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**Level 2** – 16th June, 2022

## **New Zealand may tax farm animal burps**

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

New Zealand wants to introduce a new tax to help the environment. It wants farmers to pay tax on their farm animals. Sheep, cows and other animals create a lot of methane when they burp or fart. Methane is a damaging greenhouse gas. It is a big cause of climate change. The new "burp tax" would start in 2025. New Zealand has over 20,000 farms. These have 26 million sheep, 4 million cows and other animals. James Shaw, New Zealand's climate change minister, said: "There is no question that we need to cut the amount of methane we are putting into the atmosphere."

Farming animals makes up 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse gasses. This comes from animals burping and farting, animal waste, clearing land and transporting animals. Mr Shaw wants farmers to pay tax on the methane their animals produce. He also wants farmers to change how they farm. He wants cows to eat seaweed instead of grass. This will produce fewer emissions. Farmers can also reduce their tax by planting more trees. Another suggestion is for cows to wear masks. New Zealand's farmers support the government. They want to do their bit for the environment.

Sources: <https://news.yahoo.com/new-zealand-considers-taxing-cow-and-sheep-burps-to-combat-climate-change-184504518.html>  
<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/government-in-race-against-time-to-price-farm-emissions-by-2025/FSV7YDFQVOJBLCR2XCAML73XSA/>  
<https://www.totallyveganbuzz.com/environment/new-zealand-tax-burps-of-cows-sheep-climate-crisis/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. New Zealand wants a              | a. of methane          |
| 2. farting creates                  | b. greenhouse gas      |
| 3. This is a damaging               | c. 26 million sheep    |
| 4. The new "burp tax"               | d. a lot of methane    |
| 5. New Zealand has over             | e. atmosphere          |
| 6. New Zealand says it needs to cut | f. tax on burping      |
| 7. the amount                       | g. the amount          |
| 8. into the                         | h. would start in 2025 |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. greenhouse                   | a. emissions        |
| 2. Farmers will change how      | b. gasses           |
| 3. Cows may have to eat seaweed | c. support this     |
| 4. lower                        | d. masks            |
| 5. They may also have to wear   | e. environment      |
| 6. Farmers will also plant      | f. instead of grass |
| 7. New Zealand's farmers        | g. they farm        |
| 8. They want to help the        | h. more trees       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

New Zealand (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a new tax to help the environment. It wants farmers to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ their farm animals. Sheep, cows and other animals (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of methane when they burp or fart. Methane is a damaging greenhouse gas. It is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of climate change. The new "burp tax" would start in 2025. New Zealand has over 20,000 farms. These have 26 million sheep, 4 million (5) \_\_\_\_\_ animals. James Shaw, New Zealand's climate change minister, said: "There is no question that we need to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of methane we are putting into the atmosphere."

Farming (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse gasses. This comes from animals burping and farting, animal waste, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ transporting animals. Mr Shaw wants farmers to pay tax on the methane their animals produce. He also wants farmers (9) \_\_\_\_\_ they farm. He wants cows to eat seaweed (10) \_\_\_\_\_. This will produce fewer emissions. Farmers can also reduce their tax by planting more trees. Another suggestion is for cows (11) \_\_\_\_\_. New Zealand's farmers support the government. They want to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for the environment.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

New Zealand wants to introduce a new tax to help the environment. It wants farmers to stop paying tax on their farm animals. Sheep, cows and other animals create a lot of methane when they burp or fart. Methane is a damaging greenhouse gas. It is a big cause of climate change. The new "burp tax" would start in 2025. New Zealand has over 20,000 farms. These have 26 million sheep, 4 million cows and other animals. James Shaw, New Zealand's climate change minister, said: "There is no question that we need to cut the amount of methane we are putting into the atmosphere." Farming animals make up 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gases. This comes from animals burping and farting, animal waste, clearing land and transporting animals. Mr Shaw wants farmers to stop paying tax on the methane their animals produce. He also wants farmers to change how they farm. He wants cows to eat seaweed instead of grass. This will produce fewer emissions. Farmers can also reduce their tax by planting more trees. Another suggestion is for cows to wear masks. New Zealand's farmers support the government. They want to do their bit for the environment.

# COW BURPS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220616-cow-burps-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cow burps in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

