The how, not the cow

* Industrialised fossil-fuel reliant agriculture must end
* But cattle are essential for restoring nature
* The climate crisis is about more than just emissions
* Land use is multi-outcome
* Farm planning and reporting should be holistic
Business as usual carries enormous risk

* Ecological breakdown is increasing global instability
* 3-6bn may be outside Earth’s liveable regions by 2100
* Poor global ecology is a security threat
* Reliance on international supply chains increases risk

* We need active & positive multi-outcome land use, globally and at home
* Agroecology, with livestock, is the best opportunity to build ecologically resilient societies
“Ecological efficiency”, not just food

* Our farmland must produce food and fibre and natural capital: together
* Change requires innovative and thriving rural economies & communities
* “Ecological efficiency” means actively delivering multiple ecological outcomes
* Emissions are just one part of the challenge
* Regenerative farming can be thought of as field level application of agroecology
Cattle are an ecological keystone

- Carbon sequestration
- Infiltration
- Water holding
- Transpiration
- Hydroxyl production
- Nutrient cycling
- Micro-processes
- Cascading life
- Complexity
- Resilience
- Cooling
- Jobs
- Rural economy
- Nutrition security
- Ecological efficiency
Enteric methane is a distraction

* Warming impact has been over-valued 3-4 times
* Revised metric, GWP*, provides accuracy
* In terms of enteric methane, the UK is already below net zero warming
* We need to end fossil fuel use – not demonise natural processes
* Livestock can deliver carbon sequestration and ecological regeneration alongside food and fibre
Closing the carbon cycle

- Carbon Cowboys: a 10-year research project in USA
- Soon to be published data shows drawdown of 12 tonnes of CO2/ha/year in AMP systems
- Twice the drawdown of standard UK woodland
- Ruminant agriculture can be carbon neutral – and deliver nature regeneration
- Food, fibre, mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity: together
Farming must be land appropriate

* We need a land up approach
* Production patterns and diets will need to change
* Livestock can help to deliver optimal nutrient, water and energy cycling
* But we need better livestock distribution
* We need robust, profitable markets in food, fibre and natural capital
* Delivering multiple income streams for farm businesses
Ecological security requires regeneration

* We urgently need a strategic policy shift to address the whole climate crisis – not just emissions
* Government and retailers need to play their part in the transition
* Public payments – higher value markets – natural capital
* Regeneratively managed cattle are climate heroes – central to ecological efficiency and security

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