

MEATLESS MONDAYS SAMPLE STATISTICS

1. In the US, 47% of the entire surface area is devoted to food production. Foods that we consume directly like vegetables, fruits, nuts, take just a few 4-5%. The remaining 42% of the entire surface of the US is devoted to feeding and maintaining livestock.
For more information visit: <http://www.meatlessmonday.com/articles/environmental-cost-meat/>.
2. The feed given to industrially raised cattle, hogs, and poultry is specially formulated to maximize production at the lowest possible cost. These feeds may contain antibiotics, arsenical drugs, rendered animal carcasses, and other ingredients that may lead to the introduction of harmful contaminants into our food supply.
For more information visit: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1867957/>.
3. The amount of waste generated by Industrial Farm Animal Production (IFAP) operations often overwhelms the capacity of nearby cropland to absorb it, leaving the excess to contaminate nearby waterways, some of which lead to the ocean. Reducing our dependence for food from these operations could help minimize our and other animals' exposure to a range of groundwater contaminants, including nitrates, disease-causing organisms, and heavy metals.
For more information visit: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1817674/>.
4. Global food production would need to double by 2050 if we expect to feed the growing population at its current rate of food consumption. Meeting the growing population's food needs is severely limited by the amount of agricultural land devoted to raising animals for food. In North America, for example, only 40 percent of cropland is devoted to growing food for direct human consumption; the bulk of the remainder is devoted to feed crops.
For more information visit: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v478/n7369/full/nature10452.html>.
5. In the United States alone, over 260 million acres of forest have been cleared to make room for crop fields, most of which are used to exclusively grow livestock feed.
Fore more information visit: <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2013/03/04/eating-meat-destruction-of-environment/>.
6. Clearing land to grow soybeans in the Amazon rainforest is responsible for clearing over 100 million hectares of forest, releasing enough carbon into the atmosphere to increase the rate of global warming by 50 percent.
For more information visit: <http://worldinfo.org/2012/01/food-for-thought-soybean-endangers-brazil-amazon-rainforest/>.
7. Industrial livestock farms, known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), contain massive cesspools that store animal waste. These "factory-farm lagoons" have been known to leak into adjacent waterways. Nitrates, dangerous microbes, and drug-resistant bacteria run rampant in these lagoons. When these by-products get into local

waterways, they cause toxic algae blooms, which lead to “dead zones”, and massive fish kills.

For more information visit: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/nspills.asp>.

8. Factory farms use about 5.5 gallons of fossil fuels per acre. The average farm in the United States spans 418 acres, meaning it will devour about 2,300 gallons of fossil fuels. Just think about how many thousands of farms there are across the globe!

For more information visit: [https://www.nyu.edu/sustainability/pdf/Fossil Fuel and Energy Use 2 FCSummit-HO-20091207.pdf](https://www.nyu.edu/sustainability/pdf/Fossil_Fuel_and_Energy_Use_2_FCSummit-HO-20091207.pdf).