



# **Antibiotics, Hormones and Sustainability of the U.S. Dairy and Beef Industries**

**Dr. Judith L. Capper**

***EAAP Annual Meeting 2011***

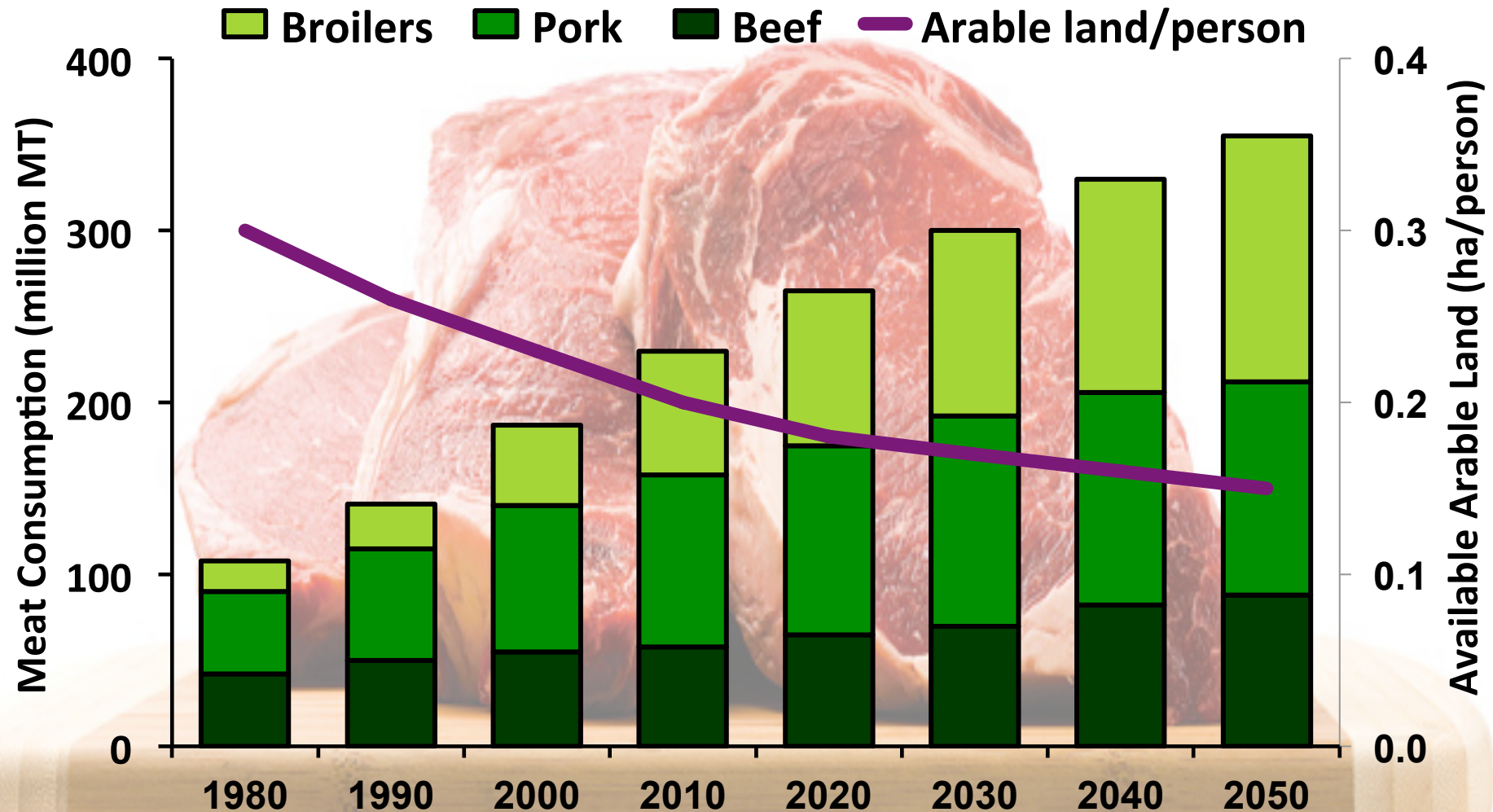
***Stavanger, Norway***

***August 29-Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2011***



*World Class. Face to Face.*

# World Beef, Pork and Poultry Consumption: 1980 - 2050



Sources: Global Insight Demand Analysis to 2050; Bauman and Capper (2011) Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference, Tempe, AZ.



