CHAPTER 2
FARM ANIMALS

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1 BACKGROUND

Factory farming is the largest area of welfare concern in the world today. Billions of farm animals throughout the world are reared behind the closed doors of factory farms. They are caged, crammed and confined, forced to grow super-fast, and pushed to their physical limits in the quest for more meat, milk and eggs.

The rapid rise of factory farming systems in the USA and Europe took place in the latter half of the last century. These systems are characterised by large numbers of farm animals being caged or crated and crammed into (typically) windowless sheds. Four classic factory farm methods epitomised this approach: veal crates for calves, stall and tether-cages for pregnant pigs, intensive broiler farms and battery cages for egg-laying hens. These systems remain in widespread use in the USA.

Three of these classic systems of the 1960s – veal crates, sow stalls and battery cages – are subject to far-reaching reforms in the European Union (EU). Although reform is reaching Europe, these systems are spreading rapidly throughout other parts of the world, even to economically developing countries. Consumption of meat in economically developing countries is growing constantly. The pressure to produce and sell cheap meat worldwide is driving the spread of intensive farming all over the world. People in both the economically developed and developing world should consider the amount and source of the meat they eat and thus avoid supporting factory farming.

Factory farming is not only bad for animal welfare and animal health; it has also been proven to have **detrimental impacts in a number of other areas:**

- **The environment:** producing pollution, huge concentrations of wastes and greenhouse gases
- **Genetic diversity:** due to selective breeding for productive breeds
- **Human health:** increasing the risk of disease to local communities and antibiotic resistance
- **Poverty alleviation:** factory farms put small farmers out of business, creating masses of unemployed poor, especially in the developing world
- **Food security:** reliance on technology and huge inputs of feed and water does not alleviate hunger as effectively as small-scale local production, while risking livestock losses through disease spread through large 'colonies' of farmed animals.

2 INTENSIVE FARMING

TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMED ANIMALS IN 2004

PIGS	**1.4 BILLION**
CHICKENS	**35.7 BILLION**
CATTLE	**1.3 BILLION**
SHEEP	**1.1 BILLION**

(SOURCE: TURNER, J. 2005. GLOBAL GROWTH OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE)

The above figures show the approximate number of farm animals in the world in 2004. The majority were reared in intensive systems that can cause serious animal welfare problems. A brief introduction to these intensive systems follows.

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Throughout this chapter, a number of quotations from the European Union's Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare and its predecessor, the European Commission's expert Scientific and Veterinary Committee, are given. These can provide invaluable scientific support when lobbying and campaigning on various farm animal welfare issues.

a) Pigs

In intensive farming systems, pregnant sows are often caged in rows of small, narrow crates throughout their 16-week pregnancies; these are known as sow stalls or gestation crates. **Sow stalls** are so narrow that sows cannot even turn around. On some farms, they are tethered using heavy chains. This frustrates the natural behaviour of these intelligent animals, leading to repetitive unnatural behaviours, such as bar biting. Scientific research shows that prolonged confinement can affect health as well as welfare, causing lameness, urinary tract problems, foot injuries and bone weakness.

Sow stalls and tethers have been prohibited on cruelty grounds in the Philippines, Florida and the EU (the EU has prohibited tethers from 2006 and stalls from 2013).

THE OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SCIENTIFIC VETERINARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDED:

SOW STALLS HAVE "MAJOR DISADVANTAGES" FOR WELFARE; "THE MAJOR DISADVANTAGES FOR SOW WELFARE OF HOUSING THEM IN STALLS ARE INDICATED BY HIGH LEVELS OF STEREOTYPICAL BEHAVIOUR, OF UNRESOLVED AGGRESSION AND OF INACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH UNRESPONSIVENESS, WEAKER BONES AND MUSCLES AND THE CLINICAL CONDITIONS MENTIONED ABOVE."

Before giving birth, pregnant sows are moved to **farrowing crates**, which are used to restrain nursing sows, in an attempt to prevent piglets from being crushed. They confine the sow, but give the piglets free access for feeding. Farrowing crates deny the sow's strong instinct to build a nest for her piglets. Behavioural studies show that pregnant sows would prefer access to straw to build nests over access to food 24 hours prior to farrowing.

