Beef in the United States

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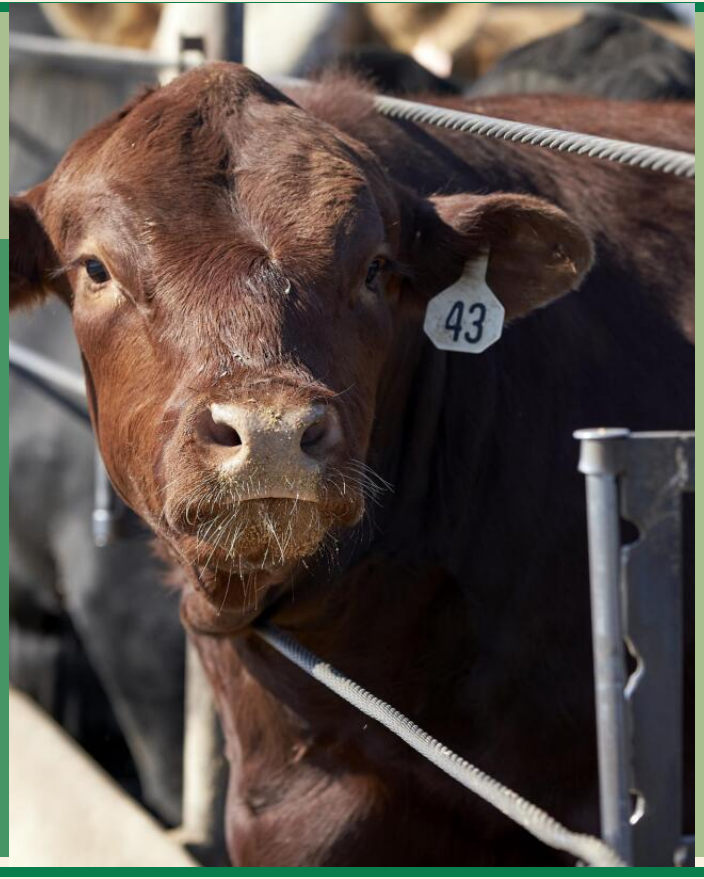


The Problem: Emissions

-The average American citizen consumes about 55 lbs of beef per year (3x the global average!)

-Beef production and consumption accounts for about 37% of all U.S. agricultural emissions

-Grain production and consumption only account for about 2.1% of U.S. agricultural emissions

-Beef to emissions ratio is 1.5 lbs per capita
-Poultry to emissions ratio is 10 lbs per capita
-Grains to emissions ratio is 62 lbs per capita

The Problem: Subsidies

-Payments to industry actors by the government for:
- -Mitigating pricing fluctuations
- -Ensuring a basic level of income
- -Research into more efficient practices

-Only 2% of farm households below the national median are receiving benefits

-Over $20 billion has been allocated to the beef industry since 2020

-Only $124 million has been allocated to plant based proteins and meat substitutes since 2001

History

-Cattle industry boomed as Westward expansion happened

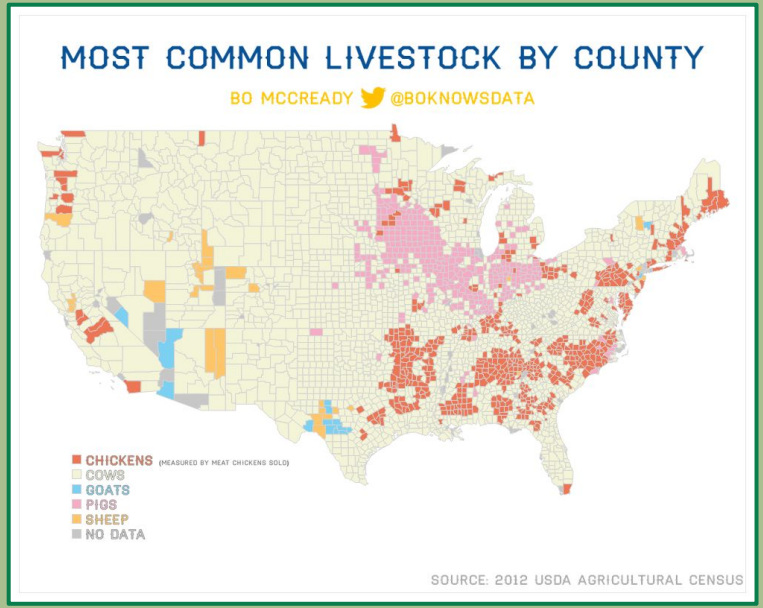
-Corn based diets allowed for much larger cows