# Sustainability Comprises Three Factors: Environmental, Economic & Social



**Environmental**

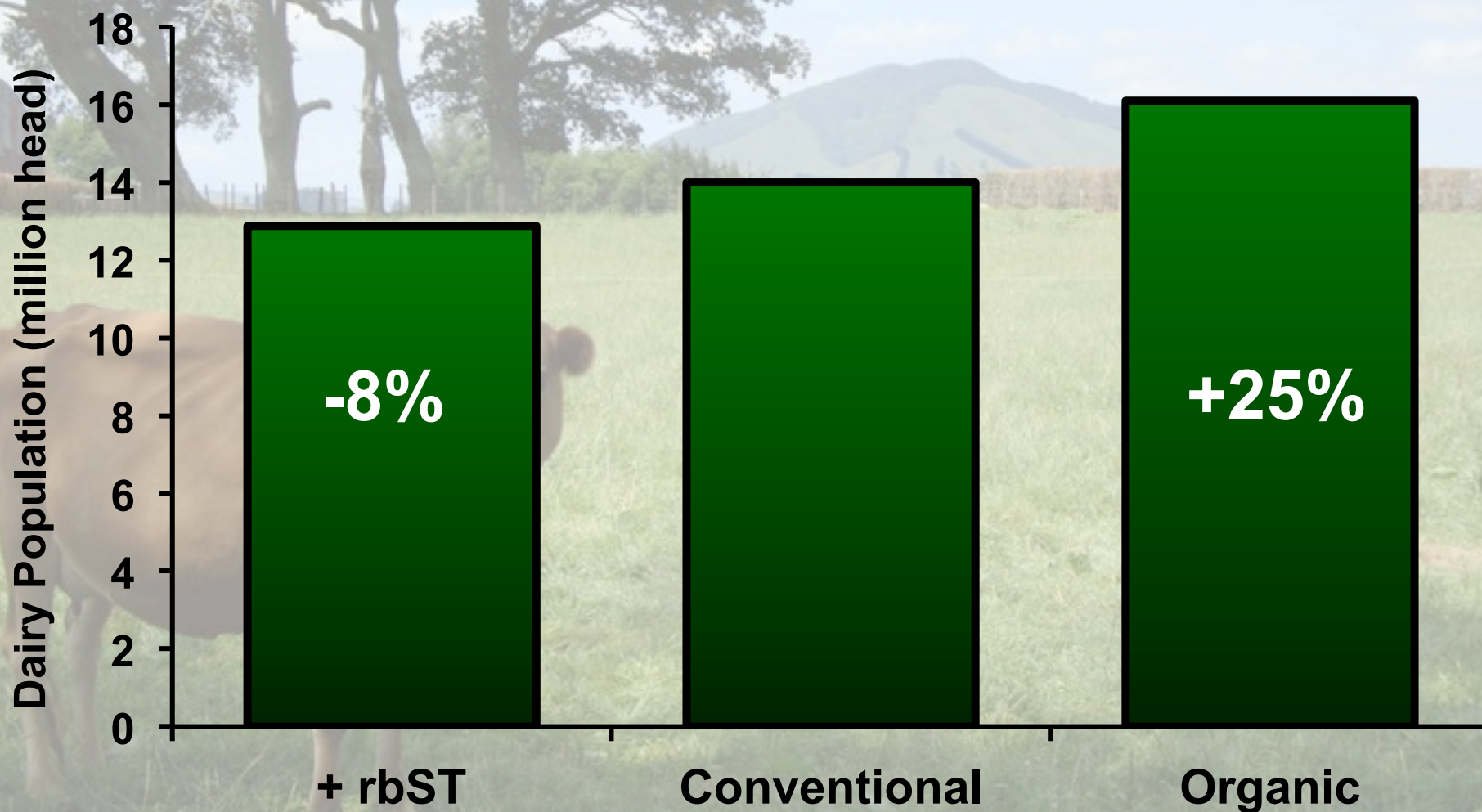


**Social**



**Economic**

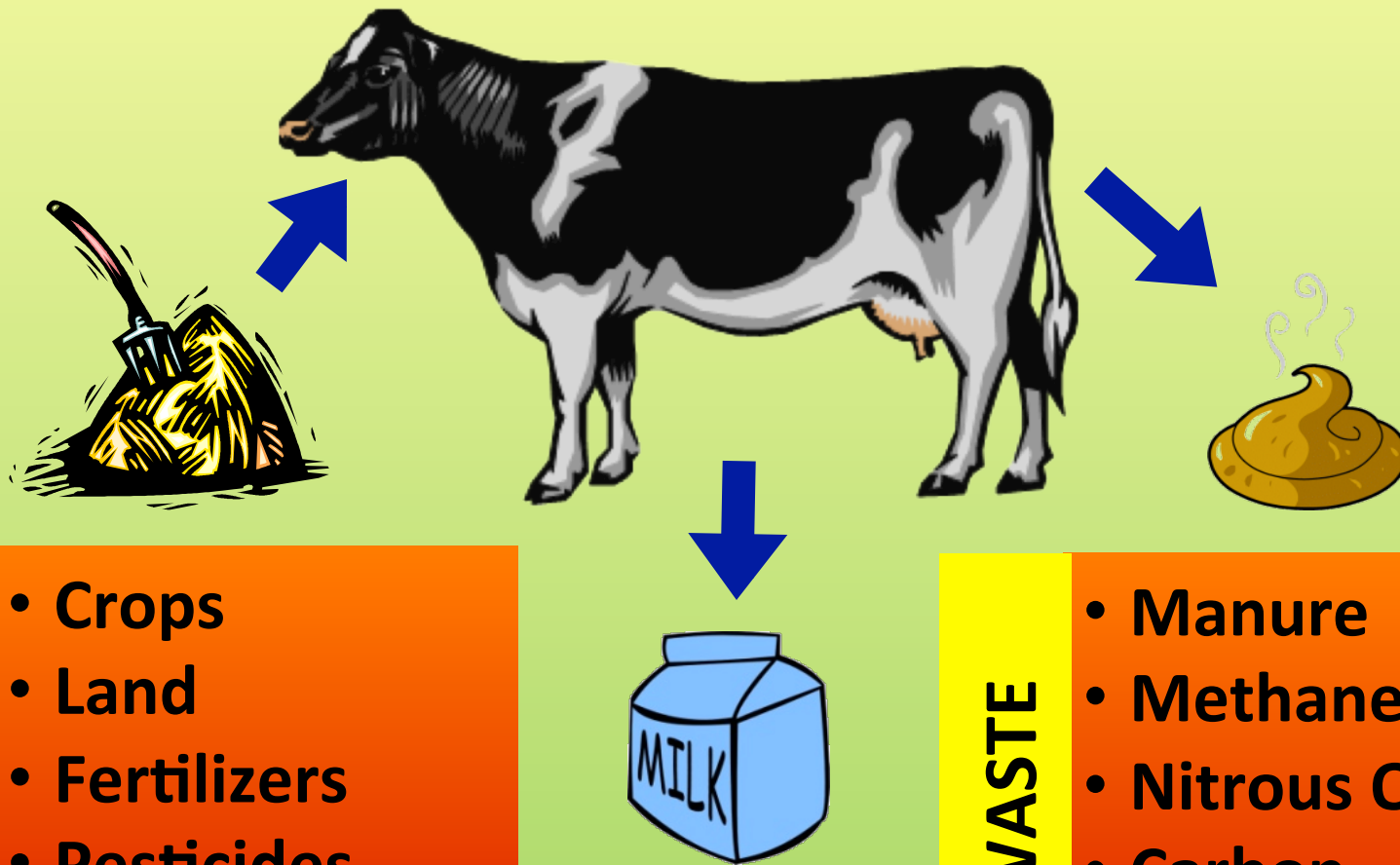
# Future U.S. Demand for Dairy Products Best Met via Improved Productivity



