People choose to become vegan for a whole wide variety of reasons, including but not limited to: protecting animal rights; environmental concerns; and religious or spiritual requirements. This discussion will encompass all motivations.

This debate is not to argue that we should, or shouldn't, coerce or force others to live a vegan lifestyle. Instead, the proposition is that for every single person, regardless of where they live, how they live, what religion they follow, and their politics, from different paths, independently get to the same outcome, worldwide of being vegans by their own free will, in unison. Questions still arise though, like [what will happen to all the livestock when we go vegan?](https://www.kialo.com/what-would-we-do-with-all-the-remaining-livestock-on-farms-if-we-became-vegan-right-now-the-reproduction-of-the-herd-2762.408?path=2762.0~2762.1-2762.3429_2762.503_2762.1483_2762.408) and what's with the [double standard?](https://www.kialo.com/the-double-standard-for-humans-to-not-be-able-to-eat-meat-but-animals-can-is-a-biased-opinion-the-self-hate-for-ones-2762.8379?path=2762.0~2762.1-2762.102-2762.2374-2762.2714_2762.7439_2762.8379).

There have been strict vegetarians since [Jainism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism#Food_and_fasting), an ancient, but still practiced, religion originating from the Indian Subcontinent dating from the 6,000 years BCE. The modern term, Vegan, was created by the English animal rights activist [Donald Watson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Watson) in 1944 when he co-founded the [Vegan Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vegan_Society). Work in [2010](https://www.esri.ie/pubs/WP340.pdf) concluded that over 20% of the world is vegetarian, but only a small fraction (approximately 1% of the world) follow this diet by choice.

To be a vegan has meant a number of different things over the years, the [original intent](http://www.vegparadise.com/24carrot610.html) of the word was to simply denote a non-dairy vegetarian in a less clumsy manner. The term has however been expanded, to include avoiding the use of animals in a number of other ways, such as leather in clothing. The current [definition](https://www.vegansociety.com/go-vegan/definition-veganism) from the Vegan Society is: "A philosophy and way of living which seeks to exclude—as far as is possible and practicable—all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose; and by extension, promotes the development and use of animal-free alternatives for the benefit of humans, animals and the environment. In dietary terms it denotes the practice of dispensing with all products derived wholly or partly from animals." That is the definition this discussion will use.
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Note: This discussion is educational, in helping people explore more informed decisions, rather than prescribing what people should eat or an optimal diet: that's up to each individual (and/or their doctor). This debate discusses how we might make a vegan world a possibility, while also explaining the shortcomings of this hypothetical world. This may help with brainstorming for reality, but is not intended as something to be applied to our world based on this discussion alone. For instance, if a claim says global veganism would decrease healthcare costs, it is not suggesting we should all immediately become vegan to decrease our healthcare costs. The debate explores what could/can happen, what is possible.
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For those who want to write their personal experience out for all to see: the comments section under the thesis is where it should go instead of as a claim. Claims are for sub-arguments, however, it does maintain a semi-level of privacy if that's what's desired.
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Editor's note: this is a very mature debate with more than 2200 claims. Before suggesting claims please explore all of the claims under the top-level Pros and Cons. The broad argument in your suggestion has almost certainly been discussed already and so contributions to that argument need to be located in relation to that existing discussion — not at the top level.