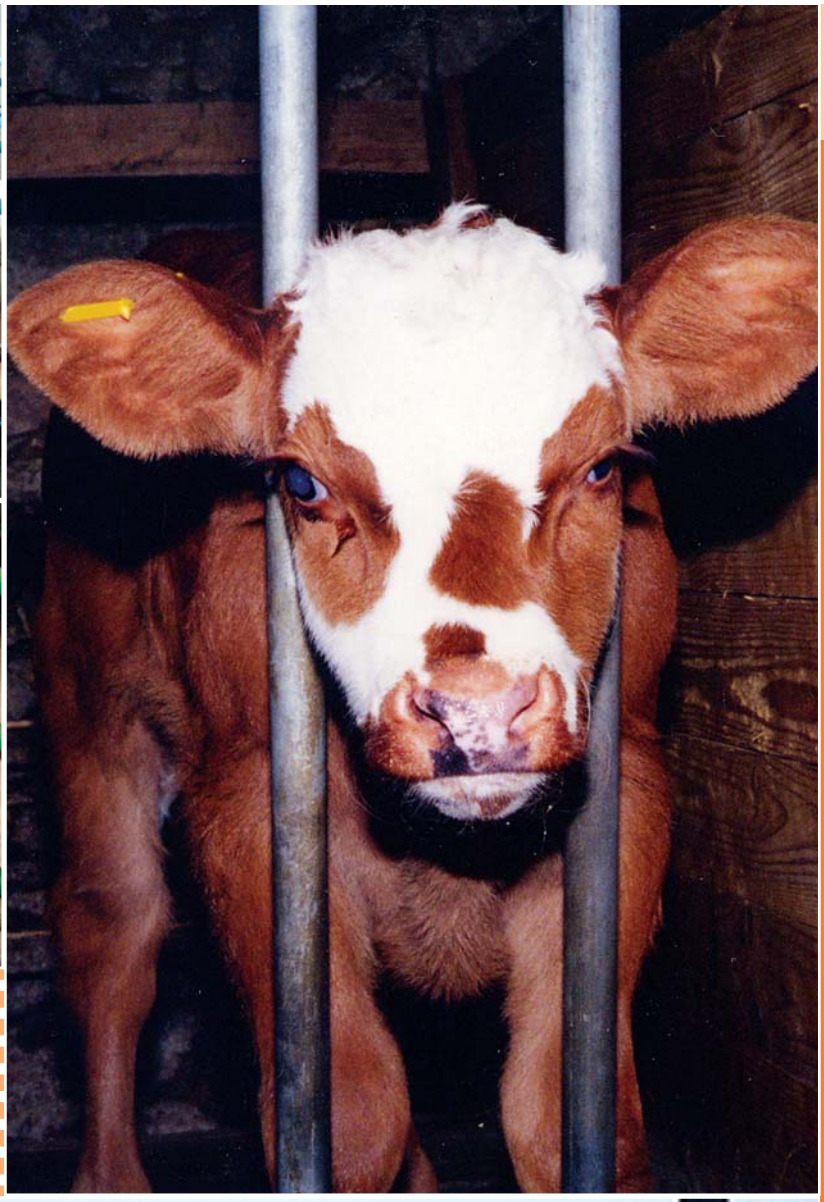
However, there are other ways to prevent piglets from being crushed. The problem is caused by selective breeding, which results in enormous and clumsy sows. Some breeds do not have this problem; so selective breeding for good mothering traits would be the most durable solution. However, even with current heavy breeds, alternative systems exist, for example, farrowing out of doors in 'ark' housing systems.

"SOWS SHOULD PREFERABLY BE KEPT IN GROUPS" BECAUSE "OVERALL WELFARE APPEARS TO BE BETTER WHEN SOWS ARE NOT CONFINED THROUGHOUT GESTATION."

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SCIENTIFIC VETERINARY COMMITTEE

Taken from their mothers at around one month old, the piglets are often reared in barren pens with concrete or slatted floors. The absence of bedding is a serious welfare problem because bedding, such as straw, provides pigs with physical and thermal comfort, an outlet for chewing, rooting and exploring, and dietary fibre. Another welfare concern in intensive pig farming is the practice of clipping the teeth of piglets and docking their tails.

Above **Egg laying hens in battery cages**
Below **Intensively farmed broiler chickens**



Images clockwise from top left: **Pigs in sow stalls; a calf in a veal crate; cattle in a feedlot; a sow and her piglets in a farrowing crate**

In natural conditions, weaning is gradual, being completed only after about 13-17 weeks, and early weaning can cause stress and behavioural problems. This process is repeated pregnancy after pregnancy.

b) Broilers

Broilers are chickens reared for their meat. In intensive systems, they are crowded together in barren sheds. They have been selectively bred to grow very fast and reach slaughter weight at just five to six weeks old. This growth rate is so extreme that many suffer leg weakness and become crippled because their bodies grow too fast for their legs to sustain them. They also suffer heart and lung failure, as their organs cannot keep pace with their bodily growth.

