

Student 5:

Land / Soil.

The land / soil is being changed by dairy farming. The way dairy farming is doing this is by the cows. Cows are very heavy animals and they cause compaction of the soil, pugging and erosion (1). Pugging is not good for grass growth, as water will sit in the hoof prints and stop growth or / and slow it down. Compaction will not allowed air to get into the soil, therefore soil will become water logged very quickly (1). Cows will rub their heads / necks and scarp their hoofs at / on lose soil or potholes on sides of hills. This will lead to erosion and make grass growth minimal in that area.

Dairy farming is causing the modification of land / soil. The soil will have less air in it which is essential for growth in plant material. Its taking air out and anthing is helping it back into the soil. Pugging is something the farmer can't do much about. Cows will always leave hoof prints. What a farmer could do is put cows in dry paddocks when its wet and leave the wet ones till it dries out, this will minimise the negative environment impact.

Eutrophication.

The main causes of eutrophication are; the natural runoff of nutrients from soil and erosion, runoff of inorganic fertiliser containing nitrogen and phosphates and the run off of effluent manure from farms (2). Eutrophication is a natural process which occurs in lakes and estuaries. Although eutrophication is a natural process humans have been speeding up this process and one of the reasons why is that the boom in the agriculture industry is adding excessive amounts of plant nutrients such as nitrogen and carbon to the waterways. The natural process is when algae covers the surface which clocks the sunlight from getting to the lower parts of the water affecting submerged flora and damages the oxygen levels in water, with damaged oxygen levels all the organisms including fish are killed off only leaving the algae.