Source: Capper et. al. (2008) The environmental impact of recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST) use in dairy production. PNAS 105:9668-9673



# Livestock Population Size is a Proxy for Resource Use, Waste Output and Cost



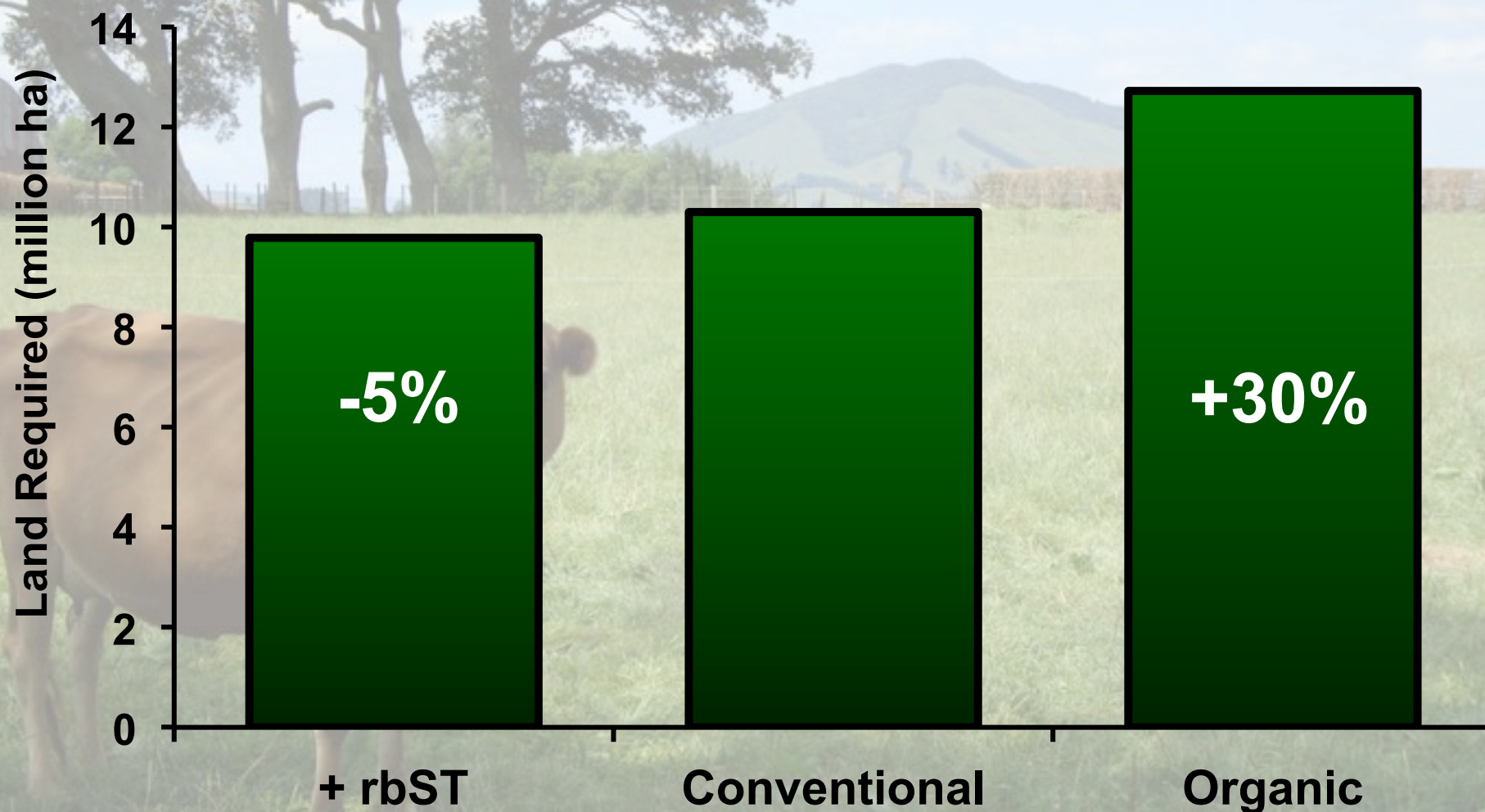
## RESOURCES

- Crops
- Land
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Fuel

## WASTE

- Manure
- Methane
- Nitrous Oxide
- Carbon Dioxide

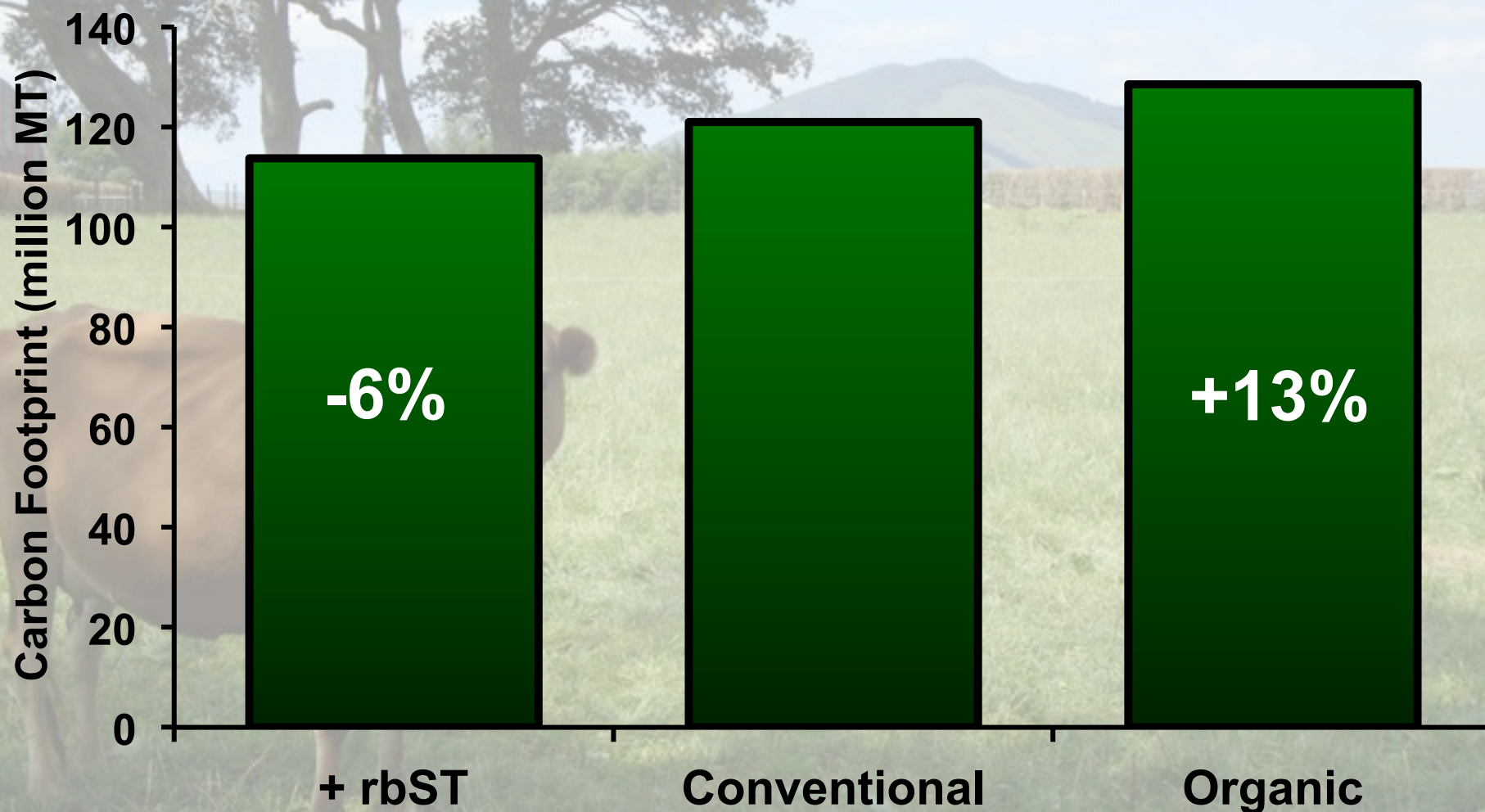
# Future U.S. Demand for Dairy Products Best Met via Improved Productivity



Source: Capper et. al. (2008) The environmental impact of recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST) use in dairy production. PNAS 105:9668-9673



# Future U.S. Demand for Dairy Products Best Met via Improved Productivity



Source: Capper et. al. (2008) The environmental impact of recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST) use in dairy production. PNAS 105:9668-9673

