An Argument for Pastured Meat

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An argument for Pastured Meat

What does this label mean?
Pastured cattle are spread out and able to assimilate the manure more evenly promoting plant growth, the animals are fed their natural diet and if well pastured can promote biodiversity and reduce water loss.

This figure offers insight on the impact of deforestation and mass production of fecal matter on the release of emissions. The nitrous oxide and methane built up within the factories is a direct result of the large quantity of feces produced by the cows. However, deforestation and spread of land use for pastured animal’s attributes more global warming causing emissions than the methane and nitrous oxide produced from feces build up.

Water footprint
When considering our water footprint, it is important to recognize the consumption of meat as a major contributor. Our water footprint is measured by rainwater and groundwater consumed and also how we contribute to pollution. Both pastured and unpasturized cattle consume vegetation that require mostly rain water to grow. However, since most crops require pesticides and herbicides that cause nutrient runoff there is a greater water footprint for cattle that consume these crops. Since corn, soybeans, and alfalfa are the main food sources for cattle in concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO), they have a higher impact on the water

What about CAFO’s is so bad?
In concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) manure is collected in a “manure lagoon” where it is then used to fertilize fields. However, the fields are often over fertilized leading to runoff into nearby water systems causing pollution. These factories are also known to feed the animals with items such as candy and other fattening foods to bulk them up. Diet aside, the animals have no space to roam, are kept in unsanitary conditions and disease runs rampant through the factories leading to the cows being fed antibiotics as well.