



Denominational and Policy Statements about Food and Agriculture

Below please find official statements, resolutions, and policies adopted by governing bodies from many different faith traditions. These include statements relevant to the treatment of farm animals. We try to keep this list as updated as possible, but if you know of something that we missed, please [let us know](#).

American Baptist

[Resolution on Individual Lifestyle for Ecological Responsibility](#) (1990)

[Policy Statement on Ecology: An Ecological Situational Analysis](#) (1988, revised 2007)

Assemblies of God

[Genetic Alteration and Cloning](#) (Endorsed by the church's Commission on Doctrinal Purity and the Executive Presbytery)

[Statement on Environmental Protection](#) (Endorsed by the church's Commission on Doctrinal Purity and the Executive Presbytery)

Church of the Brethren

[Church and Agriculture](#) (1974) Text unavailable on-line. ([A Proposal for Action is available in printed form Brethren Press.](#))

[Creation Care](#)

[Creation: Called to Care](#) (1991) (Annual Conference Statement)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

[Statement on Animals](#) (From *Doctrine & Covenants* 89:12-15; see also *Doctrine & Covenants* 49:18-21 and 59:16-20)

Conservative Judaism

[Hekhsher Tzedek, Al Pi Din](#) (2008) (The Hekhsher Tzedek Commission of the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

[Statement on Animals](#)

Disciples of Christ

[Concerning a Movement to Reconnect with Our Food and the Natural World](#) (General Assembly Resolution 0720)

[Concerning Christian Stewardship of Food and Farm Land](#) (General Assembly Resolution 7561)

[Concerning Support of Farmworkers](#) (General Assembly Resolution 7555)

Episcopal Church

[Spirituality of Food Production](#) (Resolution C036 of the 74th General Convention) (2003)

[Support Ethical Care of Animals](#) (Resolution D016 of the 74th General Convention) (2003)

[Merciful and Humane Treatment of God's Creatures](#) (Resolution 2009-D015 of the 76th General Convention) (2009)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

[Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice Social Statement on the Environment](#) (1993)

[Climate Change Advocacy Statement](#) (2007)

[Farm Bill Social Statement](#) (2007) You can also find more information on the [ELCA website](#) itself.

[Genetic Engineering in Agriculture: How Will We be Fed?](#) While not an official social or advocacy statement, this document was compiled by the ELCA.

[Hunger and Farm Bill Fact Sheet](#)

[Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All](#) (1999)

Scroll down to page 13 for section on sustainable agriculture.

Hindu

[Hinduism and the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#) (The Hindu American Foundation for the Humane Society of the United States)

Islam

[Livestock Feeding](#) (2001) (The Fiqh Council of North America)

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

[Man and Animals](#)

Orthodox Judaism

[Regarding Recent Developments at Agriprocessors Meat Processing Plant in Postville, Iowa](#) (2008) (Rabbinical Council of America)

[More writings](#) from Orthodox Judaism

Presbyterian Church USA

[Environment and Energy Policy Brief](#) (2008) (Excerpted from the Christian and Citizen Election Year Resource)

[Farm and Agriculture Policy Brief](#) (2008) (Excerpted from the Christian and Citizen Election Year Resource)

[Global Warming Likely to Increase Hunger](#) (2007) (From the Presbyterian Hunger Program)

[Hope for a Global Future: Toward Just and Sustainable Human Development as policy for the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) (1996) (From the 208th General Assembly)

[Pesticides and the Health of Farmers and Rural Residents](#) (1987) (From the 199th General Assembly)

[Resolution in Support of Ongoing Partnership Work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Campaign for Fair Food](#) (2006) (From the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns)

Reform Judaism

[Mishkan T'filah and other historical and contemporary statements](#)

Reformed Church in America

[Care for Earth: Theology and Practice](#) (1982) (pages 4 to 10)

[Genetic Engineering Report of the Commission on Christian Action](#) (1988) (pages 10 to 22)

Roman Catholic

[Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers, and Farmworkers](#) (2003) (U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops)

[Catholic Social Teaching](#) (2010) – Compiled by the Baltimore Food and Faith Project