As they grow, the birds occupy the whole of the shed. The crowding gives the birds no opportunity to exercise. Leg weaknesses mean that birds are often unable to reach food and water supplies and therefore die. Others suffer breast-blisters, hock burns and skin diseases, as they sit on faeces-drenched litter.

AS WELL AS CONDEMNING SEVERE OVERCROWDING IN BROILER SHEDS, THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AFFIRMS:

1. **THE RAPID GROWTH RATES WHICH LEAD TO PAINFUL LEG DISORDERS AND HEART FAILURE "ARE A MAJOR CAUSE OF POOR WELFARE IN BROILERS".**
2. **THE CHRONIC HUNGER INFLICTED ON BROILER BREEDERS, SAYING THESE BIRDS ARE "VERY HUNGRY" AND THAT "THE SEVERE FEED RESTRICTION... RESULTS IN UNACCEPTABLE WELFARE PROBLEMS."**

Because they have been selectively bred for fast growth, broilers need to eat tremendous amounts of food. They are allowed to eat as much as they want, and many succumb to obesity, skeletal problems and heart failure at a few weeks of age. This presents a problem for the producers of the breeding stock, as these birds have to be kept until they reach sexual maturity and can breed. To achieve this, the industry feeds these breeders a much-reduced diet; about ¼-½ of what they would 'naturally' eat. This makes them chronically hungry, frustrated and stressed.

"MOST WELFARE PROBLEMS IMPOSED ON BROILERS RESULT FROM THE INDUSTRY'S DETERMINATION TO PUSH BIRDS – MAINLY THROUGH SELECTIVE BREEDING – TO EVER FASTER GROWTH RATES."

EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

c) Egg-laying Hens

Most egg-laying hens are kept intensively in battery cages throughout their productive lives. Up to 90,000 birds (or more) are kept in one shed, and the cages are stacked four to nine tiers high. A number of hens will be kept together in these small wire cages, **each hen having less space than this sheet of paper**. In these cramped conditions, the birds cannot stretch their wings. They also suffer from leg and foot problems. Constantly rubbing against the wire cages, they suffer severe feather loss, bruising and abrasions.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SCIENTIFIC VETERINARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT:
"BATTERY CAGE SYSTEMS PROVIDE A BARREN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BIRDS... IT IS CLEAR THAT BECAUSE OF ITS SMALL SIZE AND ITS BARRENNESS, THE BATTERY CAGE AS USED AT PRESENT HAS INHERENT SEVERE DISADVANTAGES FOR THE WELFARE OF HENS."

The EU has prohibited battery cages from 2012.

A happy hen is a bird free to forage, take exercise, preen, dust-bathe, take refuge on a perch whenever she feels vulnerable and build a nest in which to lay her eggs. These things are denied to hens kept in the battery-cage system.

THE WELFARE OF THE EGG-LAYING HEN IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO HER ABILITY TO BEHAVE NATURALLY.

In order to reduce injuries resulting from excessive pecking, which occurs when the confined hens are bored and frustrated, practically all laying hens have part of their beaks cut off. **Beak trimming** is a painful procedure that involves cutting through bone, cartilage and soft tissue. This procedure will be completely prohibited in the UK from 1 January 2011.

Another serious welfare problem is forced moulting. Under commercial conditions, hens start laying fewer eggs after one year of production and in nature they would undergo an annual moult. **Forced moulting**, whereby hens are starved for up to 18 days, shocks the birds' systems, inducing them to shed their feathers unnaturally quickly. This forces the hens to start another laying cycle, much quicker than they would naturally. The practice of forced moulting is already illegal in the United Kingdom and rarely practiced in Europe. However, it continues to take place in some parts of Asia and the USA.

THREE QUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S 4 BILLION EGG-LAYING HENS ARE CONFINED IN BATTERY CAGES, WHICH CONTAIN FROM 3 TO 25 BIRDS EACH.

FAOSTAT STATISTICAL DATABASE

d) Beef Cattle

"CATTLE HAVE WELL-DEVELOPED SENSES AND LEARNING ABILITIES. ALTHOUGH SIGNS OF PAIN MAY BE LESS OBVIOUS IN CATTLE THAN IN OTHER SPECIES, CATTLE HAVE THE ABILITY TO FEEL PAIN, AND NEURAL MECHANISMS OF PAIN RECEPTION SEEM TO BE SIMILAR IN CATTLE AND OTHER ANIMALS, AND HUMANS."

EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Most people think cattle are raised in pastures. In reality, many countries (including the USA) use feedlots for 'finishing' prior to slaughter. According to a study coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the U.S. Agency for International Development

and the World Bank, forty-three percent of the cattle raised for beef in the world come from feedlots (Livestock and the Environment: Finding a Balance (1997)).

Feedlots are barren pens where animals are crowded together and fed an unnatural diet of grain. This encourages rapid weight gain but prevents normal grazing, eating behaviour and rumination, as well as normal physiological gut function. The pens are devoid of grass and the cattle stand on packed mud and faeces, leading to foot problems that are exacerbated by the changes in their physiology. In these crowded and unsanitary conditions, health is only maintained by constant feeding of antibiotics to prevent the spread of disease. This regular use of antibiotics in farm animals is now widely recognised as causing increasing risk to human health, by encouraging development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria that can infect humans as well as cattle.

In many countries such as the USA, growth is also promoted by implantation of artificial hormones. These further influence both the physiology and behaviour of the animals. Because they are sex hormones, they probably contribute to problems in social behaviour. Such problems begin with the mixing of unfamiliar animals, and become worse because of the crowding together of unnaturally large groups of same-aged individuals. One of the worst problems is 'bulling,' in which some individuals mount each other repeatedly, sometimes to the point where the mounted animals die, or suffer broken legs and have to be culled.

Other welfare problems arise from the exposed conditions, with no shelter from sun or rain. In the extreme weather common in many regions where feedlots are based, cattle suffer severely from heat stress, or from confinement on constantly wet ground. After rainstorms, the mud and slurry in which they are standing is often so deep that cattle are reluctant to lie down and also suffer deprivation of rest.

The natural lifespan of cattle is 20 to 25 years. However, beef cattle are typically weaned at 6 to 10 months, live 3 to 5 months on range, spend 4 to 5 months being fattened in a feedlot, and are slaughtered at 15 to 20 months.

"BEEF BREEDS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR A HIGH MEAT PRODUCTION. THESE BREEDS ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH A HYPER-MUSCULARITY, WHICH CAN CAUSE LEG DISORDERS, INCREASE CALVING DIFFICULTIES AND DECREASE LONGEVITY."

EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

e) Dairy Cows

Through selective breeding and unnatural cereal diets, dairy cows are pushed to their limits to produce huge amounts of milk; around 10 times as much as they normally would.

Cows are forced to breed at an early age, and calves are taken away from as early as one day after birth. The dairy cow suffers the trauma of having her calf taken away and often bellows for days. After this, the cow is milked to capacity for about 8 months, after which she is impregnated again.

The cycle is usually repeated two or three times, before the cow becomes unhealthy or 'uneconomic'. At this stage the cow is physiologically 'exhausted' and is no longer able to keep pace with 'economic demands'. Dairy cattle are often slaughtered at the age of four to five years, despite their natural life-span being over 20.

"CATTLE FORM LASTING BONDS WITH THEIR CALVES WHEN ALLOWED TO DO SO. DURING NATURAL CONDITIONS, WEANING IS A SLOW AND GRADUAL PROCESS STRETCHING OVER SEVERAL MONTHS."

EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Other welfare concerns include:

- Selective breeding for excessively large udders, associated with hind-foot lameness
- Overfeeding of starchy, high-protein foods, which can cause digestive problems and lead to painful hoof inflammation called 'laminitis'
- Poor housing in cubicle sheds
- Unacceptable levels of mastitis: a painful udder infection
- High rates of lameness
- The use of BST, a genetically engineered version of the cow's growth hormone, to increase milk yield. This still occurs in some countries, but has been banned in the EU.

f) Turkeys

Intensively farmed turkeys are usually reared in dark sheds, where as many as 25,000 are crammed together. They are selectively bred for fast weight gain. This causes health problems similar to those in broilers and in addition they cannot mate naturally. Artificial insemination is therefore routinely required. Beak trimming is commonly performed and toe removal is also carried out on male breeding birds.

A farmed turkey is usually slaughtered between the ages of 12 and 26 weeks. In the wild, a turkey can live up to the age of 10. At the slaughterhouse the birds are hung upside down with their feet in shackles for up to six minutes before they are stunned (DEFRA, 2001). Being so heavy, this can cause great distress and suffering.

g) Ducks and Geese

Ducks and geese can be factory farmed for their eggs, meat, down and feathers. They are selectively bred for fast weight gain, causing health problems and disorders. Confinement in cages can also lead to lesions of the sternum and bone fractures, as well as foot injuries from the cage floors.

