



What Lurks Behind the Burger

America's been finishing beef with corn for over four generations - long enough that it now looks and feels natural. Yet if we look beyond the farm gate at the embodied energy required to grow corn and process conventional beef, we see a system which is unnaturally dependent upon diesel, natural gas and centralized processing. If an industry steer was equipped with a fossil fuel dipstick, it would indeed read *FULL*.

Each and every steer sent through the feedlots stimulates additional demand for oil to power row crop equipment as well as natural gas to produce ammonium fertilizers. The consolidation of meat processors creates liabilities of equal concern. With just a small number of slaughterhouses processing almost all the country's beef, a pathogen's paradise has been created. Few things drive this home more than the recognition that a burger is derived from the bits and pieces of thousands of animals - a statement which is so unnerving as to be considered by many to be extremist propaganda. Yet each day, tens of thousands of cattle are slaughtered at several plants. The trimmings from each plant are batched and shipped to specialized grinding facilities. The grinder intermixes these trimmings from different plants, even from different countries, into their large batch processing equipment. Is it logical - is it reasonable - for intelligent people to expect that this process will NOT spread pathogens? And why would an otherwise intelligent person want to eat this amalgamation of meat when there is a refreshing alternative?

Look at the "efficient" industrial process. Could we possibly have made it any more complicated? Now look below. Beef is being produced on rotationally-grazed pasture. Virtually all of the peripheral costs shown above are eliminated. Yes, the process takes longer and requires more human labor. In trade, the consumer receives beef rich in essential omega 3's from meat derived from one locally produced animal.

Grass: The Perennial Alternative To Corn.

Who would have guessed that a bovine was actually designed to thrive exclusively on grasses?

(And considering the implications, it's design should be worthy for the Nobel Peace Prize!)



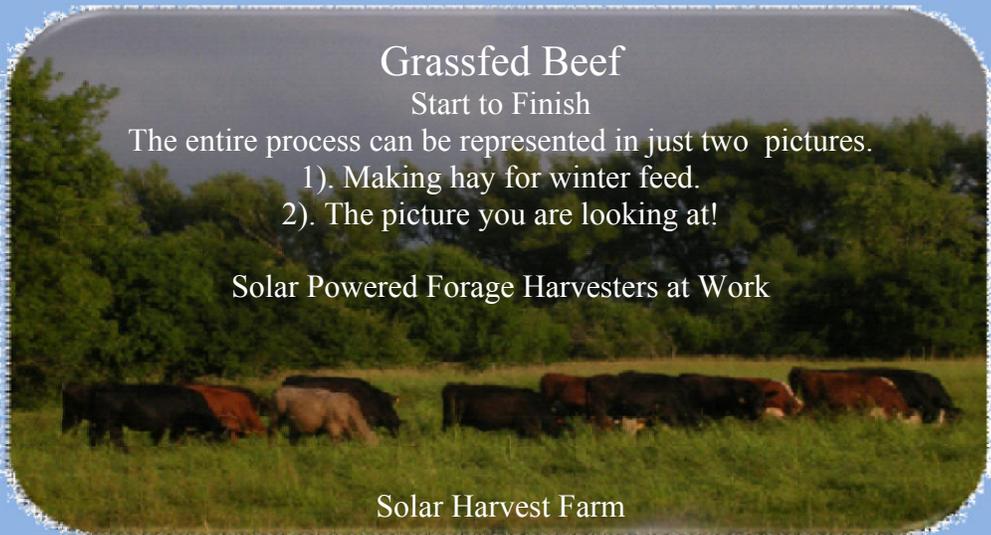
Grassfed Beef

Start to Finish

The entire process can be represented in just two pictures.

- 1). Making hay for winter feed.
- 2). The picture you are looking at!

Solar Powered Forage Harvesters at Work



Solar Harvest Farm