

Opinion: Our water-guzzling food factory

By Nicholas Kristof, New York Times

Let's start with a quiz.

Which consumes the most water?

- A) a 10-minute shower.
- B) a handful of 10 almonds.
- C) a quarterpound hamburger patty.
- D) a washing machine load.

The answer? By far, it's the hamburger patty. The shower might use 25 gallons. The almonds take up almost a gallon each, or close to 10 gallons for the handful. The washing machine uses about 35 gallons per load. And that beef patty, around 450 gallons.

The drought in California hit home when I was backpacking with my daughter there recently on the Pacific Crest Trail, and the first eight creeks or springs we reached were all dry.

Read the whole story