

Factory Farming Faqs - general, dairy, veal,

environment & world hunger - The number of mammals and birds farmed and slaughtered in the U.S. each year is approximately equal to one and two-thirds the human population of Earth. 98% of all animal abuse and suffering concerns farm animals. According to a 2006 report by the According to a recent article in US News & World Report, some 40 billion pounds a year of slaughterhouse wastes (blood, bone and viscera) plus the remains of millions of euthanized cats and dogs from veterinarians and shelters, are rendered annually into livestock feed. Feed manufacturers and farmers also have begun using or trying out dehydrated food garbage, fats from restaurant fryers and grease traps, cement-kiln dust, newspapers, cardboard and sawdust. Researchers have also experimented with cattle, hog and human sewage. When they are fed grain, it is often corn which they cannot digest and which ulcerates their stomachs, adding even more antibiotics to the drugs, hormones and pesticides they already ingest.

Animal Transport - Animals being transported from farms to stock yards and slaughter houses may freeze to the walls or the floor or die of heat and suffocation in unventilated trucks. They may legally be deprived of water for up to 36 hours while being transported. Animals too weak to walk on or off a live stock transport are fork lifted or dragged by chains to slaughter.

Slaughter - Violence and depravity breeds the same. Even the minimal standards that exist are routinely broken while whistle blowers are reprimanded or fired. Slaughter house atrocities documented by undercover workers include: shoving and slamming animals against walls and floors who have been stunned and paralyzed from the neck down before slaughter; poking out eyes; sending still conscious animals through the meat processing to be dismembered alive and lowering still conscious animals into boiling in vats to process their hides.

Dairy - In 1930 the average dairy cow produced about 12 pounds (1 1/2 gal) of milk per day. By 1988, the average was 39 pounds per day. This was accomplished by aggressive practices such as drugs, forced feeding and selective breeding to obtain dairy cows that produced a lot of pituitary hormones. Today, synthetic Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH, produced by Monsanto) is used to bring the average up to 50 pounds (over 6 gal) of milk per day. Factory farmed cattle live out their bleak lives in stalls or mud feed lots in unnaturally large herds constantly being impregnated by artificial insemination. This abuse of already stressed, drugged, improperly fed, nutrient deprived, over-milked cows naturally encourages illness and infection; particularly of the udders. No wonder so many collapse even before they are slaughtered (at about 42 months, as opposed to the normal life expectancy of 12 years for grass fed cattle). Naturally, all of these substances as well as pus from infection are passed on to the consumer of dairy products.

Veal - Other than veal (whose popularity has declined due to successful ad campaigns) the dairy industry has no use for male calves who are dragged away from their distraught mothers shortly after birth. Documentation of the many abuses on dairy farms include: male calves barely old enough to stand being dragged in chains to slaughter and male calves being thrown into pits and shot. Around 25% of male calves are chained inside a wooden crate for sixteen weeks to produce veal. These calves are purposely deprived of iron and kept in the dark. They suffer from constant diarrhea and lie in their own excrement, unable to walk or stand.

Environment & world hunger - Approximately one third of the earth's land surface is used to graze or grow feed for livestock including 70% of former Amazon rain forests burned or cut down for pasture. A report release on November 19, 2006 by the United Nations (FAO) called *Live Stock's Long Shadow* determined that raising animals for food generates about 40% more greenhouse gas emissions than all the cars, trucks, ships and planes in the world combined. 67% of U.S. grain in this country is used to feed livestock and 70% of Africa's grain is shipped to Europe to feed livestock. Farm animals consume one half of the earth's water supply.



The eating of meat extinguishes the great seed of compassion. Buddha

Crittersong

31 Foxfire Drive
Asheville, NC 28803
www.crittersong.org