



If we are talking about raising cattle for their meat – that means a lot of farmland and other resources.

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A group of researchers in California may have found a way to get protein to hungry people.

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Stephen Mayfield is a geneticist at the University of California, San Diego.

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He notes that many people are concerned about calories, the energy-producing value in food.

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Mayfield specializes in algae, the scientific term for simple, plant-like organisms.

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He says algae have two things that the world needs: protein and lipids, or fatty acids.

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“The world, in fact, is not short of calories.

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What they’re short of is proteins and essential fatty acids.

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So, algae are naturally very high in proteins and in lipids and those are sort of the two things that the world really needs.”

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protein,

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in beef from cattle or soybeans.

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“I’m actually really encouraged by these new companies that had started up

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to make these synthetic plant-based protein substitutes that look just like meat, right?

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Because now, ‘oh that looks like something I’m familiar with.

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I want to eat that.’

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But if I could make that with algae protein instead of with beef protein,

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an enormous environmental benefit and probably an enormous cost benefit as well.”

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The United States government provided money for Mayfield’s research.

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His team just successfully finished a test in which they grew algae in an outdoor environment.

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Mayfield adds that algae food products are not yet available for sale.

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But in the future algae may be one way to help feed the world's hungry people.

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And that's the Health & Lifestyle report.

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I'm Anna Matteo.

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