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▶ No reason to beef

Participants at Manchester's Start Your Day the Torah Way have been treated to a mind-boggling talk and taste of things to come. Rabbi Benjy Simmonds, rav of Stenecourt Shul, used one of the daily presentations in Manchester to explain the contemporary issue of stem cell (cultured) meat. This fascinating topic had been a subject of discussion at the Conference of European Rabbis, which Rabbi Simmonds recently attended in Antwerp.

Cultured beef is created by painlessly harvesting muscle cells from a living cow. Scientists then feed and nurture the cells so they multiply to create muscle tissue, the main component of the meat we eat. This is biologically the same as the meat tissue that comes from a cow.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the U.N. estimates that current meat production methods are not sufficiently sustainable to meet growing demand. According to environmentalists, livestock contribute to global warming through unchecked releases

of methane. Research at Oxford University suggests that producing Cultured Beef could use 99% less space than what is needed for current livestock farming methods. Greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts for Cultured Beef are thought to be much lower than beef from modern farming. Cultured Beef is thus seen as a more sustainable option, that will change the way we eat and think about food forever.

In 2013, the research team cooked and ate a lab-grown burger, from bovine stem cells, that cost £215,000 to produce. Such burgers could be on sale within five years.

However, there are many halachic questions about cultured meat. For example, is removing the cell from a live cow considered *Ever Min Hachai*? Is it meaty or parev? Taking various factors and halachic precedents into account, some preliminary conclusions have been made.

A stem cell from a non-kosher animal should be considered non-kosher as well, and its consumption forbidden. A stem cell taken from a nevellah (the carcass of a kosher animal not perfectly slaughtered) would similarly be considered nevellah, and its consumption forbidden. There is also an issue of *Maris Ayn*.

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הודעה חשובה

הורינו להודיע כי נכון לעכשיו כל הטיסות היוצאות מנתביג הינם בחוקת שווייץ ולא חשש מסמחה לכוניס משום מעבר מעל בתי קברות שבארץ ישראל. היתר זה הוא ככל הטיסות ביום ובלילה ובכל תנאי מזג האוויר.

לכני טיסות נכנסות עדיין בחלק מהטיסות קיים חשש של הבאת נפטרים במטען הטיסות. בעניינת היום כייב אייר תשע"ט

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