic on land use efficiency in vegan vs animal-based food production
 - Myths vs facts about transitioning away from meat production

Lesson steps:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Ask students: “What do you think would happen if we stopped farming animals today?”
- Discuss common fears and misconceptions (e.g., job loss, food shortages).
- Introduce the concept of a transition rather than an overnight change.

2. The environmental impact of ending animal farming (20 minutes):

- Discuss how rewilding would allow ecosystems to recover ([Rewilding abandoned farmland has greater sustainability](#)).
- Compare greenhouse gas reductions between a animal-based and vegan food system.
- Case study: Land repurposing projects that have successfully restored biodiversity.

3. Food security and sustainability (20 minutes):

- Show video on how a vegan food system can feed the world ([How a vegan food system could feed the world](#)).
- Discuss how vegan farming is more land-efficient and produces more food per hectare.
- Explain how water usage and pollution would dramatically decrease.

4. Economic changes and job transition (20 minutes):

- Discuss the decline of industries in history and how workers transitioned (e.g., coal industry shift to renewable energy jobs).
- Examine examples of farmers switching to vegan agriculture or using their land for environmental benefit.

- Present initiatives helping meat industry workers retrain for sustainable jobs.

5. Policy and social change (15 minutes):

- Discuss how subsidies could be redirected from animal agriculture to vegan farming.
- Brainstorm policies that would encourage a shift to vegan food systems.
- Debate the role of education, advocacy and government intervention.
- Discuss how the government and society in general should support workers to transition out of animal agriculture.

6. Class discussion and reflection (10 minutes):

- Ask students what changes they would personally support in a transition away from animal farming.
- Discuss ways they can advocate for vegan solutions in their communities.
- Encourage students to challenge common misconceptions about vegan food systems.

Homework:

- Write a 500-word essay on how the world would look different 50 years after the abolition of animal farming.
- Research a real-world example of a company or country moving away from meat production and prepare a short report.
- Identify and debunk three common myths about the economic or social impacts of ending animal agriculture.

Differentiation:

- Provide simplified summaries of key concepts for students who need additional support.
- Allow students to create an infographic or video presentation instead of writing an essay.
- Encourage advanced students to explore economic models predicting the impact of an end to animal agriculture.
- Facilitate small group discussions for students who prefer verbal expression over written assignments.

Assessment criteria:

- Participation in discussions and ability to articulate the benefits of ending animal farming.
- Depth of research and analysis in homework assignments.
- Engagement with alternative food systems and economic transition models.
- Critical thinking demonstrated in class debates and presentations.