

Environmental degradation has been blamed on...

Population

Transport

Industrial growth

Capitalism

Lack of capitalism

Communism

Lack of communism

Government corruption

God's wrath

Etc...

But what about our “SAD” diet





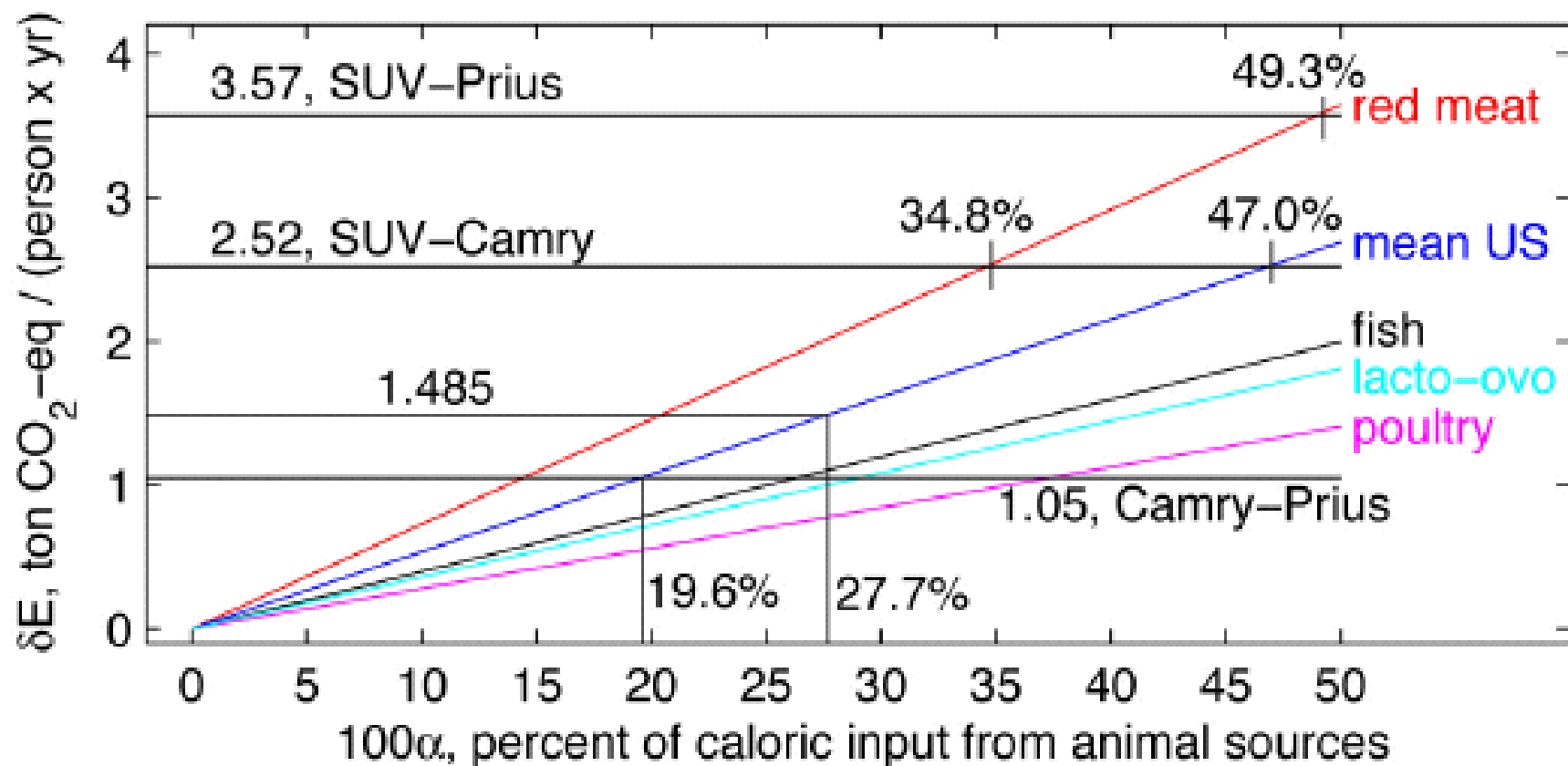
Global warming



Rats with wings!!!



Locusts with tits!



