

Viewpoint: Regenerative ranching – promoted by organic activists from Vandana Shiva to the Organic Consumers Association — has turned out to be a massive scam

While the regenerative potential of many agricultural techniques is widely accepted among ecologists, the inclusion of ranching is disputed.

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Crudely extrapolating from a favorable study and ignoring concepts such as [soil types](#) and [carbon saturation](#), Regeneration International calculates that “If... regenerative grazing practices were implemented on the world’s grazing lands they would sequester [98.5 gigatons CO2 per year](#),” meaning that “Just transitioning ten percent of agricultural production to best-practice regenerative systems will sequester enough CO2 to reverse climate change and [restore the global climate](#).”

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In 2018, a team of eleven scientists from seven countries led by the Food Climate Research Network came together specifically to investigate this question. Conducting a [metastudy](#) drawing from over 300 articles in the literature, they concluded that:

[B]etter management of grass-fed livestock, while worthwhile in and of itself, does not offer a significant solution to climate change as only under very specific conditions can they help sequester carbon. This sequestering of carbon is even then small, time-limited, reversible and substantially outweighed by the greenhouse gas emissions these grazing animals generate.

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The scientific reality is that the concept of sustainable carbon-negative ranching is little more than meat marketing mythology.

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