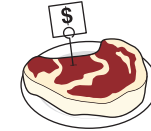
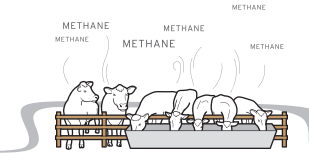
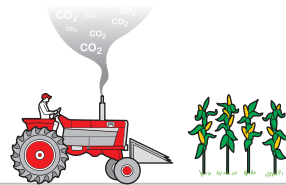
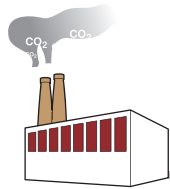


# Feedlots Vs. Pastures

What cows eat greatly determines their environmental impact. A look at two possible paths to your plate:

# TIME



## GRAIN-FED

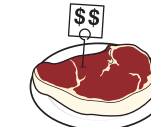
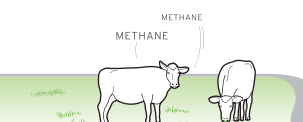
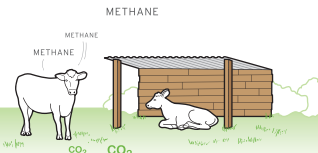
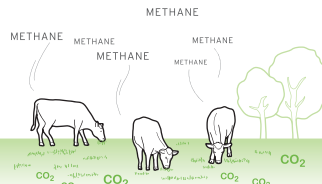
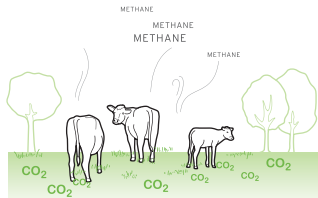
The production of fertilizer for feed crops can emit 41 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a year

Big farms guzzle fossil fuel. And feed-crop demand has turned vast swaths of rain forest into farmland

Feed transport, spanning lengthy trade routes around the world, adds to the greenhouse-gas tally

The EPA links the jump in methane emissions to factory farms and their liquefied-manure systems

Feedlots, which take less time to fatten up cows, produce more meat more quickly than grazing



## GRASS-FED

Grass requires little besides sunlight to grow. Fertilizer and pesticides generally aren't needed

Cows trample decaying matter into the soil, which helps keep CO<sub>2</sub> underground and out of the air

The cows' food (grass) and the grass's fertilizer (manure) are made right where they are needed

Compared with feedlot cows, grass-fed ones produce more methane but have lower net emissions

With grass-fed taking longer to raise, ground beef can cost \$7/lb., more than double that of grain-fed

Illustrations: Brown Bird Design for TIME