Are we better off in a world without cows?

World Without Cows is a feature-length documentary that explores the complexity behind a seemingly simple question: "Are we better off in a world without cows?"

Amid **discussions about cows, climate and nutrition** that have **become increasingly polarized**, World Without Cows aims to **broaden the conversation** about the role of cows in the vitality of our planet.

Through interviews with farmers, ranchers, scientists and others on the front lines of agriculture and science, award-winning journalists Michelle Michael and Brandon Whitworth take viewers **on a global journey to deepen their understanding** of everything cows contribute and what the world might look like without them.

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

In their search for the facts behind often-oversimplified debates, Michelle and Brandon discovered that while cows account for 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, they also:

- **Help keep soil healthy**
- **Pull carbon from the air** into the soil where it is stored
- **Support biodiversity** on grazing lands
- **Provide critical nutrients** for humans that are not easily obtained from other sources
- **Turn waste we can't eat** into nutrient-dense food we need

KEY FINDINGS

1. Humanity has a **profound** reliance on cows.

$1 trillion

Estimated global market value of cattle and associated industries.

1 in 10 people

Depend on cows for their livelihoods. That's 800 million people.

Vital to survival

Rural communities around the world depend on cows for survival, such as the 2 million members of the Maasai tribe in Kenya.

2. Cows play a key role in meeting the challenges of **nourishing** our **rapidly expanding** global **population.**

10,000 years of food in 40 years

We have to make the same amount of food we made in the last 10,000 years in the next 40 years.

1 billion people every decade

More than one billion people are added to the global population every 11-12 years.

Land use challenges

Of all the agricultural land in the world, only 1/3 can grow crops (arable), while 2/3 is not fertile enough and is used to graze livestock (marginal).

3. Cows provide **essential nutrients** that are vital for **human health**.

Millions malnourished

A quarter of the world's malnourished people live in India, despite being the world's largest producer and consumer of milk.

Critical nutrients

Animal-sourced foods like meat and milk provide critical nutrients not easily obtained from other sources.

50% of countries

Nearly 50% of countries are protein insecure.

4. The relationship between **cows** and the **environment** is **complex**.

5-7% of GHG emissions

Cows contribute between 5-7% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Fossil fuels contribute 78%.

Biogenic carbon cycle

Methane emissions from cows are offset through a natural cycle that recycles carbon.

The power of upcycling

With their four-chambered digestive systems, cows can eat grasses, food byproducts and other materials that human cannot eat, upcycling them into foods we need.

> "The truth is, **agriculture holds the key** to saving our planet."
>
> - Allen Williams, Regenerative Rancher