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Contact:

Janice Keene, jkeene@mccormickcompany.com, 515-251-8805

Leading journal publishes research about the unintended consequences of not using productivity-enhancing technologies to raise cattle

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Oct ??, 2012 — The *Journal of Animal Science* has published new research looking at the consequences if U.S. farmers and ranchers no longer used productivity-enhancing technologies to raise beef cattle. The peer-reviewed article, "The environmental and economic impact of removing productivity-enhancing technologies from U.S. beef production," was co-authored by Jude Capper, Ph.D., of Washington State University, and Dermot Hayes, Ph.D., of Iowa State University, and appears in the *Journal's* October issue.

This research, which also was presented at the 2012 American Society of Animal Science annual meeting, found that discontinuing use of scientifically proven, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved technologies would create sobering unintended consequences. To produce the same amount of U.S. beef annually without using these technologies, U.S. farmers & ranchers would need 10 million more beef cattle, 81 million more tons of feed, 17 million more acres of land and 138 billion more gallons of water. In addition, 18 million extra metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) would be released in the United States alone.

"These effects are equivalent to imposing an 8.2 percent tax on U.S. beef farmers and ranchers, leading to a 17 percent reduction in U.S. beef production by 2023," says Capper. "In turn, other countries would increase beef exports. Environmentally, this would mean the release of 3.1 billion more metric tons of CO₂eq and the destruction of 16.9 million acres of Amazon Rainforest and forests in the West Central Cerrado regions of Brazil.

"The bottom line is that losing the ability to use safe, approved technologies will create significant environmental and economic challenges that are undesirable and unnecessary," Capper concludes.

Subscribers to the *Journal of Animal Science* will find the article on pages 3,527 through 3,537 of Volume 90 (the October 2012 issue), and online. Non-subscribers may read the [article abstract](#) at www.journalofanimalscience.org. They also can obtain free reprints of the complete article by emailing a request to info@sustainablebeef.org, or [purchase short-term access](#) to the article from the *Journal's* website for \$15.

PDFs of an [executive summary](#) and a [handy recap of key points](#) from this research are available at www.sustainablebeef.org.

The Sustainable Beef Resource Center (SBRC) was formed at the suggestion of beef producers and branded-beef marketers who recognized the need for a centralized source of facts about technologies used in sustainable beef production. SBRC works with third-party experts to develop factual, science-based information about the important role of technologies in producing safe, affordable beef through socially and environmentally responsible practices.

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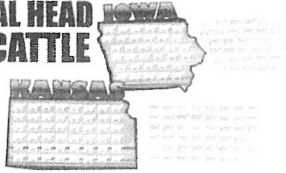
Author contact information:

J.L. Capper, capper@wsu.edu

D.J. Hayes, dhayes@iastate.edu

Each of these graphics and their respective captions will appear within the news release email:

10 MILLION MORE TOTAL HEAD OF CATTLE



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, they would need 10 million more cattle annually — double the number of beef cattle in Iowa and Kansas.

<http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/Kansas%20and%20Iowa.jpg>



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, they would use 81 million more tons of feed annually — enough to fill 1,010 Rose Bowl stadiums.

<http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/Rosebowl.jpg>

17 MILLION MORE ACRES OF NEEDED LAND



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, we would need 17 million more acres of land for grazing and growing feed — an amount similar to all the land in Scotland.

<http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/Scotland.jpg>

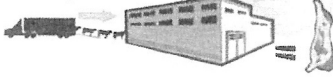


1.36 MILLION
HOMES

If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, they would use 138 billion more gallons of water annually — the amount used each year by 1.36 million households.

http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/House%20Water%20running%201.36%20mil_5inch%20wide.jpg

10,000 HEAD PER DAY



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, we would need four more packing plants (10,000-head per-day total capacity) to harvest additional cattle.

<http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/Meat%20plant.jpg>



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies, 18 million more metric tons of CO₂eq — equal to the emissions from 3 million U.S. cars — would be released in the United States annually.

http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/SBRC18052_8_Key%20messages%20illustrations%20W_numbers.jpg



If U.S. beef farmers and ranchers did not use productivity-enhancing technologies and global demand for beef remained the same, Brazil would increase beef exports, losing 16.9 million acres of Amazon Rainforest and West Central Cerrado forests.

<http://aquafiles.net/assets/SBRC/Brazil.jpg>