# What Effect Would Technology Removal Have on Beef Industry Sustainability?

## + Technology:

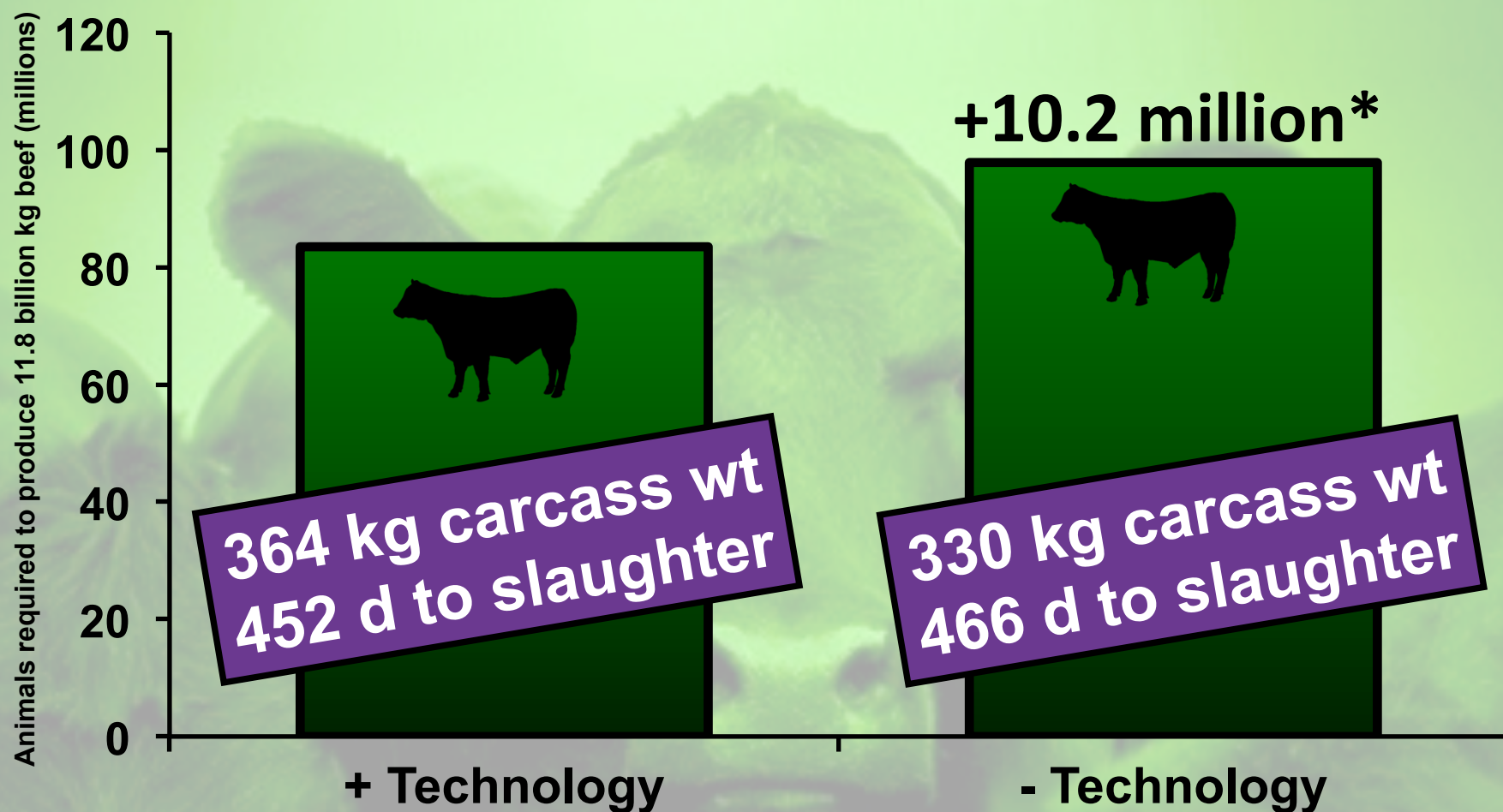
- ✓ Extensive pasture-based system until weaning (7 mo)
- ✓ Animals enter feedlot at weaning (15% of calves) or 12 mo of age after a backgrounder stage (85% of calves)
- ✓ Production-enhancing technology used at current industry adoption rates:
  - ✓ Ionophores
  - ✓ Hormone implants
  - ✓ Melengestrol acetate
  - ✓  $\beta$ -agonists

