

Can you fill in the blanks to tell a beef story?

Cowboys and cowgirls have been committed to helping the planet for decades!
Fill in the blanks using the word bank to help tell their sustainability story.

Fill in the blanks using these words. Each words can only be used once.

camping **improve** **stomachs** **beef** **ancestors**
hooves **animals** **hamburgers** **planet** **atmosphere**

Beef farmers and ranchers care deeply for the _____ and have an interest in sustainability. They want to care for the land that was passed on from their _____ and leave it better for the future. They use cattle as a tool to _____ nature.¹

Cattle munch on grass and plants that humans can't eat and turn them into _____ that we can eat.² When cattle eat plants and digest them with their special _____, it causes them to burp.³ Cattle burps are part of a natural cycle. The gases they release only stay in the _____ for a short time before they return to the soil.³ Cattle grazing helps this process by using their _____, or feet, to speed up plant growth.⁴

The land where cattle live is also a home for many insects and _____ like birds and butterflies.⁵ This land also allows people to enjoy nature by biking, hiking, _____ and more.⁵ Cattle are great tools to help the planet and provide delicious beef dishes like steak and _____ to people, too!

Sources:

1. Brunson, MW and L. Huntsinger. 2008. Ranching as a Conversation Strategy: Can Old Ranchers Save the New West? Rangeland Ecology & Management 61(2): 137-147.
2. Baber, J.R. et al., 2018. Estimation of human-edible protein conversion efficiency, net protein contribution, and enteric methane production from beef production in the United States. Trans. Anim. Sci. 2: 439-450.
3. UC Davis. 2020a. Clear Center. The Biogenic Carbon Cycle and Cattle. <https://clear.ucdavis.edu/explainers/biogenic-carbon-cycle-and-cattle>
4. Scott, Dave. 2018. Livestock as a Tool: Improving Soil Health, Boosting Crops. NCAT. Found on <https://attra.ncat.org/product/livestock-as-a-tool-improving-soil-health-boosting-crops/>
5. Barry, Sheila. 2021. Beef Cattle Grazing More Help than Harm for Endangered Plants and Animals.

