

To The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

Why is there a need for another bill? Isn't it already an offense to trespass on to a farm and harm animals or poison them?

It's clear that the real threat to biosecurity is farm practices, not animal advocates. There are few regulations for workers and no oversight on farms. The whole system literally works on the word of farmers themselves. There's NOT A SINGLE documented case of an animal advocate introducing a biosecurity threat onto a farm. I can tell you that I've seen footage online of employees and workers doing the most horrendous things to those poor living sentient beings that deserve SO much better than that. I'm also pretty sure that contamination is usually caused by farm staff, like in the case of mad cow disease, by feeding ground up dead animals back to live animals. Several months ago CTV's W5 did an expose on farms in Canada that show baby pigs getting their tails cut off without anesthetic, as well as many other abuses against these smart animals. Pigs are as smart as a 3 year old human toddler and smarter than dogs who are considered family by many.

Also, in case you didn't already know, recent COVID-19 outbreaks at mink farms in British Columbia and around the world were caused by infected workers, who then passed the virus on to minks. Which caused more VARIANTS! Fur Farming needs to go. It's one of the cruelest and of the most unnecessary practice that exists. It is only based on violence, suffering and killing babies to skin them all to make a buck. It's absolute disgusting and I can't believe that practices like this still exist! (80% of people feel the same way and I can prove it!) A majority of Canadians would like to see an end to fur farming.

If Bill C-205 was truly intended to protect biosecurity on farms, it would apply to farmers, too—not just those on farms without permission. Instead of cracking down on peaceful protesters, the federal government could regulate and monitor animal welfare conditions on farms. On Tuesday, June 1st I came upon 2 separate transport trucks in Toronto pulled over on the side of the road carrying cows. One was parked at about 10am, the other shortly after 11am. It was a warm day, not yet blazing hot like in July and August. I looked into the truck and saw several cows foaming at the mouth. They were also packed into the truck in such a way

that there was no room to turn around. NONE! NO air flow either because it wasn't windy that day. I imagined myself being on a truck like this and immediately felt claustrophobic at the thought. There was no driver around. The truck was there before I got there and stayed for some time. Can anyone who is on this committee imagine being in the position of a cow, pig, goat, chicken or any animal in the animal agriculture industry in a factory farm, a slaughterhouse truck or on the kill floor? How is what humans do to animals different from how humans have used certain groups of people for their own personal economic gain?

There are no cameras in the factory farm, the slaughterhouse trucks or on the kill floors. There is ZERO oversight into how animals are treated in these places. If it weren't for the work of brave activists exposing the truth no one in the outside world would know the short lives of desperation that farm animals live in this country. It's shameful. Mahatma Gandhi acutely observed that "the greatness of a **nation** and **its** moral progress can be judged by the way **its animals** are treated." How are animals treated in Canada? As commodities, as things, as objects to breed, use, abuse, kill and disregard (those whose cut up body parts are deemed not valuable enough to sell, example- all male baby chicks are ground up in the poultry industry, male baby calves are killed within weeks or sometimes days of being born).

Animal welfare is a matter of intense public concern and IS SUPER IMPORTANT to address, yet there are no federal or provincial animal welfare regulations protecting animals on farms. The federal government only regulates transport and slaughter, leaving animals in the dark from the moment they are born until the day they are trucked to slaughter to be killed. Though even in transport there are few protections as animals are trucked many miles without food or water. And like I saw this past Tuesday, can be left on the side of the road, sitting on a hot truck awaiting their death. No one there to protect them or speak up for them. Where's the oversight? It's clear that the farming industry largely makes its own rules. Most Canadians are unaware of what is going on, what their tax dollars support in the form of subsidies. And this is truly what the animal agriculture industry fears. People learning the truth, seeing the truth and deciding that they no longer want to fund it at the grocery store or anywhere else.

People trespass on farms because the government does not proactively monitor animal welfare conditions on farms, so this is one of the only ways citizens can see conditions. Bill C-205 is supposedly meant to protect biosecurity on farms.

However, this bill only penalizes individuals who do not have permission. What this means is that farm and slaughterhouse owners, operators, and employees are exempt from punishment, even if they knowingly or recklessly introduce animals to diseases or toxic substances that are capable of affecting them. Peaceful animal activists who go on farms without permission, on the other hand, are exposed to draconian penalties—even if they cause no harm or create no actual risk to animals.

All that Bill C-205 does is add another layer of shockingly severe punishments for people engaging in civil disobedience by occupying farms. Not even affecting the animals in anyway- if only by giving them love and comfort for a short amount of time. This Bill would not be introduced if the meat and dairy industries weren't losing profits. Plant based eating is on the rise and this makes them fearful. Some companies like Maple Leaf Foods even have some investments in plant based options. However as long as there are subsidies to the meat and dairy industries they will continue to take tax payer money to fund the harms they do to animals. It is time that the Canadian government look at changing the subsidy structure and help farmers transition their farms to plant-based alternatives. The Canada Food Guide is urging Canadians to shift to more plant-based foods. The most recent changes to the Canada Food Guide reflect the science that shows that plant-based diets are far healthier than diets that are full of meat and dairy. To date the only diet that has reversed advanced stage heart disease is a whole food plant-based diet.

Yet why does the Federal government insist on propping up these failing industries? On the environmental front the meat and dairy industries emit more greenhouse gases than all of the transportation industry combined. That's not even factoring in ground water contamination, ocean dead zones, species extinction and much more that animal agriculture contributes to. These industries are harmful for human health, the planet and are hell on earth for any animal stuck in the animal agriculture system.

Bowing to industry pressure and continuing to fine activists while ignoring those who are destroying human health and the planet is the wrong move. It's time for Canada to step up and move to a plant-based food system instead of introducing a bill that takes this country in the wrong direction.

Also there's a link between animal agriculture and pandemics. Go to www.eatinganimalscausespandemics.com

Let's start actually moving towards real solutions for sustainability and help each other rather than fall back on our system of more punishments.

Sincerely,

Julie Brar

Holistic Nutritionist/ Certified Health Coach