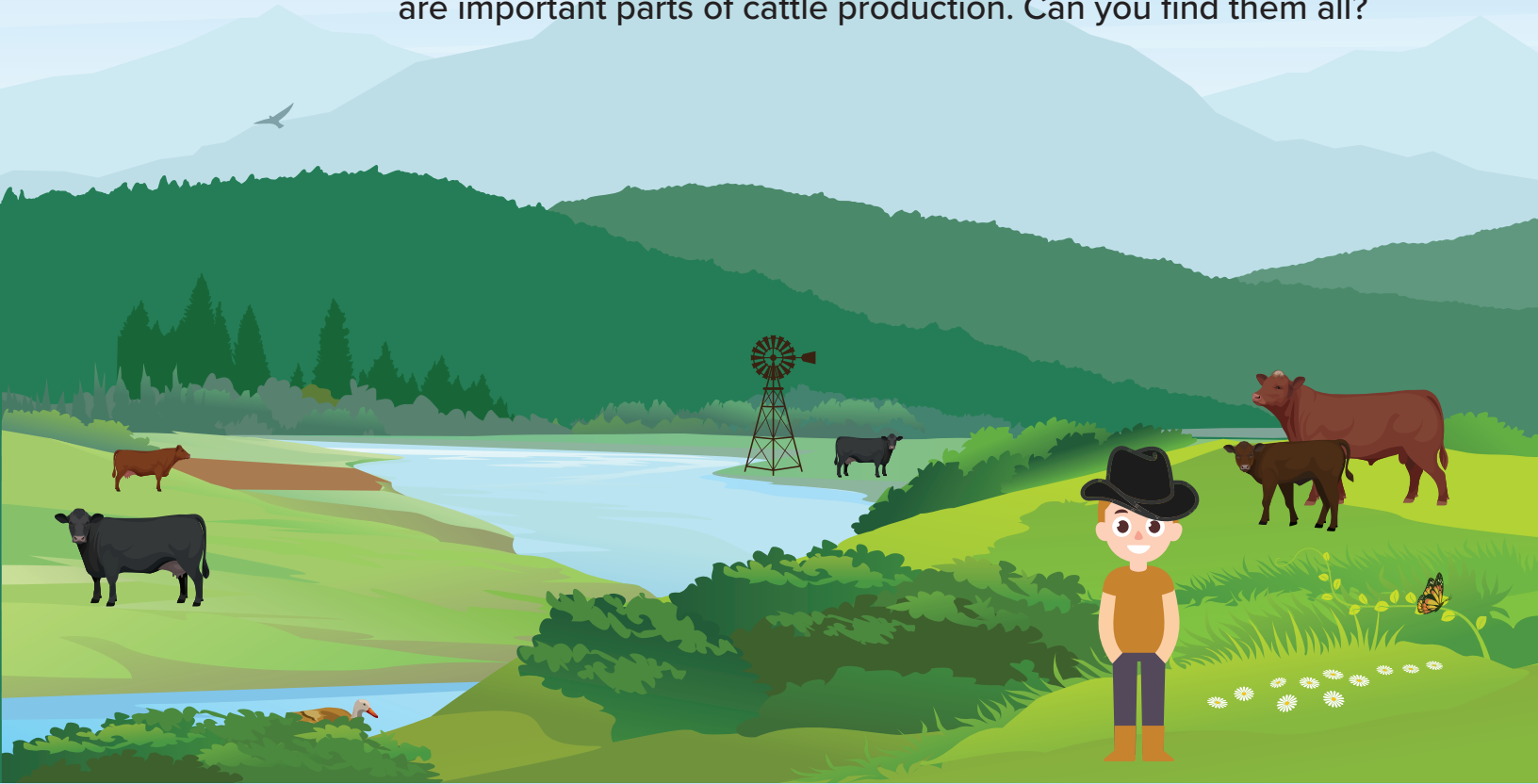




Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers

# Can you spot the difference?

There are 8 differences between the first and second images that are important parts of cattle production. Can you find them all?





Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers

# Answer Key |

If we removed cattle, we would lose the ability to produce food on much of the land they graze. That's because it is too rocky, steep or dry to grow food crops, but it's perfect for raising cattle.<sup>3,4</sup>

When cattle graze, they make the soil healthier. This is important because healthy soil is necessary to grow plants, prevent wildfire and protect animal and insect habitats.<sup>4,8</sup>

Did you know that the land cattle live on is also home to wildlife? Animals like birds and ducks share habitats with cattle.<sup>1</sup> In fact, some animals even depend on cattle grazing to preserve their homes.<sup>2</sup>

Rainwater that would be wasted as runoff in cities and suburbs can instead be collected and used directly to raise cattle.<sup>9,10</sup>

Many ranches use natural energy, like windmills or solar panels, to sustainably power things like water pumps, which give cattle water to drink.<sup>5</sup>

Did you know that the land cattle live on is also home to wildlife? Insects like butterflies share habitats with cattle.<sup>1</sup> In fact, some animals even depend on cattle grazing to preserve their homes.<sup>2</sup>

If beef cattle were removed from the land, weeds and grasses would crowd out important native plants and flowers.<sup>2</sup>

More than 90% of American ranches are family-owned, which means that kids across the country are helping their parents and grandparents care for the land and animals.<sup>11</sup>

1. Barry, Sheila. 2021. Beef Cattle Grazing More Help than Harm for Endangered Plants and Animals.

2. 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.

3. USDA-ERS. 2021a. Economic Research Service using data from the Major Land Use data series. Available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/major-land-uses.aspx>

4. Broocks, Ashley et al. 2017. Carbon Footprint Comparison between Grass- and Grain-finished beef. *OSU Extension, AFS-3292*.

5. Enciso, Juan and Mecke, Michael. 2007. Using Renewable Energy to Pump Water. *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*. Access at: <http://baen.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2017/01/L-5457-Using-Renewable-Energy-to-Pump-Water.pdf>

6. Gerbens-Leens et al. 2013. The water footprint of poultry, pork and beef: A comparative study in different countries and production systems. *Water Resources and Industry* 1-2: 25-36.

7. Dissmeyer, G.E. 2000. Drinking Water from Forests and Grasslands: A synthesis of the scientific literature. *USDA Forest Service, SRS-39*. Found on [https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr\\_srs039/gtr\\_srs039.pdf](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs039/gtr_srs039.pdf)

8. Shafer et al. 2016. Optimizing Managed Grazing for Soil Health and Sustainable Production Systems. Found on <https://www.sfa-mn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/optimizing-managed-grazing-for-soil-health-and-sustainable-production-systems.pdf>

9. Dissmeyer, G.E. 2000. Drinking Water from Forests and Grasslands: A synthesis of the scientific literature. *USDA Forest Service, SRS-39*. Found on [https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr\\_srs039/gtr\\_srs039.pdf](https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs039/gtr_srs039.pdf)

10. Gerbens-Leens et al. 2013. The water footprint of poultry, pork and beef: A comparative study in different countries and production systems. *Water Resources and Industry* 1-2: 25-36.

11. USDA-NASS. 2017. 2017 Census of Agriculture. *Farm Typology*. [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/Typology/typology.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/Typology/typology.pdf)