

10 ways in which livestock farming is good for you and the environment

- 1 Livestock farming produces food in areas not suitable for cropping, so reducing UK food imports and cutting the pollution caused by 'food miles'.
- 2 Every year, many thousands of tonnes of fruit, vegetables and grain fail to make the grade for human consumption. This food is fed to livestock and turned into nutritious milk and meat, a highly efficient use of what would otherwise be a waste material.
- 3 Livestock manure is a key ingredient in crop production, allowing farmers to grow crops in ways that minimize the use of artificial fertilizers.
- 4 Grassland is highly efficient at retaining water, acting as a sponge and preventing soil erosion and flooding in periods of high rainfall.
- 5 Land grazed by cattle and sheep provides a habitat for a huge variety of birds, insects and small mammals. Without grassland much of the UK's biodiversity would be lost.
- 6 Pasture fed livestock is high in omega 3 fatty acids which is essential for health.
- 7 Climate change can only be stopped or slowed by removing carbon from the air. Grassland, being grazed by ruminants, takes carbon out of the air and stores it in the soil. Typically, a 150 acre livestock farm removes 388 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere annually.
- 8 Hedgerows - which only exist due to livestock farming - are amongst the most ecologically rich habitats in the countryside.
- 9 Wool - used in items as diverse as carpets, clothing and insulation - is the ultimate renewable resource. Every fleece used in a manufacturing process means less plastic entering the environment.
- 10 All of the UK's National Parks - which demonstrate the most important ways in which we can live in harmony with nature – are entirely dependent on grazing by livestock to maintain their ecosystems.



Livestock farming is part of the solution - not part of the problem