



# BEEF SUSTAINABILITY: FACT VS. MYTH

## FACT

## MYTH



- Beef production, including the production of animal feed, is **responsible for only 3.7% of greenhouse gas emissions** in the United States.

- Cattle are one of the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions.



- Cattle **only consume 2.6 lbs. of grain per pound of beef**, which is similar to pork and poultry, and nearly **90% of grain-finished cattle feed is inedible by humans**.

- Cattle consume 9 pounds of grain or more per pound of beef and compete with people for food.



- Corn going to feed beef cattle represents **only 10% of harvested corn grain in the United States**, or 8 million acres.

- We grow 100 million acres of corn just to feed cattle.



- It only takes 308 gallons of water to produce a pound of boneless beef, and water use by beef is around **5% of U.S. water withdrawals. Plus, this water is recycled**.

- It takes up to 24,000 gallons of water to produce a pound of boneless beef and beef is major drain on water resources.

CA Rotz, S Asem-Hiablie, S Place, G Thoma., 2018. Environmental footprints of beef cattle production in the United States. Agricultural Systems. Advance online publication. doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2018.11.005.



Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers