

Many argue that lab grown meats are better because the animal rights movement televises the overcrowded ranches with its only purpose being profit. However, buying meat locally, from the hard working members of our North Dakota community, provides healthy meat from a healthy environment. Another argument could be made about the amount of methane gas (CH₄) however to look closer would reveal that proper grazing habits keep the grass at a good length, when grass becomes too long it stops filtering the air, when the cows graze they leave the grass long enough to grow but short enough to produce more oxygen.

The population of ND is roughly 672,591, nearly 26,000 are either farmers or ranchers, leaving only 646,591 people who are not. But outside of that number there are also those who work as butchers or work as feed producers and other such jobs.

There are roughly about 1.85 million head of beef in North Dakota at any given time. That is almost 2 ½ cows for every one person living in the state.

A single 1,350 pound cow is the equivalent of over 3,000 quarter pound hamburgers, an amount that would take 9 years for a single person, eating one hamburger a day, to finish.

In North Dakota the top beef producing counties are Burleigh, Dickey, Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, and Stutsman.

The cattle industry was established in North Dakota in 1883 by Marquis De Mores.

34% of a cow is typically turned to ground beef or stew meat.

Meat is not the only thing we use cattle for, byproducts such as the fats, hair, hide, bone meal, and manure are all used for various things such as leather items, iron used to treat anemia, materials to make certain kinds of instrument strings. Some soaps, candles, and crayons use beef fat. One cowhide can make about 20 footballs. Insulin for diabetics also comes from cows. Many adhesives like glue come from byproducts of the cattle industry. Manure is turned to fertilizer for gardens and fields. Gelatin for things such as gummies comes from cows as well.

90% of the land in North Dakota is used for farming and ranching. The number of farmers and ranchers in North Dakota is roughly 26,000. Agriculture accounts for 25% of the state's economy, it is also North Dakota's largest economic sector.

On average a rancher spends \$39,600 on livestock and poultry and \$56,800 on feed. Larger ranches make between \$70,000 and \$140,000 a year and the income is all dependent not only on the market but on other factors such as the calving season, fires, disease, drought, and winter.

The more lab grown meat is used the less people buy meat supplied by local cattle ranchers. The less business the cattle ranchers have the less income they receive, and the less they can afford. With time this could cause them to sell their land and even leave the state, leaving up to 25% of the population without a job. Without the business of ranchers, feed companies would require less from the farmers, leaving the farmers with less business as well. The entire agricultural ecosystem could be destroyed if not properly tended to. It must also be remembered that the ranching industry not only includes cattle but also pigs and poultry.

While "cell cultivated meat" is being pushed across the US some states such as Florida and Alabama have already made it illegal. A further look into how cell cultivated meat is produced shows, in studies done by the FAO and the WHO, that chemicals such as Sodium Nitrate, a chemical known to cause high blood pressure, are used in growing the cells. Furthermore those same studies have found cell cultivated meat to lower cholesterol, cause harm to the metabolism and certain molecules used to develop this cell cultivated meat have been connected to cancer. In fact, to compare, cell cultivated meats are the rapid growth of cells, and cancer is in fact a rapid growth of cells.

Lab grown meats should be made illegal in North Dakota not only for the protection of our livelihood but for the protection of our health.