## - Technology:

- ✓ Identical system without production-enhancing technology

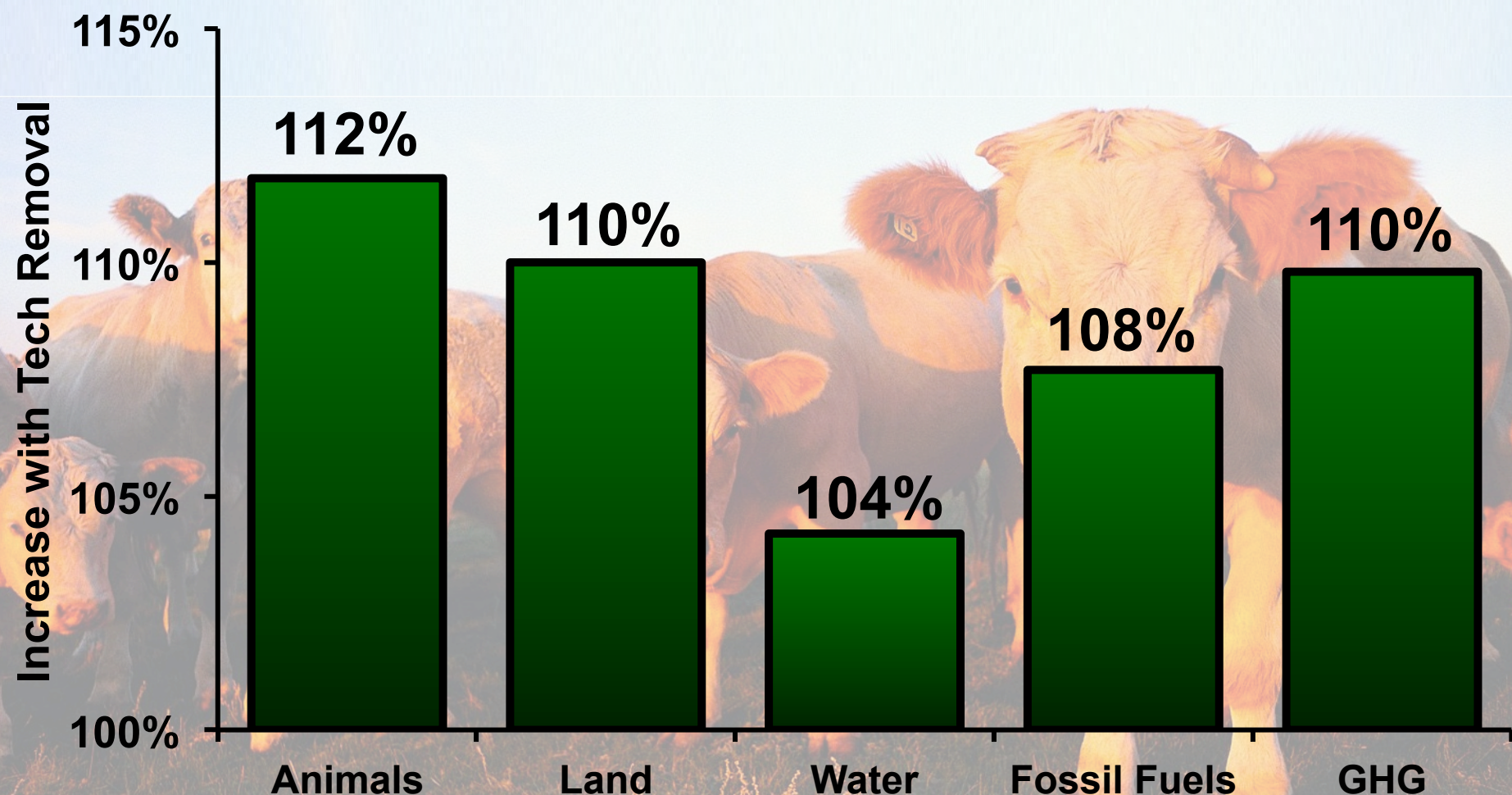


# Removing Technology from Beef Production Considerably Increases Animal Numbers



*\*Animal numbers refer to cows, calves, heifers, bulls, growing and finishing animals*

# Removing Technology from Beef Production Increases Resource Use and GHG Emissions



*All increases per kg beef produced*

Source: Capper, J. L. and D. Hayes (2011). Based on whole-system analysis of technology use in beef production.

