

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Gwaith gwaddol
CCERA(5) LW 04
Ymateb gan Hybu Cig Cymru

Welsh Parliament
Climate Change, Environment and
Rural Affairs Committee
Legacy work
CCERA(5) LW 04
Evidence from Meat Promotion Wales

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee legacy work

1.1 Thank you for notifying us of the committee's intention to produce a legacy report to mark the end of the current Senedd session. Our comments relate not so much to individual recommendations of the committee, but to new research and developments we wish to make members aware of, particularly relating to 3 of its 5 areas of work: agriculture & food, environment and biodiversity, and climate change and energy.

1.2 During the past two years, new scientific research has become more widely accepted which reassesses the relative impact of different greenhouse gases. Based on pioneering work at the University of Oxford, with contributions by scholars at Cranfield University, the University of California and elsewhere, the work particularly reassesses the impact of methane.¹ The research concludes that methane only exists in the upper atmosphere for 10-15 years, in contrast to gases such as carbon dioxide which accumulate for centuries. As methane is the most common gas emitted by livestock agriculture and ruminant wildlife, this research has an impact for how the climate impact of livestock should be calculated. Discussions continue over whether international bodies should adjust their metrics (GWP – global warming potential) for how different gases are measured.

1.3 Hybu Cig Cymru, working with scientists in Bangor, Limerick and elsewhere, has produced an important new document on Welsh meat production and its climate impact – [The Welsh Way](#).² This document seeks to place Welsh livestock production in its global context, uses the latest methodology to measure emissions and carbon sequestration on beef and sheep farms, identifies where further improvements can be made, and articulates a vision that Wales has the potential to be a global leader in sustainable meat production. It argues that an overly-simplistic approach to policy in the area of climate change, diet, land use and global food security risks having negative consequences. It concludes that recognition should be made that production systems in Wales are vastly different from damaging and intensive farming in other parts of the world, and that Welsh livestock farming has an opportunity to be part of the solution to climate change.

¹ <https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/publications/climate-metrics-for-ruminant-livestock/>

² <https://meatpromotion.wales/en/industry-resources/environment>