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Week 7 Issue Response

**Is There A Humane Way to Eat Beef?**

In the issue I chose to read about this week I read an article in the Onion entitled, “We Raise All Our Beef Humanely On Open Pasture And Then We Hang Them Upside Down and Slash Their Throats”. While of course this article was taking a satirical point of view of the current trends of eating free-range and grass-fed meant, I found that there were still some very real issues embedded in the article. It is written facetiously from the point of view of a “rancher” discussing his ethical ranching practices before the horrific slaughter of the cattle once they are of age. I personally found this article interesting as I feel that I fall into the category of people being attacked. I am certainly guilty of thinking that as long as I am eating poultry and meat that was raised in an ethical way where the animals were given happy lives, I am in some way absolved of guilt—of course I tend to conveniently forget about the actual death of the animals. While I am not necessarily advocating for an all-vegetarian diet (humans evolved to eat meat, it is a biological fact), the real problem seems to me to be the vast separation that has developed between people and their food.

 This is the main issue that this article (albeit, backhandedly) addresses. We have become content as a society to eat foods that little resemble their original forms, whether they are so processed they little resemble their original counterparts, or pre-packed in such a way that sterilizes them and hides away the processes it took to get it to the grocery store—such as beef or chicken breasts that bear no resemblance to a recognizable cow or chicken. While it is undeniable that countless issues arise from industrial livestock production methods such as environmental degradation, ethical concerns of treatment of workers, and ethical concerns of treatment of animals, this article brought up the point of whether it is moral to raise and eat animals at all. If there is a “humane” way of eating meat, what is it? What is the solution to this ethical question? How can this issue be more exposed to the general public and a healthier and more frank relationship to our food be re-cultivated?

http://www.theonion.com/articles/we-raise-all-our-beef-humanely-on-open-pasture-and,30983/?ref=auto