Ducks in battery cages are barely able to move, turn around or flap their wings. They are unable to preen, exercise or interact in natural ways. Most significantly, they are denied water in which to swim and clean their plumage.

Because of the stressful conditions, many ducks and geese neurotically pull out their feathers. To prevent this, part of the birds' sensitive upper beaks are sometimes cut off. Many geese die from infection or starvation following this procedure.

Another major welfare concern is the force-feeding of ducks and geese for the production of foie gras (please see the section on 'Exotic Foods' below).

h) Mutilations

'Mutilation' is the term for physical alterations carried out by vets and animal scientists in a variety of operations. Each year millions of farm animals are mutilated. Most of these painful operations are performed without any anaesthetic.

MUTILATIONS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO FIT AN ANIMAL INTO AN UNSUITABLE SYSTEM, RATHER THAN CHANGING THE SYSTEM TO SUIT THE ANIMAL'S NEEDS.

Mutilations include:

- Lamb, piglet and calf castration
- Tail-docking of piglets and cows
- Beak trimming and toe removal in hens and turkeys
- Dubbing of poultry (removing the comb)
- Teeth-clipping of piglets
- Hot branding of calves and foals

The European Commission's Scientific Veterinary Committee has stressed that "castration causes severe pain and distress to pigs [which] should be avoided if possible".

3 FUR FARMING

Fur-farmed animals are kept in long rows of cages under an open shed. Each farm can have several sheds. Small farms might have about 100 animals, while the largest in Scandinavia has over 100,000 animals. The cages, flooring included, are made of wire mesh, which makes it difficult for the animals to stand, especially the younger animals. Many fur-bearing animals are essentially wild and do not fare well in captivity.

The most farmed fur-bearing animal is the mink, followed by the fox.

Mink are very agile creatures, very much like ferrets except that they are wild and semi-aquatic. They love running, swimming, playing, climbing and are very inquisitive. In captivity, their options to exhibit natural behaviour are totally frustrated, resulting in abnormal physical and psychological conditions.

The typical territory of a fox in the wild is 5 – 10 km^2. Foxes farmed for fur are very prone to stress. These naturally quiet and mostly solitary animals react very sensitively to human presence. Because of this particular stress sensitivity, a high mortality of fox cubs (above 20%) is common due to infanticide (mothers' cannibalism).

Rabbits, chinchillas, lynxes and even hamsters are also farmed for their fur. The majority of fur farms are found in Northern Europe and China, although smaller numbers of farms are found in many countries throughout the world.

There are **severe welfare problems associated with fur farming and killing**. These include:

- **Crowding and confinement** in small cages: causing frustration and leading to self-mutilation and stereotypical behaviour
- **Increase in disease susceptibility and parasites:** due to chronic malnutrition from an inadequate and unbalanced diet, crowded conditions and low resistance caused by stress
- **Barren environment:** no enrichment, little shelter and no protection from the weather
- **High cub mortality:** due to stress and infanticide
- **High adult mink mortality:** due to heat stress especially during summer, when fur animals are unable to cool down
- **Inhumane killing methods:** due to the fur farmer's desire to preserve the quality of the fur. The inhumane methods used include electrocution, poisoning, decompression chambers and neck snapping.

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FISH FARMING 4

Over 55 million tons of fish were farmed worldwide in 2005. In the UK for example, around 70 million fish, mainly salmon and trout, but also cod and halibut, are reared and slaughtered each year. After broiler chickens, fish farming represents the second largest area of farm animal production.

Intensive fish farming causes major welfare problems. Up to 50,000 salmon can be confined in a single sea cage. Tightly packed, the fish swim around in constant circles and show abnormal behaviours. The crowding and confinement can cause the fish to suffer stress, making them more susceptible to disease. Disease outbreaks have caused the deaths of millions of farmed salmon. Official figures show death rates as high as 10-30%. In addition, salmon often suffer blinding cataracts, fin and tail injuries and body deformities. Intensive farming has also led to serious infestation of parasitic sea lice, which cause great suffering and death in affected fish. Parasites from fish farms can also be transmitted to wild fish, which has been linked to a decline in wild fish populations.

SALMON, TROUT, HALIBUT AND COD ARE CARNIVORES AND THE MAIN FOOD THEY ARE GIVEN IN CAPTIVITY IS OTHER FISH.

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT IT TAKES THREE POUNDS OF WILD FISH TO PRODUCE ONE POUND OF FARMED SALMON. THIS MEANS THAT FISH FARMING IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEPLETION OF MARINE LIFE FROM OVER-FISHING – THE VERY PROBLEM IT WAS MEANT TO HELP ALLEVIATE.