[Charity in Truth \(CARITAS IN VERITATE\) Encyclical](#) (2009; Section 27) (Pope Benedict XVI)

[Respect for Integrity of Creation](#) (Paragraphs 2415 to 2417 of Catholic Catechism)

[On Agricultural Work: This is the Moment for the Re-evaluation of Agriculture](#) (2010) (Pope Benedict XVI)

[Statement by Pope Benedict XVI regarding Animal Welfare](#) (2002; From Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *God and the World: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*. (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002), 78-79. “Cardinal Ratzinger (CR) was asked the following question by the German journalist, Peter Seewald: Are we allowed to make use of animals, and even to eat them?

CR: “That is a very serious question. At any rate, we can see that they are given into our care, that we cannot just do whatever we want with them. Animals, too, are God’s creatures and even if they do not have the same direct relation to God that man has, they are creatures of his will, creatures we must respect as companions in creation ... Certainly, a sort of industrial use of creatures, so that geese are fed in such a way as to produce as large a liver as possible, or hens live so packed together that they become just caricatures of birds, this degrading of living creatures to

a commodity seems to me in fact to contradict the relationship of mutuality that comes across in the Bible.”

Statements by Pope John Paul II regarding Animal Welfare (1990; In front of a public audience at the Vatican) “animals possess a soul and men must love and feel solidarity with our smaller brethren,” and “animals are the fruit of the creative action of the Holy Spirit and merit respect ... they are as near to God as men are.” (Also, from Respect for Nature on Social Concerns, p. 64, #34) "One cannot use with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate -- animals, plants, the natural elements -- simply as one wishes according to one's own economic needs. On the contrary, one must take into account the nature of each being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system, which is precisely 'the cosmos.'"

Seventh Day Adventist

Caring for Creation – A Statement of the Environment (1992 General Conference) Mentions maintaining a simple vegetarian diet as a way to care for the earth.

United Church of Christ

Calling the United Church Of Christ To Declare Itself To Be A "Fair Trade Denomination (2005) (25th General Synod)

Respect for Animals (1993) (19th General Synod) - Commends to members and congregations the consideration of our place among all God's living creatures and invites them to evaluate human use of animals and the resulting effects on animals; asks Conferences, Associations and congregations to gather educational and theological materials on the place of animals and to share the information with the assistance of OCIS. (Actual text unavailable.)

Resolution for Mindful and Faithful Eating (2011) (28th General Synod)

To Explore the Implications of our Dietary Choices (2003) (24th General Synod)

United Methodist Church

Animal Life (2004) (Social Principles)

Black-Owned Farmland (1988) (page 13; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

Environmental Racism (1992) (pages 16 to 18; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

Environmental Stewardship (1984) (pages 5 to 8, especially Sections III, D and E; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

Family Farms (2004) (Social Principles)

Family Farm Justice (2000) (pages 41 and 42; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

[Food Safety](#) (2004) (Social Principles)

[The Natural World](#) (2004)

[New Developments in Genetic Science](#) (1992, 2000) (pages 18 to 25, especially Sections VI, C and D; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

[Sustainable Agriculture](#) (2004) (Social Principles Paragraph 160 0) “We support a sustainable agricultural system that will maintain and support the natural fertility of agricultural soil, promote the diversity of flora and fauna, and adapt to regional conditions and structures—a system where agricultural animals are treated humanely and where their living conditions are as close to natural systems as possible.”

[U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis](#) (1996) (pages 25 to 32; Adapted from the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000 (The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, Copyright))

[Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants](#) (2004)

Unitarian Universalist

[Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice Statement of Conscience](#) (2011)

[Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice for 2008-2012 Congregational Study/Action Issue](#) (2008)

[End Present-Day Slavery in the Fields](#) (2008)

Support of the United Farmworkers Boycott of Gallo Wines

[Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change Statement of Conscience](#) (2006)

[Toxic Threats to Children General Resolution](#) (1997) includes brief mention of pesticides in foods.

For other statements related more generally to environmental stewardship and creation care, please visit the [National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program](#) and the [National Religious Partnership on the Environment](#).