
Is Beef Bad for the Environment?

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-beef/>

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. In the Vox video, Laura Bult said that two factors are most responsible for animal products generating more emissions than other food products. What are those factors?
3. In the Stossel video, Linnea Lueken showed a clip from a World Economic Forum video that said: "You'll own nothing. And you'll be happy." What did the World Economic Forum mean by that?
4. According to Laura Bult, what is the digestive process used by cows and sheep which leads to methane emissions?
5. Linnea Lueken said that Bill Gates has proposed genetically modifying cows to reduce methane emissions. Is that a good idea? Why/Why not?
6. According to Laura Bult, methane is the second most emitted greenhouse gas. What did she say is the first?
7. According to Gregory Wrightstone in the Stossel video, how long is the life cycle of methane? Is the life cycle important to the overall debate about livestock's impact on the environment? Why/Why not?
8. According to Laura Bult, which of the following uses more land: grazing animals or growing crops?
9. According to Gregory Wrightstone, how much warming will be caused by methane in the next 50 years? If he's right, should we be concerned about the amount? Why/Why not?
10. According to Laura Bult, excluding high emission foods from our diets has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% per person. Is that worth changing our diets? Why/Why not?

11. In the Stossel video, Sailesh Rao said that "nature cannot be argued with." What did he mean by that? Do you agree with that sentiment? Why/Why not?
12. Laura Bult said: "A lot of food emissions are unavoidable—we have to eat. But we do have a choice of what not to eat." What did she mean by that?
13. In the Stossel video, Shad Sullivan talked about companies proposing crickets as an alternative to beef. Are you open to such an alternative? Why/Why not?
14. Aside from those mentioned in these videos, can you think of any potential benefits or negative consequences that might result from a majority of people removing beef from their diets?
15. Have you tried imitation meat products, like Impossible Burgers or Beyond Meat? If so, what was your experience?
16. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
17. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
18. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
19. What else would you like to learn about this topic?