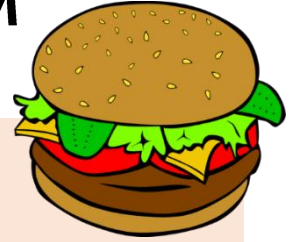


THE DAILY MEAT PROBLEM



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A HAMBURGER?

To produce one quarter-pound of beef uses:

1741.29 litres of water

This consists of the water the cows drink + water required to irrigate the crops that they eat + service water e.g. the water used to wash the animals, clean the waste, dirt and excess milk from the floor in the barn and to constantly clean the slaughterhouses

+ 6.12 kilos of feed

Many cows bred for meat are fed on corn and soy which require an enormous amount of fossil fuel energy in the form of agrochemicals. Vast quantities of chemical fertilizer takes vast quantities of oil. A typical cow will consume 284 gallons of oil in his lifetime.

+ 6 square metres of land

Forests will be cleared or wild land made into pasture land to graze cattle – a large contributor to global deforestation

+ 57.2 grams of methane

Ruminant animals (cows, sheep) produce high levels of methane when they burp and fart – which they do quite regularly!

= 2kg carbon footprint.

The carbon footprint measures all of the greenhouse gases released - all the fossil fuels burned or released to raise the crops that feed the animals and to transport the beef once the cattle have been butchered. This does not include any of the energy required to actually cook the meat or the fossil fuel energy used for packaging, processing and powering factory farm facilities

Producing one hamburger (normally eaten in less than 5 minutes) uses all of the resources above – and uses the same amount of fossil fuels as driving your car for 20 miles. To put into context: the average American consume [209 pounds](#) of meat per year. Multiply that by the population of three billion, and we're easily looking at 627 billion pounds of meat a year.

DID YOU KNOW Eating meat regularly is a fairly new phenomenon in most societies. Still today, in many parts of the world meat and dairy have been (and continue to be) luxury foods as they are unaffordable and unsustainable for many people.

SOURCES

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