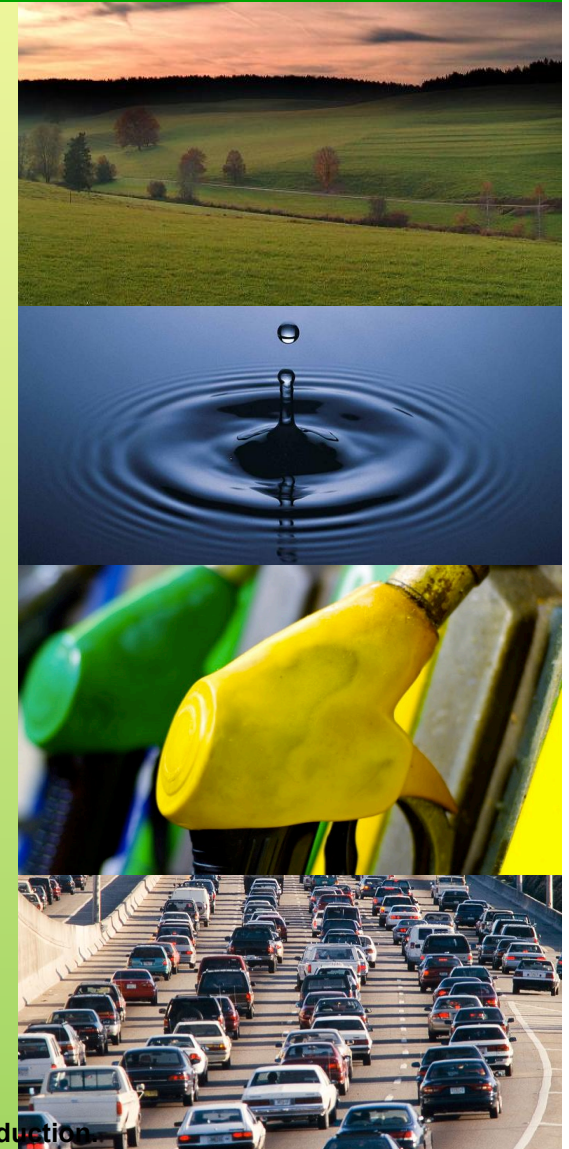


# Removing Technology from Beef Production\* Increases Resource Use and GHG Emissions

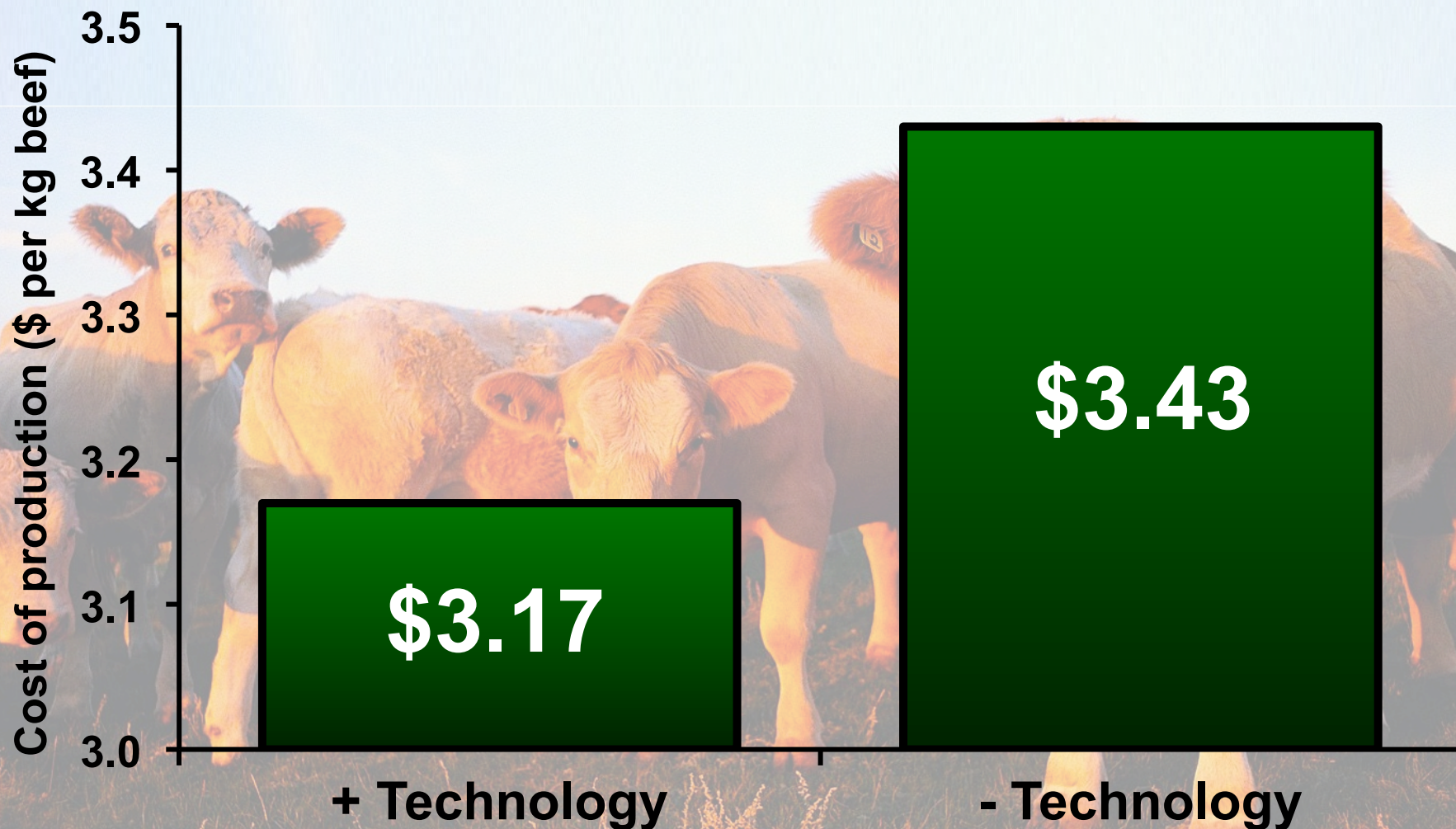
- ✓ Land use by 7.0 million ha  
22% of Norway's land area
- ✓ Water use by 532 thousand million litres  
Annual usage by 2.4 thousand million Norwegians
- ✓ Fossil fuel use by 8.3 thousand million MJ  
Equal to 237 million litres gasoline
- ✓ GHG emissions by 18.9 million t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq  
Annual emissions from 3.7 million cars

