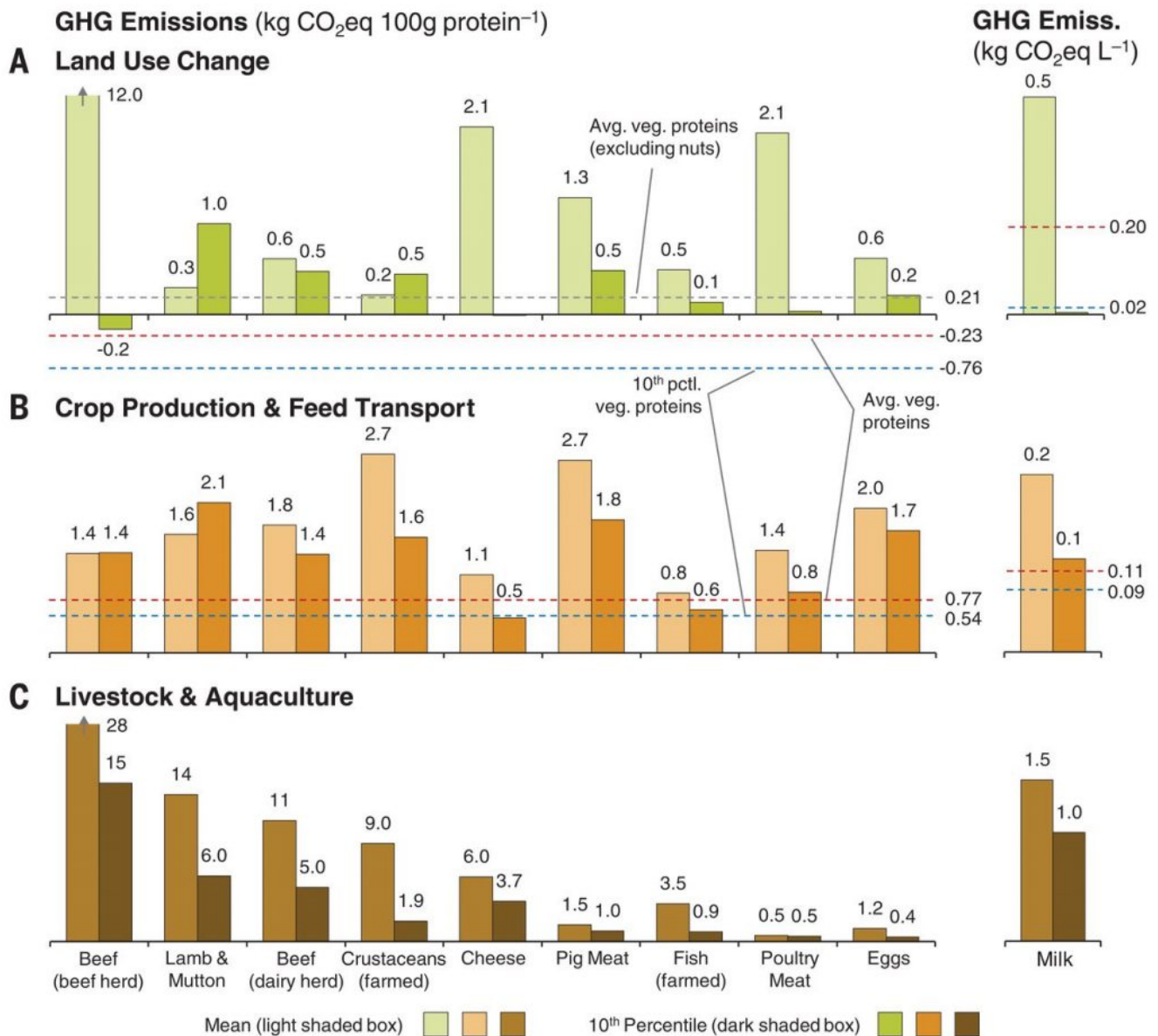


# Lemongrass for cattle to reduce methane emissions

Burger King, a subsidiary of Restaurant Brands International, recently launched a new [product](#). A burger with patties made of cows on a low-methane diet. The [campaign](#) aims to reduce [greenhouse gasses](#) caused by animal agriculture. The cows are fed a lemongrass diet for a portion of their lives and this reportedly reduces their [emissions by 33%](#). This might sound like an impressive reduction however, this reduction is measured in the last few months of the cows' life. Cows are generally killed at 18 months of age and the lemongrass diet is only fed to them for [three to four months](#).

## Sustainable or Green Washing

Livestock agriculture accounts for [14.5%](#) of all human [greenhouse gas](#) emissions. Methane reductions by using lemongrass feed note a reduction in less than a quarter of the cows' life. Prior to this, the emissions are the same as the average cow. Additionally, the burgers featuring this patty are only available in five stores. Evidently, there is little impact on overall anthropogenic emissions by this campaign.



Poore, J. and Nemecek, T., 2018. Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. *Science*, 360(6392), pp.987-992.

## The Reality of Animal Agriculture

Methane emissions aren't the only problem related to animal agriculture. 30% of global freshwater is used for animal agriculture (Mekonnen, 2013). Yet, there are people dying of thirst every day. In comparison, more water is saved growing crops like wheat than farming meat. Additionally, animal agriculture is generally an inhumane industry. Animals live in confined spaces and are subjected to cruel practices. Moreover, a study by the World Health Organisation highlights that processed meat such as hot-dogs is potentially carcinogenic. These facts are entering the public domain as a result of social media, the internet and the general trend towards a more [sustainable](#) planet. It's not surprising that companies like Burger King are using this trend to paint an image of themselves

as sustainable.

## **Making Choices for a Better World**

“With current diets and production practices, feeding 7.6 billion people is degrading terrestrial and aquatic [ecosystems](#), depleting water resources, and driving climate change” (Poore & Nemesek, 2018). Finite resources and a growing population continue to strain the agricultural industry. The [study](#) by Joseph Poore from Oxford University highlights that efficiencies and reduction in emissions from agricultural producers are limited. By switching to [diets](#) which exclude animal products the emissions from food consumption can be halved (Poore & Nemesek, 2018).

A [simple action](#) by a large number of people can have a transformative effect on the planet and the livelihoods of animals. Follow the [THRIVE](#) platform for information on the sustainability of different industries. Help create a better future for humankind and the greater [biodiversity](#) of our planet.

## **REFERENCES**

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