Source: Eshel and Martin 2006

Conclusion from Eshel and Martin study

A vegan in a SUV has the same effect as a red-blooded American (or Kiwi) meat eater in a Prius



Water use

Photo: David Hamilton, Waikato University

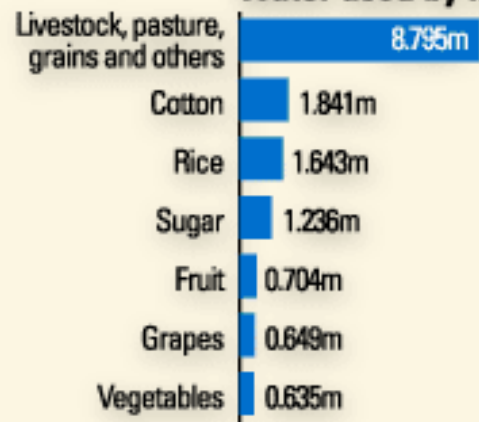


Photo David Hamilton

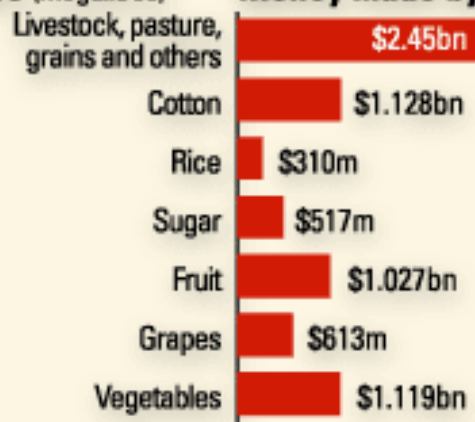


Australia's agricultures

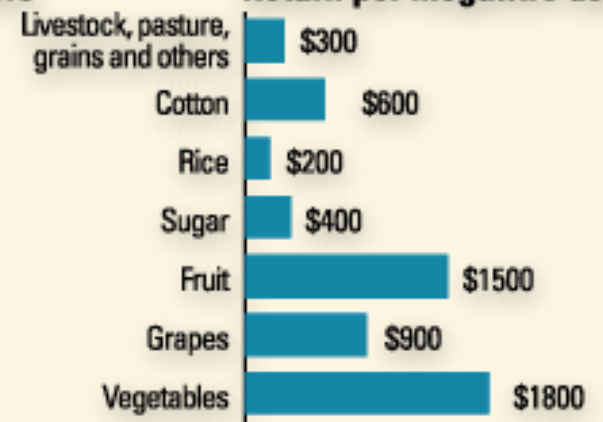
Water used by irrigators (megalitres)



Money made by irrigators



Return per megalitre used



1 megalitre is similar to 1 Olympic Swimming Pool

Source: The Weekend Australian 19-20 May, 2001



Habitat destruction

Easter Island



Christchurch and the Canterbury Plains



Photo: Nzescape.com



Illegal Amazonian Deforestation for Soybean production


Livestock's long shadow.pdf (SECURED) - Adobe Reader

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simply be listed here. Implications on climate change, water depletion and biodiversity erosion will be further developed in later chapters.

