

Weekly Ag Report
Della Smith, Lassen County CattleWomen
June 27, 2018

Good Morning from the Lassen County CattleWomen. I'm Della Smith with your Weekly Ag Report.

Summer is the perfect time to BBQ some tasty beef which is famous for providing ZIP: zinc, iron and protein. Besides the nutritional benefits of meat, most people don't realize they use many animal products daily which enables us to use 99% of every animal.

You may think of beef as hamburger, steak or roast, but there are other edible by-products that aren't so obvious. We depend on cattle for ingredients in foods such as gum, candies, cookies, cake mix and mayonnaise to name a few, plus gelatin in ice cream, yogurt, and marshmallows!

It's amazing what comes from cattle besides beef: crayons, chalk, paper, fabric softener, lotion, brushes, paint, deodorant, detergent, glue, insulation, shaving cream, soap, cosmetics, and musical instrument strings. The list could go on!

Medical products that enhance the quality of life for humans: collagen in non-stick bandages, Cortisol for inflammation, Thrombin to help blood clot, Heparin to treat blood clots, medications to heal burns and wounds, insulin for treating diabetes, and thyroid medications.

Beef helps us get where we're going. Antifreeze, asphalt, lubricants, oils, greases, brake fluid, and tires contain by-products. Biodiesel and biofuel can be refined from fat and used in place of petroleum products.

Do you like to watch or play sports? Cowhide provides us leather to make athletic equipment. It's also used to make clothing, shoes, boots, belts, purses, wallets, gloves, upholstery and luggage.

Beef by-products are used to make animal feed, cement blocks, fertilizers, high gloss for magazines, printing ink, and even fireworks!

Another positive influence in our lives is grazing to lower wildfire risk by controlling the length and density of grasses that fuel fires. Humans can't digest grass, but when cattle eat it, they produce nutritious meat and milk products in addition to the multitude of items we use daily.

Besides eating grass, cattle recycle leftovers from food production such as fruit pits, potato peels, almond hulls and sugar beet pulp. This reduces landfill waste while making high quality protein for human consumption.

I hope you've enjoyed learning that animal agriculture is an important part of our everyday lives. So many products come from cattle that we really do use everything but the MOO!