Planning for the Planet

Intensive Livestock Units and Planning

Things can only get better aka planning reform

What can SFPs and communities do?

Ruth Westcott Climate and Nature Emergency Manager, Sustain https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/planning/

Help us save 1.5 million tonnes CO₂ per year

Make change happen





Intensive Livestock units are on the march in the UK

- 20% increase in the largest US-style 'megafarms' since 2016
- First intensive poultry unit was given permission in 2003, there are now over 2000
- Agriculture main cause of river pollution incidents in the UK
- Exploiting farmers and undermining nature-friendly producers – amalgamation of farming into larger units bad for everyone except....





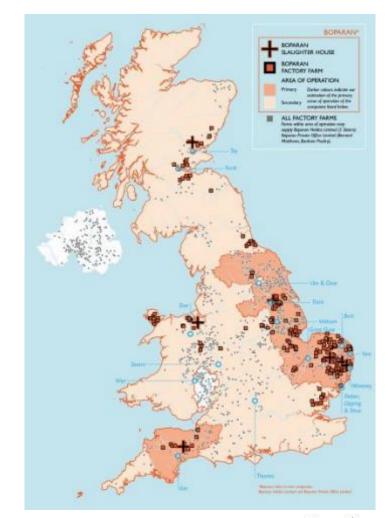
Moy Park

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Avara Foods



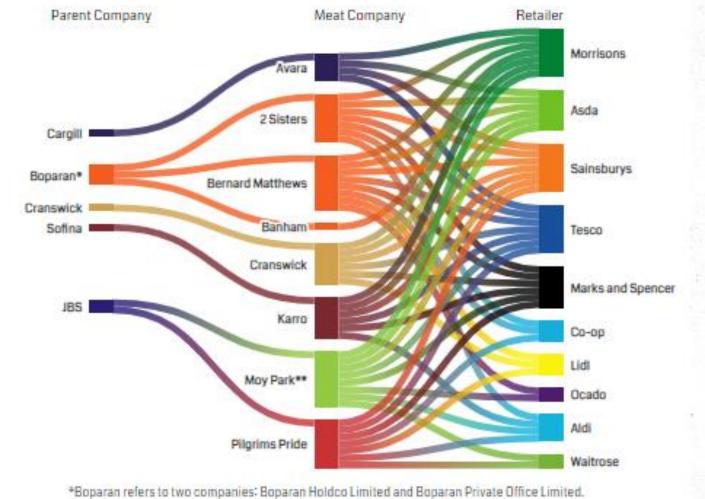
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Polluting agribusinesses' links to major retailers

Figure 1: Links between UK retailers and meat chicken and pig companies included in this report.



**Moy Park is owned by Pilgrims Pride.





The Muck Stops Here

HU13 0PA



Agribusinesses deliberately hiding impacts of FFs from the public



Out and about with @CranswickPlc talking about growing pig farming whilst minimising local impact. And in Garboldisham's excellent village shop. #SouthWestNorfolk



1:33 PM · Oct 21, 2023 · 137.7K Views

- Power of these agribusinesses of these One of the largest megafarms in Europe in Norfolk
- Why relevant? WELL...
- GHG NOT INCLUDED IN APPLICATION

Could a supreme court ruling mean the beginning of the end for polluting factory farming?

Council planning teams must fully consider greenhouse gas emissions both 'direct' and 'indirect' - when making planning decisions, according to a recent <u>court ruling relating to an oil well</u>. With greenhouse gas assessments normally missing for factory farm applications, we chew over the potential implications of this landmark decision.

D espite the known animal cruelty, pollution and human exploitation caused by industrialscale confined animal agriculture, the number of intensive livestock units (those with over 40,000 places for chickens, 2,000 places for production pigs or 750 places for sows) is on the rise - increasing by 12% between 2016 and 2023.

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Parts of megafarm plans 'Unlawful' according to WWF

Lawyers representing WWF have called elements of the planning application for one of the UK's largest industrial livestock facilities "unlawful."



- WWF lawyers agree that application is unlawful because it does not include a full GHG assessment
- Our work so far suggests this is the case for every other application for a livestock unit
- This and all future applications in question
- Councils need to make a judgement on 'significance'



What's next for planning reform?

- 1. NPPF under review. Currently includes vague language around 'supporting rural diversification' and 'sustainable development'
 - Agribusinesses outmuscle planning teams with persuasive nonsense about sustainable development
 - Agribusinesses deliberately hiding impacts of FFs from the public
 - Want to see a presumption against granting planning permission in polluted catchments

2. Planning and Infrastructure Bill (in the new year??)

- Opportunity to change permitting regulations to ensure smaller units need planning permission and a permit



What next / what can you do?

Localities are powerful

- 1. Adopt strong planning policy locally that would make it difficult for planning permission to get through, eg strong climate / pollution / food system language:
 - Local plan
 - Supplementary planning policy
- 2. Are you suffering from intensive livestock pollution?
- Look at current applications
- May have some cash to support work

3. National Policy: Not too late on NPPF – write to your MP to call for food to be included properly in planning policy

Join the breakout group if you are: In a crappy area, rural



