

# Using data to make livestock production sustainable

M. Gill

J. P. Gibson

M. R. F. Lee

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## Video Byte

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# Abstract

Unlike for our ancestors, plants can provide all the nutrients we need Yet, worldwide, average meat consumption per person is higher than ever As the global population grows and natural resources wane, how sustainable is this trend? A special issue of the journal *animal* gathers seven articles that explore that question with respect to livestock production Collectively, they provide a data-driven basis for establishing sustainable livestock practices The research topics covered include the link between livestock and human health The importance of ruminant animals in transforming indigestible plant matter into high-quality food And the trade-offs to consider in minimizing the environmental footprint of livestock production Although not exhaustive, the gathered articles provide a useful look at the current state of livestock production And what the future could hold Editorial: Gill et al. "Livestock production evolving to contribute to sustainable societies." *animal*