



Facts About Upcycling and the Beef Industry

- Cattle do more than recycle – they upcycle human-inedible plants into high-quality protein.^{8,9}
- In the face of a growing global population, we need ruminant animals, like beef cattle, to help make more protein with less.⁸
- Cattle generate more protein for the human food supply than would exist without them because their unique digestive system allows them to convert human-inedible plants into high-quality protein.⁹
 - 90% of what cattle eat is forage and plant leftovers that people can't eat⁹ and would otherwise go to waste.
 - Most cattle, whether grass-finished or grain-finished, spend the majority of their lives on pasture, eating grass.⁹
 - Cattle contribute more than two-times as much high-quality protein to the U.S. food supply than they consume, directly contributing to food security.²⁴
- Corn used to feed beef cattle only represents 10% of all harvested corn grain in the U.S.²
 - In other words, only approximately 2% of cropland acres are used to grow crops which feed cattle.²⁷
 - By comparison, 37.5% of corn grown in the U.S. is used for producing fuel ethanol.²
- Approximately 35% of the land in the contiguous U.S. is pasture and rangeland that is too rocky, steep, and/or arid to support cultivated agriculture – yet this land can support cattle, sheep and goats, and in turn contributes to producing high-quality protein.¹⁰