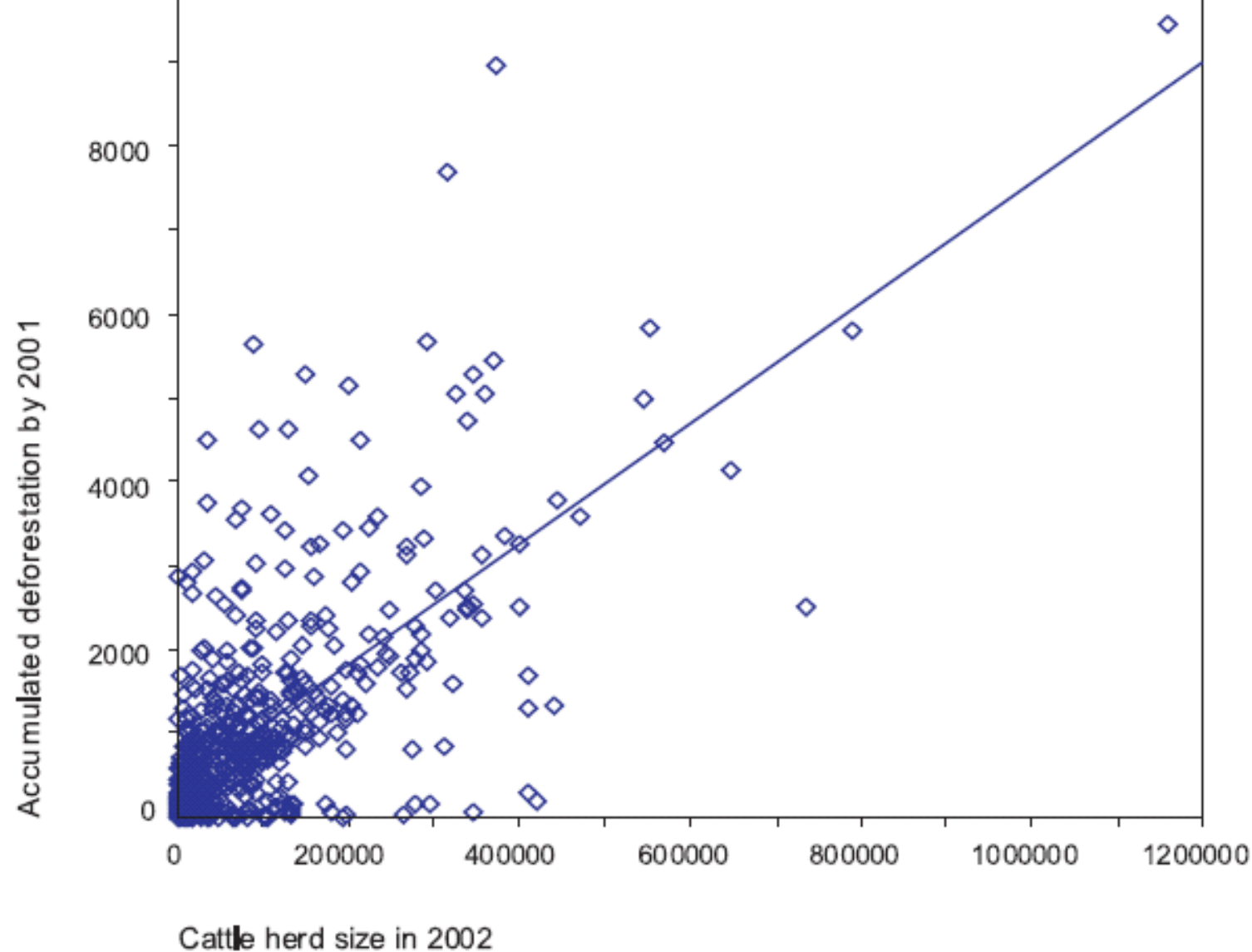
In OECD countries, the decision to plant soybeans or grain does not usually mean clearing natural habitat. Producers merely make a choice



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Source: Brazil's National Institute of Space Research (INPE)/Monitoramento sistemático do desflorestamento na Amazônia (PRODES project), 2003; Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)/Pesquisa Pecuária Municipal (PPM), 2004. Regression coefficient $R^2=0.465$.

Kahikatea forest



Photo: Gilbert van
Reenan

Hauraki Plains



Photo: Environment Waikato



Water pollution



HEALTH WARNING

NO SWIMMING

NO FISHING

Due to pollution of the water
the public are warned against
swimming and fishing in this
vicinity





Fertiliser supply

Fertiliser ship unloading in Tauranga



Photo: Western Sahara Watch



Photo: Republic of Nauru



Human rights

**Livestock agriculture
cannot feed the world**

Population that could be fed if everyone shared the dietary preferences and food system efficiencies of:

USA 2.3 billion

New Zealand 3 billion

Europe 4.1 billion

Japan 6.1 billion

Bangladesh 10.9 billion

Subsistence only 15 billion

Source: Bender, W.H. 1997. How much food will we need in the 21st Century? Environment. 39: 6-11, 27-28.