Other practices in the industry, such as starvation before slaughter, treatment with harmful chemicals, genetic engineering and biotechnology techniques involving chromosome manipulation, also result in further suffering. Moreover, inhumane and unacceptable slaughter methods are still permitted for fish; such as suffocation, bleeding without stunning and killing using carbon dioxide gas. As with other farmed animals, only slaughter methods that cause instant death, or render the animal instantly insensible to pain until death, should be permitted.

A large amount of this information has been adapted from 'In Too Deep – The Welfare of Intensively Farmed Fish'; the full report is available at:
www.ciwf.org.uk/publications/reports/in_too_deep_2001.pdf

EXOTIC OR CRUEL FOODS 5

Foie gras: Pâté de foie gras is a liver paste produced from force-fed geese and ducks. The force-feeding procedure involves forcing a feeding tube into a bird's oesophagus followed by the forced cramming of a large amount of concentrated feedstuff into the bird's stomach. Usually ducks are force-fed twice a day for 12-15 days, and geese are force-fed three times a day for up to 21 days. This forced overfeeding causes fat degeneration, which is followed by the death of liver cells and extreme enlargement of the liver – up to ten times its normal size. Force-feeding causes severe distress and birds can be left barely able to walk and with laboured breathing.

The European Union's Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare published a report in 1998 which concluded that: "Force feeding as currently practiced is detrimental to the welfare of the birds." It said that there "must be a ban on techniques that cause avoidable suffering. The objectives are, by order of priority: to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates; to decrease

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the amounts of pain and distress that are endured in the process and to allow the animals to engage in normal behavioural activities."

A ban on the force-feeding of geese and ducks for the production of foie gras in Israel came into effect on 1 April 2005. The enforcement of this ban, after an extension period of a year and a half, resulted from the Israeli Supreme Court ruling, in August 2003, that the production of foie gras causes unacceptable suffering and was in violation of the Cruelty to Animals Law, and that the regulations allowing it were invalid.

Some other countries, including Denmark, Norway, Germany and Poland also have legislation that specifically prohibits force-feeding. Other countries, including the UK, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland, do not have specific legislation, but the animal protection legislation is interpreted in such a way that it is understood that force- feeding is not permissible.

Veal: Most veal comes from calves forced to live in tiny, barren crates, devoid of any interaction with other calves. These crates allow very little movement, only a few steps forward or backward. The calves can do almost nothing except lie down or stand up. Deprived of exercise, some calves can barely walk to slaughter at 4-6 months old.

Calves normally suckle from their mothers and begin eating solid food at two weeks of age. Calves in the crate system are not allowed solid food and do not have access to water. Their diet consists solely of a liquid milk replacer, which they drink from a bucket. The denial of solid food causes abnormal development of the calves' digestive systems and frustrates their natural urge to chew. The confinement, the denial of the suckling urge and the absence of solid food cause neurotic behaviours.

IN 1995, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SCIENTIFIC VETERINARY COMMITTEE PUBLISHED A MAJOR REPORT ON THE WELFARE OF CALVES AND MADE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS:

"The best conditions for rearing young calves involve leaving the calf with the mother in a circumstance where the calf can suckle and can subsequently graze and interact with other calves."

"The welfare of calves is very poor when they are kept in small individual pens with insufficient room for comfortable lying, no direct social contact and no bedding or other material to manipulate."

"In order to provide an environment which is adequate for exercise, exploration and free social interaction, calves should be kept in groups."

Calves given an all-liquid, iron deficient diet "can have serious health problems, can show serious abnormalities of behaviour, and can have substantial abnormalities in gut development".

Veal crates were banned in the UK in 1990 and will be banned across the European Union from 2007. The strength of the Scientific Veterinary Committee's conclusions played a major part in persuading the European Union to outlaw the veal crate system.

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LIVE TRANSPORT, SLAUGHTER AND MARKETS 6

Live transport: Each year all over the world billions of farm animals are transported for fattening or to be slaughtered. Some – particularly cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and horses – are moved over huge distances. Animals are often driven very long distances to slaughter, frequently passing nearer slaughterhouses on the way, for example, to fulfil financial contracts: 80% of meat in the USA is processed by less than 50 plants, mostly in the Midwest, despite the fact that there are nearly 1000 federally-inspected plants across the country. For biosecurity and animal welfare reasons, animals should obviously be slaughtered as close as possible to the farm where they are produced; yet the number of abattoirs in most economically developed countries has declined considerably over recent years.