*\*Per 11.8 billion kg beef as produced in 2010*

Source: Capper, J. L. and D. Hayes (2011). Based on whole-system analysis of technology use in beef production.



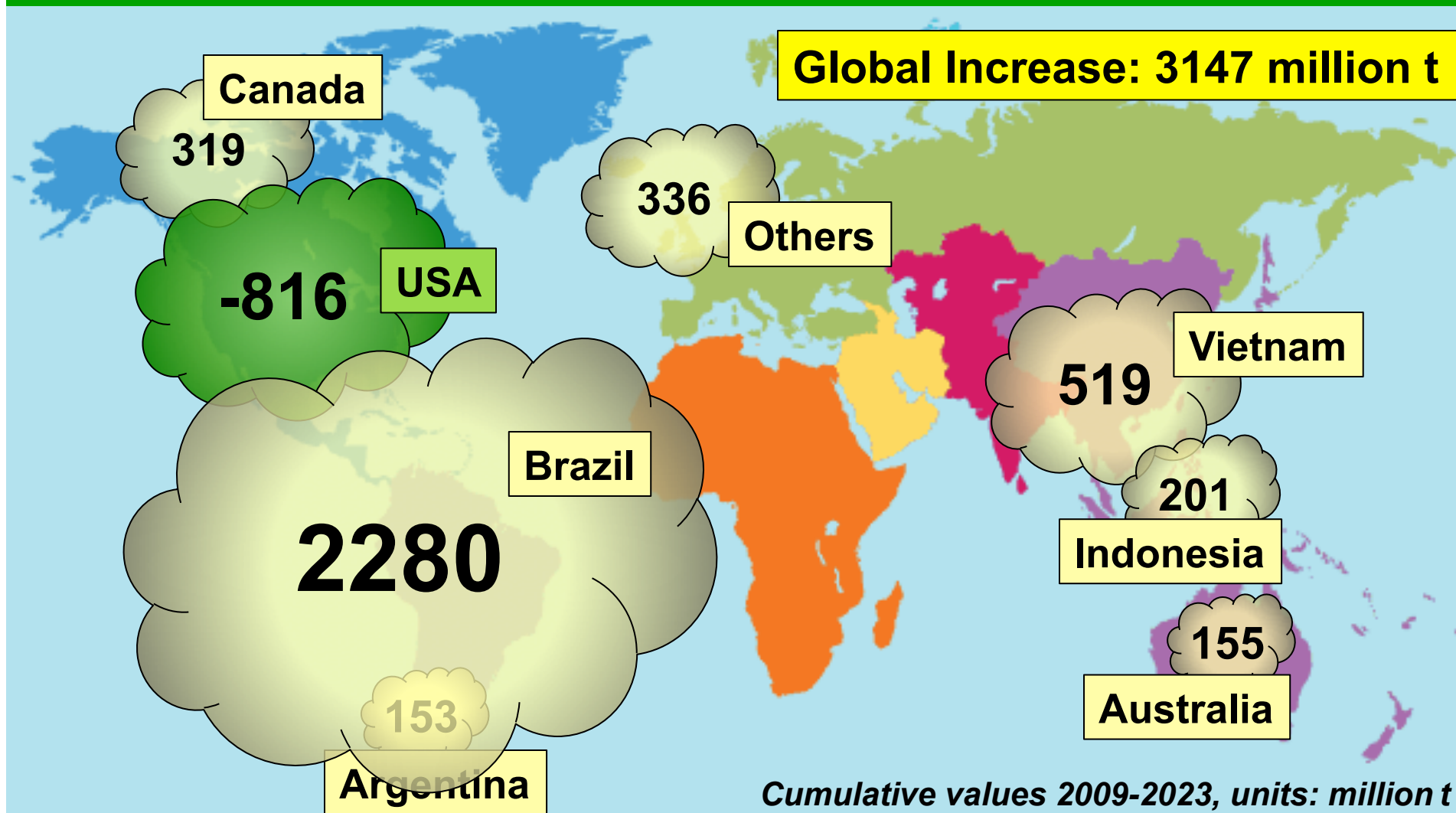
# Removing Technology from Beef Production Increases Economic Cost of Production



Source: Capper, J. L. and D. Hayes (2011). Based on whole-system analysis of technology use in beef production.



