

# An argument for Pastured Meat

Table 1 : Main Sources of Emission from Agriculture

Main Sources of Emissions	Percent of the Total Global Warming Effect of Emissions
<b>On the Farm</b> Fertilizer production and distribution Methane and nitrous oxide emissions	1.5 to 2% 12%
<b>On the Land</b> Deforestation and other land use changes	18%
<b>On the Road</b> Transportation emissions from seed to plate	<i>Specific food-system data unavailable</i>
<b>Additional Sources</b> Waste and manufacturing	<i>Specific food-system data unavailable</i>
<b>Estimated Total*</b>	33% of the total global warming effect can be attributed to the food system.

## What does this label mean?

Free Roam

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.



These labels point to the heavy machinery that are used for meat production which are powered by fossil fuels and contribute to the true cost of beef

This label correlates to a pasture fed cow which, while is less ecologically costly than CAFO cows, still have heavy costs including needing more land per cattle tying into deforestation and the loss of biodiversity.

This label is to a building representative of the CAFO buildings which represent several threats to the environment including mass water pollution, soil degradation due to manure use and

## 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 unpasteurized 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.