This is bad enough within countries, but some of the worst problems are caused by export of live animals from country to country – a completely unnecessary trade. Thousands of pigs and cattle are trucked between Canada, the USA and Mexico. Hundreds of thousands of cattle are transported between European countries, and others are exported from Europe to the Middle East. And millions of sheep are sent by ship to the Middle East from Australia and New Zealand, in conditions which sometimes degenerate appallingly, with heavy mortality. These animals could readily be slaughtered first, and transported as carcases.

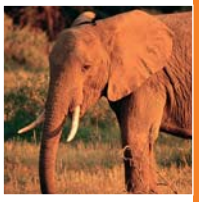
THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE CONCLUDED THAT:

"For most livestock transport, loading, with associated handling and driving, is the most stressful part. The disturbing parts may be fear, pain caused by humans, forced physical exercise especially on steep ramps, and the stress caused by the unfamiliar loading procedure, vehicle conditions and social contact."

"Some people who load or unload animals, or drive vehicles, do not treat the animals as sentient beings whose welfare should be safeguarded… Hence the welfare of animals is often very poor during loading, transport, especially on winding roads, and unloading."

Welfare problems occur for many reasons:

- Animals are crammed into overcrowded vehicles and often do not receive proper food, water or rest during their long journeys
- Animals become increasingly exhausted, dehydrated and stressed
- Animals often suffer heat stress. The European Union's Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare stated that "High temperatures in transport vehicles often cause poor welfare and mortality"
- Some animals are injured
- Some collapse on the floor and are trampled to death by their companions.



Humane slaughter is a two-stage process. Animals are first stunned; with a captive bolt, by electrical stunning or by gas, rendering them unconscious and insensible to pain. Their throats are then cut, and they die from loss of blood. If these procedures are not carried out properly, or are carried out by an improperly trained or untrained person, they may cause a lot of suffering to the animals.

PRIOR SLAUGHTER STUNNING IS MANDATORY ONLY WITHIN EUROPE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOME ASIAN COUNTRIES AND FOR MAMMALIAN SPECIES IN THE USA.

However, many of the farm animals in the world are slaughtered fully conscious, either because of low awareness of the welfare implications of slaughter, or, in some parts of world, because of religious reasons.

Scientific research shows that there can be a long time-gap between throat cutting and loss of brain responsiveness (more than one minute), especially for large mammals such as cattle. During this period many animals experience great pain and distress.

Injured animals (known as 'downed animals' or 'downers' in North America) suffer particularly at slaughter. They are often kicked, beaten, shocked, trampled, dragged with ropes or chains and left without food, water, shelter or veterinary care until they die, or are trucked away to be slaughtered. They are not killed at the farm because they are worth more money if they reach slaughter alive.

Markets: There can be serious welfare problems in markets, including overcrowding, lack of water, poor standards of stockmanship, inhumane treatment of animals and lack of veterinary care.

7 GENETIC ENGINEERING AND CLONING

Genetic engineering of farmed animals can be considered a violation of the biological integrity of species and many people therefore regard it as intrinsically wrong. Genetic engineering can allow the movement of genes between species, for example human to cow, or chicken to pig. Genetic engineering for greater productivity is indefensible, as most farmed animals are already stretched to their metabolic limits.

Genetic engineering is still in the experimental stage. Many experiments have resulted in the birth of transgenic animals which suffer severe health problems and often have to be destroyed on humane grounds.

Companies and academic institutions working in the field of biotechnology are eager to obtain **patents on the genetically engineered animals** that they produce. A patent allows the holder to profit from her or his invention as it means that, for a certain number of years, no one else can produce the invention without the patent-holder's permission.

The wider availability of patents is giving a major commercial boost to the genetic engineering of animals, a process which, all too often, leads to great suffering in animals. Furthermore, patenting, because it views animals as inventions or things, is ethically out of step with the growing recognition that animals should be treated as sentient beings.

Cloning: As with genetic engineering, a host of female animals are subjected to surgical operations to remove or implant egg cells or embryos for the cloning procedure, and many are killed after having served their purpose. Many cloned animals are born with deformities and many of those that survive develop fatal conditions. Cloning can also reproduce disease potential and is a threat to biodiversity.