# Removing Technology from Beef Production Increases Global Carbon Footprint

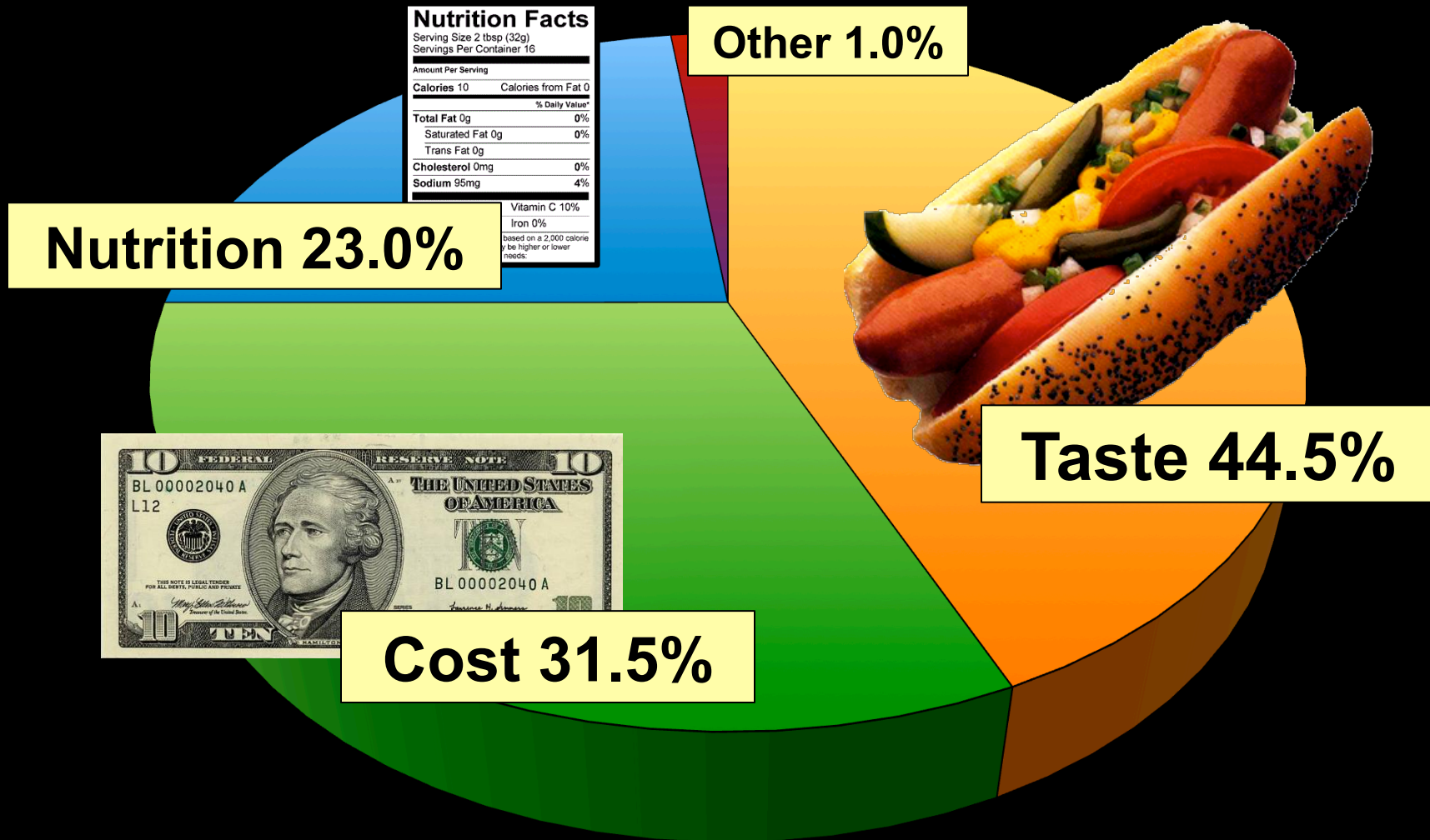


Source: Capper, J. L. and D. Hayes (2011). Based on whole-system analysis of technology use in beef production, with carbon projections based on the FAPRI model and extrapolated from Dumortier et al., 2010.

# Productivity-Enhancing Technologies Are Often Demonized in Popular Media



# Consumer Buying Choices Based on Three Factors



Source: Simmons (2011). Making safe, affordable and abundant food a global reality. Elanco Animal Health.



# The Majority of Consumers Support Technology or are Technology–Neutral



**1.6%**  
Anti-Tech

**4.4%**  
Lifestyle

**94%**  
Support/  
Neutral

# Conclusions

- ✓ **All three facets of suitability must balance for technology use to be viable**
- ✓ **Technologies that improve productivity reduce resource use, environmental impact and economic cost of dairy and beef production**
- ✓ **The challenge lies in improving stakeholder and consumer understanding and making decisions based on science rather than intrinsic philosophical perceptions**

# Thank you!



**capper@wsu.edu**



**@bovidiva**



**www.bovidiva.com**

WASHINGTON STATE  
 UNIVERSITY  
*World Class. Face to Face.*