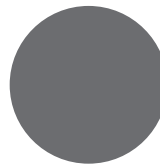


The Ecological Footprint is a method created by [Global Footprint Network](#) to measure human demand on natural capital. In this context, we're using it to measure how much of the planet's natural resources are required to produce a kilo of meat and make it available to consumers.

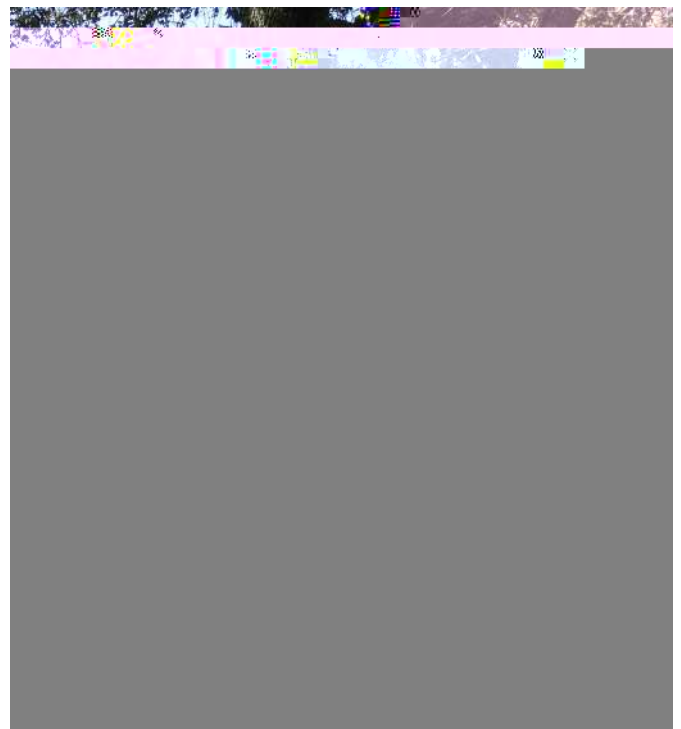
Biocapacity is the other side of the ecological balance sheet. It tracks the natural assets available to us, and their productivity. Please note the BC side of the equation is not calculated here.



[EF greater than BC] = Ecological deficit

This assessment is among the first to be applied at the whole farm level to quantify both the carbon emissions and the land appropriation due to the production and consumption of each type of meat studied. It's also the first to quantify the positive impacts of land preservation and land stewardship practices, reflecting the contribution that they make to the biocapacity of the dehesa ecosystem. Tree cover, for example, contributes to ecosystem maintenance and biodiversity, and therefore has a positive Footprint; while direct seeding and rotational grazing have regenerative benefits.

The process begins by quantifying all inputs necessary to run an entire farm – this includes everything from the land needed to raise livestock, to the food needed to feed a worker, to carbon emissions taking products to market. Once the farm's total net Footprint has been calculated, we allocate a share of it to the output of producing 1kg of beef, lamb/sheep or pork versus all other outputs.





Rotational grazing involves rotating livestock between multiple paddocks to graze for short periods of time, allowing grazed areas to recover. This improves soil health, increases forage productivity, and improves animal health. It also reduces erosion and boosts soil organic carbon sequestration.

Conservation grazing involves dispersing forage seeds in native pastures without tilling the soil, minimizing disturbance. As with rotational grazing, this reduces erosion and improves soil health.