-Demand increased due to rise in incomes, growth of two-income families, and urbanization

-People no longer had the space to raise their own cattle, so they had to buy it elsewhere

-Improvements in transportation and refrigeration helped make this possible

-Between 1980 and 2010, the amount of beef cattle farms reduced by 42%



Laws and Regulations

-Homestead Acts (19th Century)
    -Encouraged westward expansion and facilitated establishment of cattle ranches

-Grain Subsidies and Feedlot Expansion (20th century)
    -Focus more on supporting crops like corn and soybeans to be used as feed for cattle

-Food Safety Regulations
    -United States Department of Agriculture and United States Food and Drug Administration

-Environmental Regulations
    -Regulations to reduce water usage, practice better land management, and manage greenhouse gas emissions

Official and Unofficial Actors

-Agencies
  -Department of Agriculture
  -Food and Drug Administration

-Farmers and Ranchers
  -National Cattlemen's Beef Association
  -Companies like Tyson, Cargill Meat Solutions, and Sysco
  -Small farmers

-Retailers and Restaurants

-Individual consumers!

Sustainability

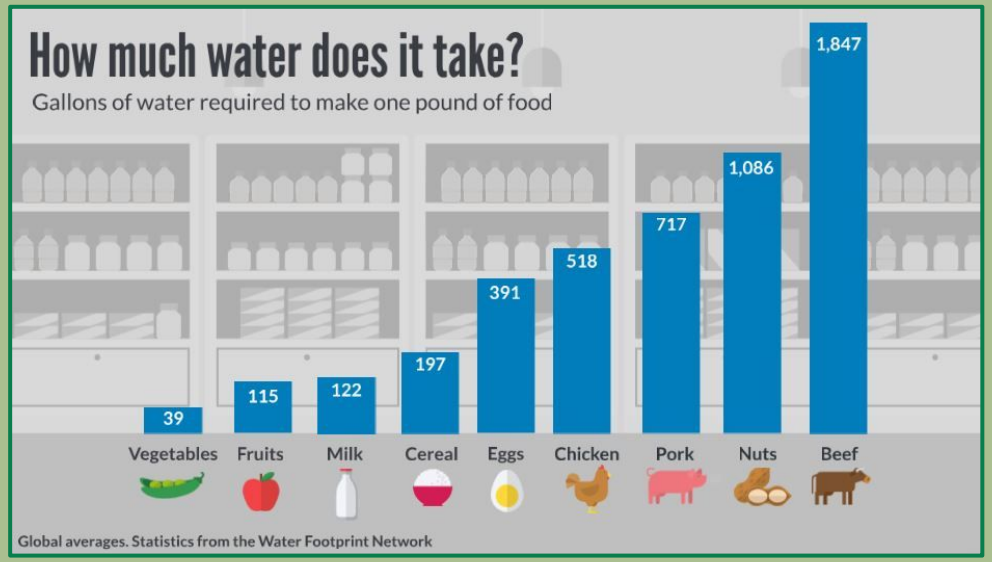
-By solving the problems...

-Less emissions

-More funds to go to other programs

-More water for other uses

-More land for other uses



Solutions

-Reduction

-Reduce subsidies on beef

-Decrease overall demand and production

-Allows for alternatives to rise

-Reallocation

-Move funds to...

-Incentivize alternatives

-Promote smaller, sustainable production

-Incentivize increased production of other food areas like fruits and vegetables

-Research and development into plant-based alternatives and possibly lab grown meat

Benefits

-Climate change reduction

-Encourages smaller and more local agriculture

-Less plants for animals and more for people

-Healthier diets

-More ethical animal treatment

-Preventing deforestation

Thank you!

Sources

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