

# STUDENT GUIDE

## EVALUATE LESSON 6



### Part 1: Our Motivation

Record what we are now trying to explain about the Anchor Phenomenon.

We are going to revisit Media Claims 1, 4, 8, and 13, the ones about how the dairy system and pollution and health and evaluate their validity and accuracy with the new information we have figured out.



### Part 2: Evaluate Claims

Sort the four media claims provided to determine if they are accurate, inaccurate, or if they are misleading. Write the title of the claim or the claim number in the appropriate column in the table below.

Accurate	Misleading Claim That Omits Context or Details	Inaccurate
1: Watering Idaho: Is the Dairy Industry Putting Rural Drinking Water at Risk?		
4: Are Alarm Bells About Whole Milk Much Ado About Nothing?		
8: Why Amish Kids Get Less Asthma: It's the Cows		
13: The Breathtaking Lack of Oversight from Animal Farms		

Once all the media claims have been sorted, select ONE media claim and assess its validity based on the evidence we have gathered in this unit. Be sure to use the Look Fors provided to guide your response.

I think media claim 1 is accurate. It says that dairy production can lead to water pollution. One of the economic benefits of the dairy system is that it is made up of dairy cows raised to produce milk that is processed into dairy products for consumers. But one of the environmental costs that this system produces that is an unintended consequence of its design is excess manure. This manure can contribute to runoff that eventually finds its way into water supplies. The article, "A Review of Potential Public Health Impacts Associated With the Global Dairy Sector," states that "Livestock production may also be the single largest sectoral source of water pollution. Major sources of water pollution from dairy farms include animal wastes, pharmaceutical residues (e.g., antibiotics and hormones), fertilizers and pesticides used for growing feed crops, and sediment from eroded pastures."





### Part 3: Construct a Written Argument

Construct a written argument that answers our Driving Question: *“What is the impact of dairy production on the environment?”* Be sure to use the Look Fors provided to guide your response.

I think the dairy system is mostly beneficial for people. The dairy system is made up of dairy cows raised to produce milk that is processed into dairy products for consumers who depend on agricultural products such as dairy for food. The dairy system was designed to make a lot of products for little cost, but doing so has resulted in downsides that extend beyond the boundary of the design of the system, such as an environmental cost like pollution, social impacts such as health problems for workers, and environmental impacts like chemical pollution. The article, “A Review of Potential Public Health Impacts Associated with the Global Dairy Sector,” states that “Livestock production may also be the single largest sectoral source of water pollution. Major sources of water pollution from dairy farms include animal wastes, pharmaceutical residues (e.g., antibiotics and hormones), fertilizers and pesticides used for growing feed crops, and sediment from eroded pastures.” Overall, the benefits to society might outweigh the downsides.