## SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN<sup>™</sup>

## Face Off! A Debate About Eating Anything With A Face

By Layla Eplett | December 10, 2013

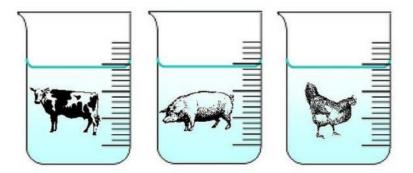
Is it healthier to be a <u>vegetarian</u>? Or an <u>omnivore</u>? And how much of an <u>environmental impact</u> does livestock really have? These questions can spark a lively debate and that's exactly what happened last week when <u>Intelligence Squared</u> presented *Don't Eat Anything With A Face*. Clinical researcher and author Dr. Neal Barnard and Gene Baur, president and co-founder of Farm Sanctuary, both in favor of the motion, faced off against



farmer and author Joel Salatin and nutritional sciences researcher and blogger Chris Masterjohn.

Here's what they had to say: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCcJq56ZMJg</u>

It's possible this debate could soon extend to include meat <u>without</u> a face. Over eighty years ago, Winston Churchill predicted, "Fifty years hence, we shall escape the absurdity of growing a whole chicken in order to eat the breast or wing, by growing these parts separately under a suitable medium." Although it has taken 30 years more than Churchill estimated, his dream might soon become a reality.



In August of this year, the world's first <u>lab grown</u> hamburger made its debut in London. Scientist Dr Mark Post <u>created</u> the burger using about 20,000 muscle fibers that were grown from stem cells of cows, then combined with some other ingredients, including beetroot juice, saffron, and breadcrumbs. This burger may have ethical and environmental plusses; since it was grown from cells, there was no animal suffering involved and methane production was also avoided. These are aspects to consider for the future–for now, it isn't quite ready for the market but it seems test tube meat is past its embryonic stage.

Where do you stand on this issue? Sound off on the face off!

Image Credits: Illustration by <u>Thomas James</u>, <u>Mike Licht</u>