

Jim Steel goes up into the air

Greener power, greener cows and designer milk

In the next 40 years, farming will be supported by accelerated technological changes, such as wind and tidal power and also advances in bio-fuels, 'green' nuclear power, and greener cows.

An environmentally cleaner cow or the 'green cow' will be developed to produce less methane gas and reduce the greenhouse effect. Advances in biotechnology and cow genetics will also produce designer milks. These specialised green cows will produce low fat milk and specific, designer varieties naturally.

The farmer's quality of life will be improved by mobile robotics and functionoids. The large diesel tractor might be replaced by a functionoid with more mechanical efficiency and an alternative energy source. Robotics and automated processes will give economic advantages, reduce the risk of

crop failures, reduce energy costs, and be more diverse than current farm machines.

Less grass and pelleted concentrates will be needed to feed the herds.

Not only will equipment and cows change, but also grazing. Genetically modified grass will have a higher growth rate, lower disease rate, and will be suitable for various climates. New grasses will be higher in protein which means we will need less grass and less granular compound feed for herds.

More grazing land can be made available with new techniques in 'vertical tower' farming. Crops can be grown many stories high leaving more land for grazing. With vertical farming, farms won't need to have a rural location anymore. Vertical





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farms will be situated in the heart of the world's urban centers and offer the promise of year-round sustainable production of a safe and varied food supply.