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From: Eva Murray
Sent: Thursday, 25 May 2023 5:17 pm
To: Grant Blackwell; Felicia Kolonjari; Sam King; Paul Young
Subject: carbon news: NZ ag lobby revives alternative methane measure push

Maybe you're aware of this already but here's an article from today's carbon news, passing on in case it's of interest....the submission to MFAT can be found on this page: <https://beeflambnz.com/news-views/government-must-push-emissions-be-managed-based-warming-impact-climate-change>

NZ ag lobby revives alternative methane measure push

Today 12:15pm



Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) is ramping up the lobby in favour of changing the way NZ measures agricultural methane emissions in the lead-up to COP28.

The call to use the GWP* measure rather than GWP100 has been a live debate and forms the core of B+L NZ's submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on what it believes negotiators should focus on at COP28 later this year. The submission seeks to ensure farmers' voices are heard as they call for agreement on guidance for future Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2) to use the GWP* methane measure on the basis that it focuses on climate warming impacts more accurately than the GWP100 measure that NZ currently uses.

At present New Zealand treats methane, like it would any greenhouse gas, using the GWP100 measurement, which is insisted on by the United Nations. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states this approach overestimates the effects of methane by a factor of three or

four, and underestimates the short-term impact emissions, therefore drawing criticism to the GWP100 method.

GWP100 versus GWP*

Last year, two reputable climate scientists, Adrian Macey and Dave Frame, published a five-part series of articles in [BusinessDesk.co.nz](https://www.businessdesk.co.nz) which seriously questioned the government's climate change targets and policy.

Macey and Frame recommended that New Zealand apply a more accurate metric to replicate what methane does to warming, as they argued we see that effects have been overstated by more than three or four times the real damage.

The alternative and what some scientists argue, a more accurate way of measuring is GWP*. However, the concern for those against this way of measuring, is that it gives a 'free ride' for the agricultural sector.

The argument is hotly contested, with neither the Climate Change Commission nor Climate Change Minister James Shaw sympathetic to a change. It is understood that Shaw believes the focus on which GWP measure is becoming less relevant because of the trend for signatories to the Paris Accord to move to the "split gas" approach that NZ has adopted.

B+LNZ call for emission management based on warming impact

B+LNZ said: "We know that the GWP100 metric overstates the warming impact of methane when emissions are stable or falling, and therefore is unfit for the purpose of comparing long-lived and short-lived emissions," says Sam McIvor, chief executive of Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ).

"New Zealand pastoral agricultural systems already provide a model for others to follow as our red meat has a greenhouse gas footprint that is among the lowest in the world, enhances biodiversity and has some of the highest animal welfare in the world," says McIvor.

"Because of this, we support the New Zealand Government taking a leadership position on agricultural climate change and suggest that a good place to start would be an international coalition that recognises the short-lived nature of biogenic methane and manages it appropriately," says McIvor.

Tackling agricultural gases

In tackling agricultural gases B+LNZ wants to ensure the voice of sheep and beef farmers are heard, and that policy development does not unfairly disadvantage the sector.

In the submission, B+LNZ requested the government to push for international recognition that forestry offsets should not be used in place of meaningful cuts to long-lived gas emissions, especially when they impact food production. They want recognition of the importance of ruminant agriculture for international food security and have stated that New Zealand already provides a model for other countries to follow through its unsubsidised, economically efficient, sustainable red meat production.



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