1 The actual world population in 1990 was 5.3 billion.



Animal Welfare

Laying hens



Photo: Wellington Animal Rights Network



Photo: Open Rescue Coalition



Photo: Auckland Animal Action









mulesing



vi



A recovered sheep tethered in a crate after surgery, with fluid from the loop being collected into tubes



Some myths about meat

Myth 1: Human canines show humans are designed to eat meat

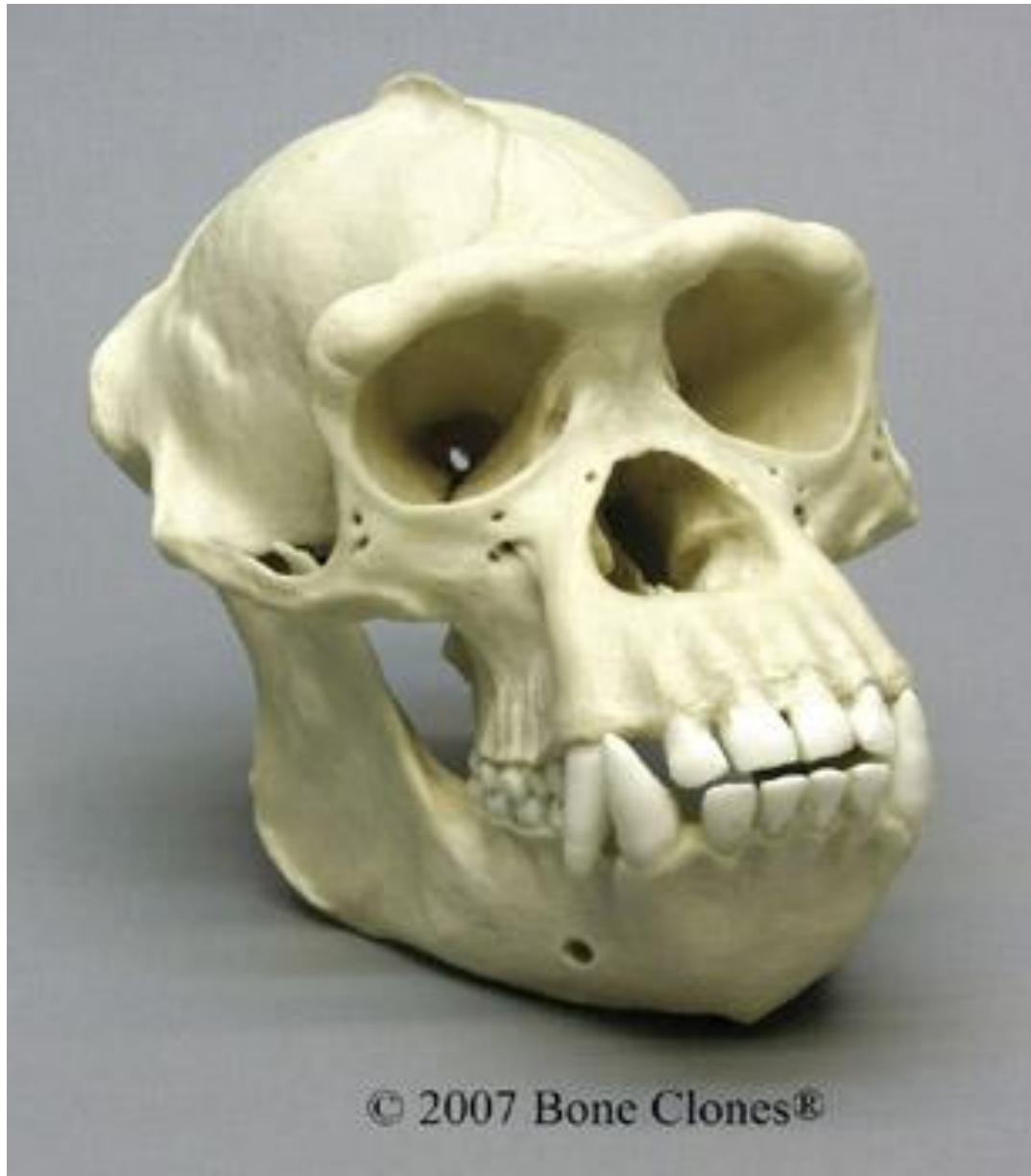
The truth: Have a look at the skulls in the next slides

