

## Bill Gates wants to reduce methane from cow burps

26th January 2023



We all know that cars and factories produce a lot of greenhouse gas. Not many of us know that livestock such as cows, deer and goats also create emissions. These farm animals are responsible for a lot of the world's methane. This is the

most common greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Billionaire Bill Gates decided to do something about the methane these animals belch out. He invested in a technology start-up that aims to reduce the amount of methane coming from animal burps. The tech company is called Rumin8. It is located in Australia. It has now created a synthetic, seaweed-based dietary supplement for animals. The company says its supplement stops the creation of methane in animals' stomachs.

Bill Gates is the co-founder of the tech giant Microsoft. He spends a lot of his money on projects that help the environment. He believes the farming of animals for meat should be reduced because of the impact it has on climate change. He says one third of all greenhouse gas emissions comes from livestock production. A spokesperson for Mr Gates' energy investment company spoke about the benefits of the new synthetic dietary supplement. He said: "Rumin8 offers a low-cost toolbox that has already proven to be effective in reducing emissions." He added: "Our team will support Rumin8 in working closely with farmers to expand the reach of this solution globally."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [foxbusiness.com](http://foxbusiness.com) / [nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

### Writing

We should all eat less meat (or no meat). Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

cars / factories / greenhouse gas / cows / deer / goats / CO<sub>2</sub> / methane / seaweed / Microsoft / money / environment / meat / emissions / livestock / supplement / team

### True / False

- 1) The article says factories produce the most greenhouse gases. T / F
- 2) The article says cows, goats and deer are livestock. T / F
- 3) Bill Gates started a new company called Rumin8. T / F
- 4) A possible solution to cows producing methane is based on seaweed. T / F
- 5) Bill Gates believes there should be more cows on farms. T / F
- 6) The article says a third of greenhouse gas emissions are from livestock. T / F
- 7) A spokesperson said the Rumin8 solution doesn't cost a lot. T / F
- 8) Bill Gates' team will work with Rumin8 to help farmers worldwide. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>produce</b>      | a. situated       |
| 2. <b>responsible</b>  | b. representative |
| 3. <b>belch</b>        | c. successful     |
| 4. <b>located</b>      | d. to blame       |
| 5. <b>stops</b>        | e. cut            |
| 6. <b>help</b>         | f. increase       |
| 7. <b>reduced</b>      | g. create         |
| 8. <b>spokesperson</b> | h. prevents       |
| 9. <b>effective</b>    | i. aid            |
| 10. <b>expand</b>      | j. burp           |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about methane?
- b) How worried are you about greenhouse gases?
- c) Should we eat less meat to reduce the need for livestock?
- d) What do you do to help the environment?
- e) What do you think of the dietary supplement?
- f) Do you think human burps add to climate change?
- g) What might animals think of the seaweed-based supplement?
- h) Do you take dietary supplements?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. cars and factories produce          | a. of the tech giant       |
| 2. livestock such as                   | b. from animal burps       |
| 3. farm animals are responsible        | c. be effective            |
| 4. reduce the amount of methane coming | d. for a lot               |
| 5. a synthetic, seaweed-based dietary  | e. emissions               |
| 6. Bill Gates is the co-founder        | f. a lot of greenhouse gas |
| 7. the impact it has                   | g. farmers                 |
| 8. one third of all greenhouse gas     | h. supplement              |
| 9. already proven to                   | i. cows, deer and goats    |
| 10. working closely with               | j. on climate change       |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of Microsoft?
- What do you know about Bill Gates?
- What could Microsoft do to reduce emissions?
- What do you think the environment will be like in 50 years?
- What do you think of eating seaweed?
- What three adjectives best describe this article?
- What questions would you like to ask Bill Gates?

## Spelling

- cars and cotarfeis
- sveltoick such as cows, deer and goats
- These farm animals are snposrbiele for a lot
- carbon ioxidde (CO2)
- He invested in a ehtlonocgy start-up
- a nsehttyic, seaweed-based dietary supplement
- the tech ignat Microsoft
- help the nirnoemvnet
- greenhouse gas ieissomns
- spoke about the enbfetis
- proven to be ffceiteve
- expand the reach of this lstuoion

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. a	5. h
6. i	7. e	8. b	9. c	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Livestock Farming

You think livestock farming is the worst industry for the climate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): aviation, fashion or tourism.

### Role B – Aviation

You think aviation is the worst industry for the climate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): livestock farming, fashion or tourism.

### Role C – Fashion

You think fashion is the worst industry for the climate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): aviation, livestock farming or tourism.

### Role D – Tourism

You think tourism is the worst industry for the climate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): aviation, fashion or livestock farming.

## Speaking – Climate change

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst industries for the climate at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| • Livestock farming | • Mining   |
| • Steel production  | • Sport    |
| • Aviation          | • Tourism  |
| • Fashion           | • Shipping |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.