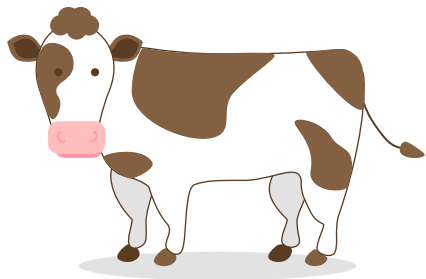


Don't Have a Cow, But We Have a Beef with the Wastefulness of Beef

The average American consumes about three hamburgers per week, but before you chow down, have you ever stopped to think about how that burger got to your plate? And at what cost? Here, we take a deep dive into hamburgers and just how much work and waste goes into making them.



0

months
After birth, a calf starts its life by nursing with it's mother.

6

months
Calf is separated from it's mother.

Water Consumed by a Cow

A cow drinks an average of nine gallons of water per day. Over the course of its 18-month lifetime, that water consumption adds up to the equivalent of 41.5 average-sized bathtubs.



= 80 gallons



7

months
Cow starts to drink water, graze on grass, and is fed a feed of corn and other grains.

Global Land Usage for Beef Cattle

Of its usable terrain, the world donates more land to the beef industry than any other industry. This is a huge contributor to deforestation.

8

months
Cow leaves farm or ranch where they were born and sold at livestock auction markets to stockers.



Land Used for Pasture
Ice-Free Terrestrial Surface



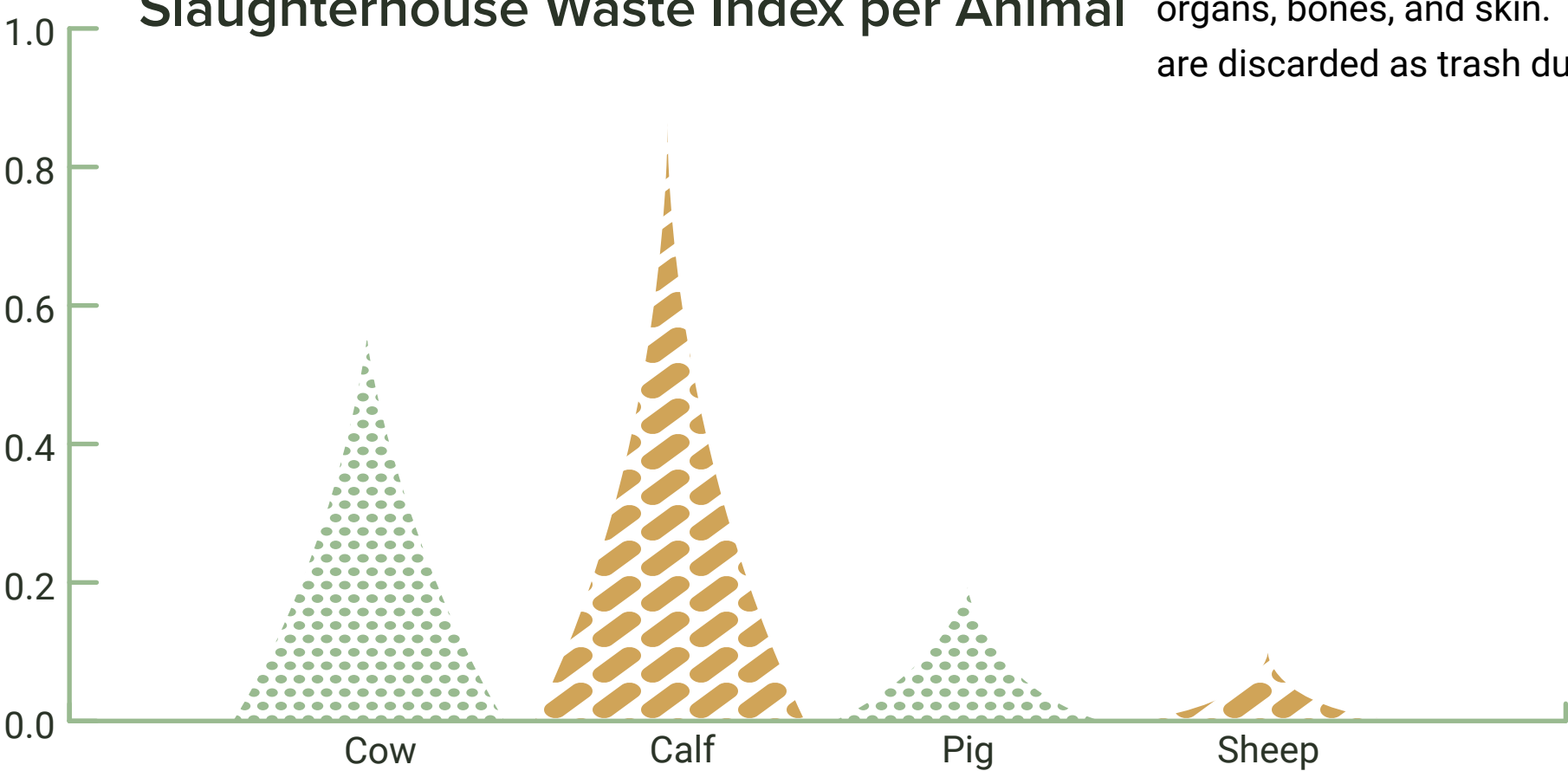
Grazing and Crop Land
All Agricultural Land



Land Used for Feed Crops
Total Cropland

Slaughterhouse Waste Index per Animal

Slaughterhouse waste includes internal organs, bones, and skin. These organs are discarded as trash during slaughter.