Baboons and Mandrills



© Photo courtesy of Bone Clones

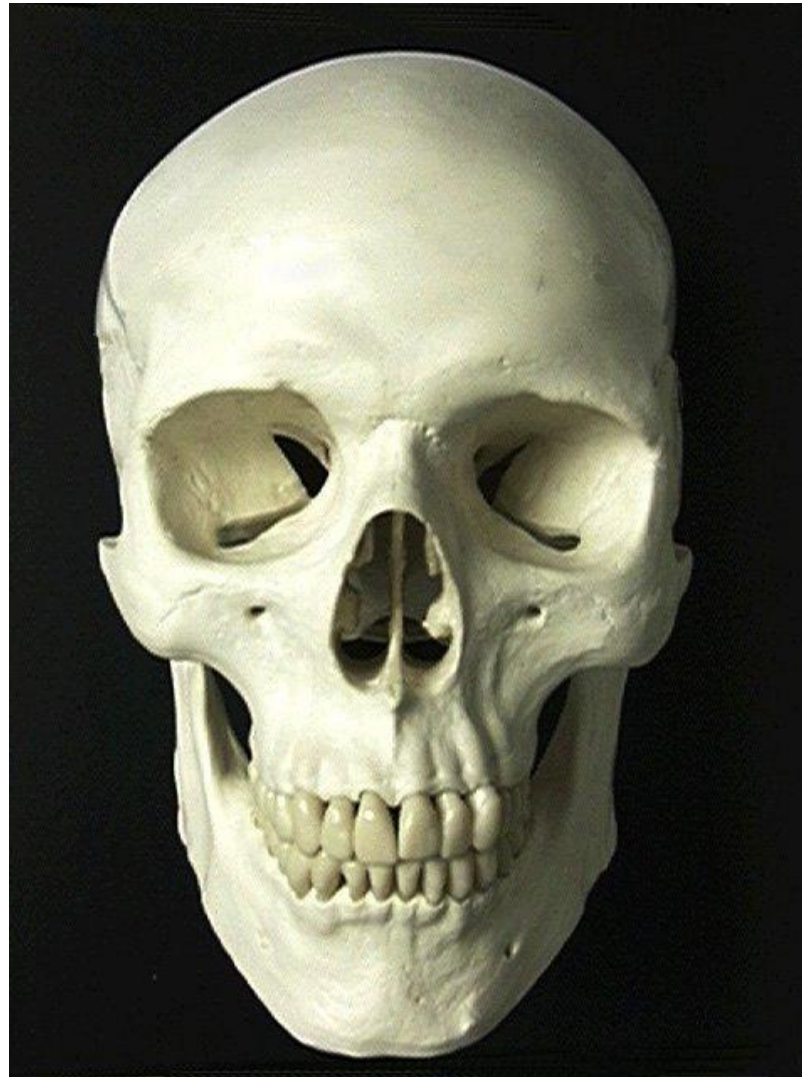
Chimpanzee



Gorilla



Homo Sapiens





Myth 2: Meat is necessary for protein

The truth: Have a look at the protein tables below

Protein composition and price of eggs and various plant sources. Food composition data comes from the *New Zealand Food Composition Tables, 6th Edition* (Ministry of Health/Crop and Food Research, 2003). Price data comes from Woolworths online (www.woolworths.co.nz, accessed 23 June 2006).

Food source	Protein in 100g	Cost (NZD)	Cost per 100g protein
Egg, whole, raw	12.0g	\$7.36 (battery eggs, size 7, 30 pack (approx. 1.470kg))	\$4.17
Peas, frozen	5.4g	\$2.00/kg (Watties)	\$3.70
Sunflower seeds, kernel, dried	22.8g	\$7.90/kg	\$3.47
Cheese, Edam	26.7g	\$8.10/kg (Basics brand)	\$3.03
Peanuts, raw	24.3g	\$6.90/kg	
Boiled oats, raw	12.5g	\$2.82/1.81kg	\$1.57



Myth 3: Meat eating is what gave humans their brain power

The truth: Genetic studies show human brain power is more to do with the ability to digest starch. There are several copies of the amylase gene in humans.



Myth 4: God wants us to eat meat.

The truth: Adam and Eve and all the animals were vegan before the fall. Gen. 1:29



Other rationalisations

Our ancestors ate meat

Response. Our ancestors also lived in caves, spoke in grunts, had poor hygiene and did not own cell phones. Most of us have moved on since then.



Meat tastes nice.

Response: Since when has pleasure been a basis for moral decision making. Maybe children taste nice too!



Animal eat other animals

Response. Most animals don't eat other animals. And why should we base our morality on the few that do.

Conclusion – something to think about

Can you be an environmentalist and continue to...

Drive a SUV

Chop down trees

Pour pollutants into streams

Take food from the poor

Or

Eat high on the food chain