



INTERMEDIATE Burping cows and sheep harm the environment

Scientists are making cows and sheep scapegoats for a small part of global warming. There are new reports that methane gas produced from the animals burping and flatulence could be more hazardous to the environment than four-wheel-drive cars. Experts claim cows are responsible for about three per cent of Britain's greenhouse gases. Michael Abberton of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research said the average cow or bull belches out about 100 to 200 liters of methane each day, a lot more damaging than the carbon emitted by gas guzzling cars. Methane emissions from cattle account for a quarter of the gas in our air. In Britain, cows and sheep are the biggest single source of methane - a gas that is 23 times more harmful than carbon dioxide when it comes to global warming.

The race is now on to reduce burping and farting in cows and sheep. If scientists can achieve this, it could help Britain reach its commitments under the Kyoto agreement. Researchers are trying to find a new way to feed cattle and sheep which leads to less gas being produced. The key seems to be in developing new types of food that are easier for farm animals to digest. Scientists in Wales believe putting garlic in their food could reduce the impact on global warming by cutting the amount of gas produced by up to 50 per cent. Project leader Professor Jamie Newbold said: "Garlic directly attacks the organisms in the gut that produce methane." He is conducting tests to see if the garlic gives the animals bad breath or, more specifically, if it lead to garlic flavoured milk and meat.

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READING / LISTENING

TRUE / FALSE

Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Scientists say sheep and cows contribute to climate change.
- b. Gases from cows burping and farting harm the environment.
- c. Cows are responsible for 13% of the UK's greenhouse gases.
- d. The gas cows produce by burping is much more potent than CO₂.
- e. Scientists are keen to make cows and sheep fart less often.
- f. Garlic may reduce the amount of gas from cows farting by 50%.
- g. Garlic prevents the production of a dangerous gas in the cow's gut.
- h. Scientists hope to produce lots of garlic flavoured milk.

SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. flatulence | a. carrying out |
| 2. hazardous | b. sole |
| 3. claim | c. perilous |
| 4. emitted | d. obligations |
| 5. single | e. accomplish |
| 6. achieve | f. farting / wind |
| 7. commitments | g. stomach |
| 8. impact | h. argue |
| 9. gut | i. effect |
| 10. conducting | j. released |

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article
(sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. making cows and sheep | a. emitted by gas guzzling cars |
| 2. more hazardous to the environment | b. when it comes to global warming |
| 3. cows are responsible for about 3% | c. gives the animals bad breath |
| 4. more damaging than the carbon | d. on to reduce burping |
| 5. more harmful than carbon dioxide | e. than four-wheel-drive cars |
| 6. The race is now | f. under the Kyoto agreement |
| 7. help Britain reach its commitments | g. the gut that produce methane |
| 8. new types of food that are easier for | h. scapegoats |
| 9. Garlic directly attacks the organisms in | i. of Britain's greenhouse gases |
| 10. tests to see if the garlic | j. farm animals to digest |