

Viewpoint: FDA took 24 years to approve fast-growing GM salmon. Let's hope lab-made meat, dairy hit the market sooner

[Numerous] [startups](#) are pursuing the production of cultured meats including Israel-based Future Meat Technologies and Dutch companies [Meatable](#) and [Mosa Meat](#), and U.S.-based [Memphis Meats](#).

These cultured meat companies face stiff competition from the burgeoning [plant-based meat companies](#), including the delicious [Impossible Burger](#) from Impossible Foods.

While Singapore's regulators have been quick to approve a cultured meat product, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Agriculture are still in the [process of figuring out](#) how they want to regulate lab-grown meats. Let's hope that the FDA will move more swiftly toward approving safe cultured meats than the [24 years it took to approve](#) the sale of salmon genetically enhanced to grow faster.

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A switch to cultured meats and [milk](#) could have big benefits for the natural world. Currently, about half of the world's habitable land is devoted to agriculture and [77 percent of that is used to raise livestock](#) and produce milk. Although controversial, one [preliminary estimate](#) suggests that producing cultured meats cuts energy use by 7–45 percent, greenhouse gas emissions by 78–96 percent, land use by 99 percent, and water use by 82–96 percent. The [end of farming](#) could be in sight as real factories replace factory farming.

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