Becoming a CreatureKind Partner Community: Basic Overview of Changing Food Policies

The use of animals for food massively dominates all other human uses of animals, yet farmed animals—the animals on our plates—are conspicuously absent from the vast majority of Christian conversations about stewardship, creation care, and the environment.

*CreatureKind Partner Communities distinguish themselves as places where people want to learn more about animals as a faith concern and take action to improve the lives of farmed animals.*

Worldwide, more than 70 billion fellow land creatures and up to 7 trillion sea animals are killed for food each year. Most animal products—meat, milk, and eggs—are produced on farms where it is impossible for creatures to flourish, and in systems that require both humans and animals pay a high price for the ability to buy cheap meat. Often, animals used for food are subject to painful physical mutilations, miserable living conditions, and traumatic deaths. Overconsumption of animal products has led to widespread environmental damages and uses a disproportionate share of Earth’s resources. Globally, industrial animal farming now uses 78% of the world’s agricultural land, diminishes wild animal populations, and worsens human food and water security throughout the world. Increasing pressures on farmers to produce high quantities at low costs make it harder for farmers to provide improved welfare for farmed animals. Economic pressures also contribute to worker injustice, higher rates of farmer suicide, and a decline in diversified farms. Workers within the industrial farming system endure long hours, frequent injuries, and unjust working conditions. The increased use of antibiotics contributes to the rise of so-called “superbugs,” and overconsumption of animal products is linked to a host of human ailments.

*Affecting every area of life on Earth, these issues require the care and attention of the people of God.*

Becoming a CreatureKind Partner Community means
- **encouraging community participation** to discuss and explore what it means to be Christians relating to God’s world and humans relating to animals and food
- **setting and acting on food policy goals** to reduce the consumption of animal products
- **changing the lives of farmed animals** by supporting farms of higher- and highest-welfare standards
- **offering the opportunity** to consume healthy, sustainable, compassionate alternatives to animal products
CreatureKind will help your community discover what Christian faith means for animals, discuss why food choices matter to Christians, and explore the ways in which the existing theological and ethical commitments of the community can lead to care and concern for farmed animals. We want to emphasize that working with CreatureKind is a collaborative, community-focused effort. We don’t dictate the terms of your engagement, and we understand that every community will have a different starting place.

First Steps

Start the Conversation

You choose how you want to begin community participation. You may wish to schedule virtual classroom visits from experts in animal ethics, host a speaker for chapel, hold a faculty symposium, conduct a campus-wide book study or film series, or ask us for more ideas. CreatureKind can help you discern practical and invitational conversation approaches.

CreatureKind communities adopt new food policies or adapt their pre-existing food policies in order to reduce consumption of animal products and to purchase the animal products they continue to consume from farms with higher and highest animal welfare standards. Collaborating with CreatureKind means your community will begin to develop a develop food systems and practices that reflect your faith commitments. We will help you set realistic goals and design a plan for your institution to achieve, sustain, and advertise those goals.

Set Targets for Reduction and Improved Animal Welfare

1) Gather current data: how much meat, fish, dairy, and eggs does your community currently consume, and what are the animal welfare standards of the current suppliers?
2) Identify strategies to reduce consumption and introduce plant-based alternatives.
3) Set a target to reduce consumption of animal products (i.e. 25% reduction over two years or adopt a “Default Veg” catering policy).
4) Review the data gathered in step 1 in relation to the purchase of animal products, so you know the animal welfare standards of your current suppliers of chicken, pork, beef, lamb, fish, dairy, and eggs.
5) Set targets for purchasing animal products from higher- and highest-welfare suppliers over a specific time frame (i.e. move to all-organic for products where this is not yet the case or look for suppliers raising heritage breed animals).

Act and Evaluate

As you implement your plan, monitor results, and set new goals, CreatureKind will continue to help your community foster dialogue and communicate about the program and your successes. We will point you to helpful resources if you encounter problems, and we will help you answer the question, “What’s next?”
Resources Available

Creature Kind has partnered with Farm Forward’s Leadership Circle program to support universities that are working to align their food supply chain with their institutional values. The Leadership Circle provides free consulting and technical support. Forward Food provides free training to food service professionals to help them develop more plant-forward menus, dishes, and dining services. Default Veg provides extensive support in adopting a plant-first catering strategy.

*If your organization, department, or school is a part of a larger institution through which food policies are set, you can still take action! CreatureKind will help you articulate your values and goals for food policy and will advocate on your behalf with the larger institution.


The CreatureKind project is motivated by a Christian recognition of animals as fellow creatures of God and the conviction that what we choose to eat has implications for the whole of God’s creation.

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<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<td>1. Engage the community to help them understand the purpose of the changes</td>
<td>To educate the broader community about the realities of intensive farming; to empower community members to help animals, humans, and the planet in all areas of their lives.</td>
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<td>2. Reduce consumption of animal products</td>
<td>For animals: to reduce the number of animals subjected to intensive farming. For humans: to improve food and water security, to move to healthier diets, to reduce the risk of disease, to protect the efficacy of antibiotics, and to be in solidarity with factory farm and slaughterhouse workers, who are often exploited. For the planet: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.</td>
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<td>3. Obtain remaining animal products from higher welfare suppliers</td>
<td>For animals: to urge the food industry to adopt methods and policies that help animals to flourish. For humans: to reduce the risk of disease and protect the efficacy of antibiotics. For the planet: to reduce pollution from industrialized agriculture.</td>
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