

New Zealand may tax farm animal burps

16th June, 2022



New Zealand is thinking about introducing a new tax to help the environment. It wants farmers to pay tax on the numbers of farm animals they have. Sheep, cows and other livestock create a lot of methane. This is one of

the most damaging greenhouse gases. It is a big cause of climate change. Animals release methane every time they burp or fart. The "burp tax" would take effect in 2025. New Zealand has over 20,000 farms. There are around 26 million sheep, 4 million cows and other animals in the country. James Shaw, New Zealand's climate change minister, said: "There is no question that we need to cut the amount of methane we are putting into the atmosphere."

Farming animals accounts for around 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse gasses. This comes from animals burping and farting, animal waste, clearing land for animals and transporting animals. Mr Shaw wants farming to be more environmentally friendly. Farmers will have to pay a kind of tax for the methane their animals produce. Shaw also wants farmers to change the way they farm. He wants them to feed their animals on seaweed instead of grass. This will produce fewer emissions. Mr Shaw also said farmers can reduce the tax they pay by planting more trees. Another suggestion is for cows to wear special masks. New Zealand's farmers support the government. They want to do their bit to help the environment.

Sources: yahoo.com / nzherald.co.nz / totallyveganbuzz.com

Writing

We need to farm less so farm animals produce less greenhouse gas. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

New Zealand / tax / environment / farmers / livestock / greenhouses gasses / sheep / burping / farting / animal waste / methane / seaweed / grass / cows / trees / masks

True / False

- 1) New Zealand wants a new tax to help the environment. T / F
- 2) Cow and sheep burps create a lot of greenhouse gas. T / F
- 3) There are around 26 million cows in New Zealand. T / F
- 4) New Zealand's climate change minister said he had no questions. T / F
- 5) New Zealand's farms create 14.5% of global greenhouse gases. T / F
- 6) Cows in New Zealand might have to eat seaweed instead of grass. T / F
- 7) Cows in New Zealand might have to wear masks. T / F
- 8) New Zealand's farmers do not support the government's plans. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. thinking about | a. idea |
| 2. livestock | b. belch |
| 3. cause | c. moving |
| 4. burp | d. reduce |
| 5. cut | e. farm animals |
| 6. transporting | f. back |
| 7. produce | g. create |
| 8. change | h. considering |
| 9. suggestion | i. amend |
| 10. support | j. reason |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would people becoming vegetarian cut methane emissions?
- c) Do you do your bit to help the environment?
- d) Do you think cows will like seaweed?
- e) Should we all plant more trees?
- f) Should farmers capture the methane from burping animals?
- g) What kinds of masks should cows wear?
- h) What questions would you like to ask New Zealand farmers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. New Zealand is thinking about | a. a lot of methane |
| 2. Sheep, cows and other livestock create | b. environmentally friendly |
| 3. The "burp tax" would take | c. into the atmosphere |
| 4. There is no question that we need | d. instead of grass |
| 5. methane we are putting | e. around 14.5 per cent |
| 6. Farming animals accounts for | f. bit to help |
| 7. Mr Shaw wants farming to be more | g. introducing a new tax |
| 8. feed their animals on seaweed | h. the tax they pay |
| 9. farmers can reduce | i. to cut the amount |
| 10. They want to do their | j. effect in 2025 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of taxes?
- What do you think of taking animals that burp and fart?
- What do you think of farmers?
- What do you know about methane?
- How can we better protect the environment?
- Should we farm fewer cows and sheep?
- Should there be a burp and fart tax on people?
- What advice do you have for farmers?

Spelling

- help the vtneennmor
- sheep, cows and other sikvleoct
- a big sueca of climate change
- take cfefte in 2025
- we need to cut the nmouta
- into the semoahterp
- Farming animals cnoasctu for around 14.5%
- saedwee instead of grass
- This will produce fewer ssniimeos
- eurced the tax they pay
- Another tsgesogiu
- New Zealand's farmers tpusopr the government

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. c	7. g	8. i	9. a	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Cows

You think cows are the best farm animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): sheep, goats or chickens.

Role B – Sheep

You think sheep are the best farm animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): cows, goats or chickens.

Role C – Goats

You think goats are the best farm animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): sheep, cows or chickens.

Role D – Chickens

You think chickens are the best farm animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): sheep, goats or cows.

Speaking – Farm Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • Cows | • Sheep |
| • Pigs | • Ostriches |
| • Goats | • Horses |
| • Chickens | • Dogs |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.