

**Universität Zürich**

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Bachelor thesis

# **The Swiss Cattle Industry – Another View on Global Warming**

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## **Abstract**

The increasing global warming and the more frequently occurring weather extremes are posing a global problem for humankind. Environmental organizations and governments of different countries are working to stabilize and decrease the after effects. Apart from CO<sub>2</sub>, there are other lesser-known greenhouse gases that need to be minimized. Around 10% of the emitted greenhouse gases in Switzerland originate from methane. This work investigates the current situation in Switzerland with respect to what regulations already exist and which changes could have a positive effect in decreasing the methane emission. To obtain the answers an in-depth analysis of the agriculture sector in Switzerland is performed – specifically for the cattle breeding that is responsible for the high methane output. Different approaches and solutions such as adjustments in the law, new guidelines for subsidies, substitutes or a meat tax are discussed. The goal is to show the available options for Switzerland to adapt the agriculture sector and decrease the methane emission in Switzerland to contribute to an environmentally friendly world. The results show that with more restrictions and strict management from the government the emission could be decreased. A meat tax should decrease the beef consumption, and the earned money could be invested in research to either advance in-vitro meat or find a solution to decrease the methane output of the cattle during its digestion.