



Name:

Lindenhill

Which of the following best describes your situation?

Farmer/producer

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or industry body?

No

How would you like to respond?

c. Both

What are the opportunities to reduce emissions and build carbon stores in agriculture and the land? What are the main barriers to action?

Technology and audit systems not rigorous enough

How can we progress emission reduction efforts whilst also building resilience and adapting to climate change?

Get the science and auditing systems right

Are there initiatives or innovative programs underway that could be applied or expanded on at a national scale?

Don't know

What are the most important options to be further adopted or supported, looking in the short and the longer-term?

Understand the carbon cycle vis a vis grazing ruminants

How do you see the agriculture and land sectors contributing over the medium and longer-term? What are the opportunities to deliver emission reductions in parallel with wider goals?

Understanding the carbon cycle in regards to ruminants

Is your response confidential?

No

Do you agree to your response being published on our website?

Yes

I have read and understood the privacy notice and consent to the collection, use and disclosure of my personal information as outlined in the privacy notice.

Yes

Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration.

Yes



Hello,

I am a semi-retired grazier with a University degree and 45 years experience in the sheep and cattle industries. I have served on many industry committees, many as president. I currently serve on two committees of NSW Farmers association. I am deeply committed to bringing about change in climate policy because I am convinced we have been suffering adverse effects of climate change for a lot longer than generally accepted. And because I believe climate change is an existential issue.

However, I believe that policy needs to be credible to be accepted by those who are being affected. There is one particular aspect of policy that needs to be carefully reconsidered before we charge headlong into a brick wall, it relates to carbon accounting and the concept of "net emissions".

Your discussion paper uses the terms emissions and net emissions interchangeably, which is a huge mistake in regards to ruminant emissions.

Yes, ruminants do emit greenhouse gases, but those emissions are being falsely accounted for, perhaps because there are separate agendas being pursued by critics of my industry.

One needs to ask an additional series of questions to understand the issue.

1) since animals are unable to manufacture carbon, where does the carbon in their emissions come from? A: from the digestive processes in the rumen.

2) where does their food come from? A: from the vegetation they eat.

3) what components of their diet contain carbon? A: Nearly all, particularly carbohydrates including starches and sugars.

4) where does the carbon in their diet come from? A: from atmospheric carbon dioxide.

5) how does that happen? A: via a natural process called photosynthesis

6) how does that work? A: plants use carbon dioxide from the air, water and sunlight to make sugars and complex carbo-hydrates.

Therefore, ruminant carbon emissions are part of a cycle which **does not introduce any new carbon to the atmosphere**. We need to be considering the **net** emissions not the initial emissions.

And, the accounting system needs to distinguish between new carbon coming to the atmosphere (as in fossil fuels) and carbon that is being recycled via photosynthesis.

We do not want to be unfairly burdening the grazing industries with new taxes/regulations for crimes they did not commit. This is particularly true when you consider that many ruminants graze land that is not suitable for growing crops. This could be because the land has a poor soils, rocks, steep terrain which makes the use of machinery impossible.

I know that this argument challenges an accounting paradigm which is quickly becoming entrenched in climate policy. This is mostly because few people involved in policy development have any experience with the business of turning sunlight and air into a saleable product. Farming is a soft target because we're all too busy in our businesses to be heard, so I'm hoping you can give this document the thought it deserves.

Regards, Lindenhill.

Sent from my iPad