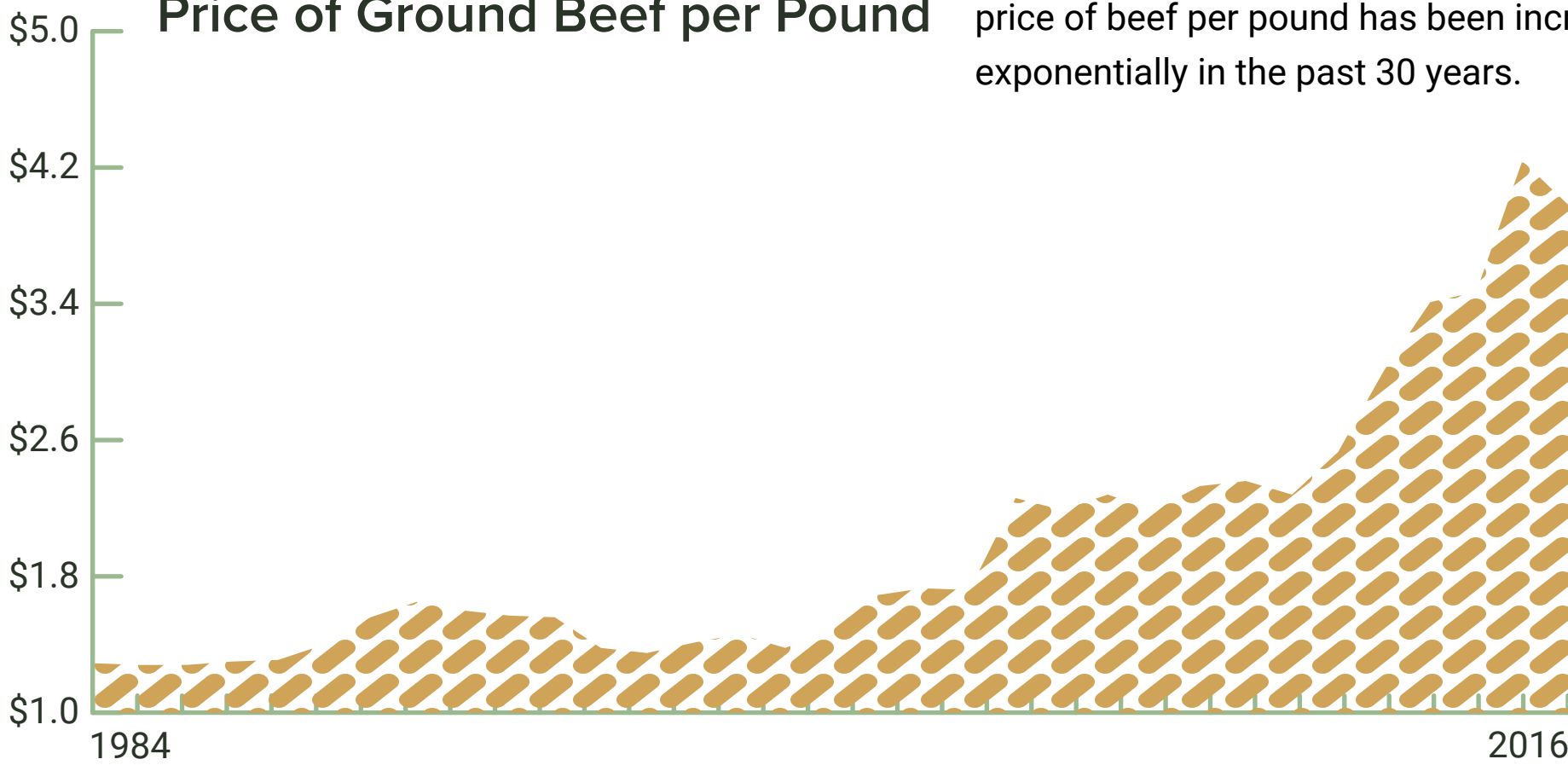


9

months
Cow spends time at stocker farms where they graze on a variety of pastures.

Price of Ground Beef per Pound

As the price of production has been rising, the price of beef per pound has been increasing exponentially in the past 30 years.

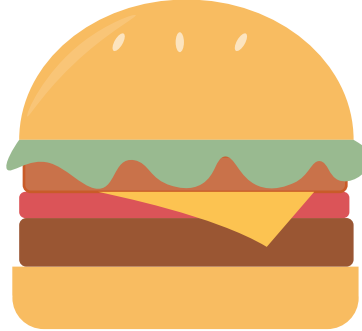


10

months
Cow spends time at a feedyard to gain weight.

18

months
Cow is sent to a processing facility to be slaughtered and processed, then distributed to supermarkets and restaurants.



Meat Alternatives

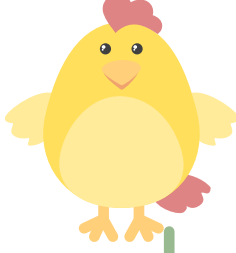
Just because beef can be wasteful, doesn't mean that you have to give up burgers forever. There are plenty of other, less wasteful options to consider opting for during your next burger night.

Black Bean



29g Protein per 4 oz Burger
0.11 Gallons of Water
\$0.95 per Pound

Chicken



24g Protein per 4 oz Burger
468 Gallons of Water
\$1.10 per pound

Chickpea



11g Protein per 4 oz Burger
0.13 Gallons of Water
\$3.08 per Pound

Resources:

articles.extension.org/pages/39687/how-much-water-do-cows-drink-per-day
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