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ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

The animal welfare movement has already used various strategies to improve the plight of farm animals. The following are just some examples of what has been, and could be, done:

a) Campaigns – Legislative and Consumer

- High profile campaigns (media events, demos, actions etc.), especially for bans on the worst systems or processes and for consumer awareness
- Investigations and media exposés, for example working with television documentaries for maximum campaign impact
- Using the introduction and enforcement of animal protection legislation to ban certain practices/ systems, for example close confinement systems, mutilations
- Using the introduction and enforcement of animal protection legislation to improve situations that cannot be banned, for example space allowances, provision of bedding
- Lobbying governmental authorities and politicians
- Bringing court cases to test existing law, for example whether battery cages contravene existing animal protection law
- Joint campaigns between farm animal, environmental and anti-vivisection groups
- Campaigns targeting companies that are the worst offenders
- Campaigns targeting companies doing business with the worst offenders, such as suppliers, buyers etc.

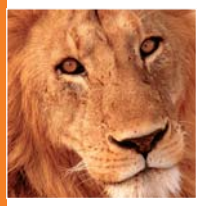
b) Consumer Education

- Introducing and supporting labelling schemes for higher welfare or organic products
- Comparing and publicising the welfare credentials of different labelling schemes
- Comparing and publicising the reality of poor welfare systems and products
- Comparing and publicising the welfare credentials of different fast food outlets, supermarkets, restaurants or other food companies

CIWF'S SUPERMARKET SURVEY
WWW.CIWF.ORG.UK/CAMPAIGNS/OTHER_CAMPAIGNS/COMPASSIONATE.HTML

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING (CIWF) TRUST CARRIES OUT A COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE WELFARE CREDENTIALS OF THE TOP 10 UK SUPERMARKET CHAINS. THE SURVEY COVERS A LARGE VARIETY OF WELFARE MEASURES, WHICH ARE REVIEWED EACH YEAR. CIWF HOPES TO IMPROVE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS BY COMPARING AND RANKING THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY RETAILERS, THUS GENERATING A COMPETITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS WELFARE AS A POSITIVE FACTOR FOR BRAND AND REPUTATION. MARKS AND SPENCER WON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE SURVEY IN 2001. WAITROSE, WHICH HAS MADE ENORMOUS ADVANCES IN ANIMAL WELFARE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF CIWF TRUST'S AUDIT, WON THE 2003 SURVEY.

WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE SUPERMARKETS, CIWF TRUST WILL CONTINUE TO SURVEY THEIR PERFORMANCE ANNUALLY. CIWF TRUST WILL ALSO BE SURVEYING SUPERMARKETS THAT OPERATE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE WITH A VIEW TO SURVEYING PERFORMANCE IN ANIMAL WELFARE WORLDWIDE.



- Working with the media, especially making documentaries, to expose the issues and the practices of different companies
- Making information available in targeted publications, for example specially written articles in food and lifestyle magazines
- Highlighting the fact that animal products cannot be cheap, since animals must pay the added high price of their suffering, good health and strongly compromised natural needs.

c) Formal Education

- Covering animal husbandry and farm animal issues in school educational materials and programmes
- Covering farm animal welfare issues in Veterinary and Agricultural University curricula, and providing resources like WSPA's 'Concepts in Animal Welfare'
- Including animal welfare education in all vocational programmes covering farm animal care, transport and slaughter.

9 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q Are there humane alternatives to intensive farming systems?

A Yes, there are tried and tested alternatives. For example, free range and organic systems already exist that do not rely on close confinement systems. These can be found on the web sites given below. Also, WSPA member society Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) is preparing an educational programme for agricultural universities explaining 'Animal Welfare Aspects of Good Agricultural Practice' in considerable detail.

Q Why are these cruel systems being banned in some countries, but promoted in others?

A Because some countries do not yet recognise the cruelties inherent in these systems, or the fact that animals are sentient beings that have the ability to suffer and feel pain. Some countries and companies may be aware of these factors, but feel that the need to produce 'cheap food' is more important. However, this is a short-term perspective, as the long-term impacts are significant, and the food is not in actuality cheap.

Q Can the world be fed without factory farming?

A Yes. In fact, for future generations to survive, there is no choice but to move towards humane and sustainable farming methods. People will doubtless also have to eat less meat, but this will benefit both the planet and their own health. See CIWF's 'Eat Less Meat' web site for more information.

10 FURTHER RESOURCES

Websites

AgriWorld Direct
www.agriworld.nl/

Animal Welfare Institute
www.awionline.org/farm/

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Compassion in World Farming
www.ciwf.org/
CIWF has a wide range of high quality, referenced reports, factsheets, briefings, educational materials and videos on all aspects of farm animal welfare. Many of the resources are available online or can be ordered free of charge.

CIWF's 'Eat Less Meat' Site
www.ciwf.org.uk/campaigns/primary_campaigns/eat_less_meat.html

Dr. Temple Grandin's Web Site
www.grandin.com/

EUREPGAP
www.eurep.org/

Farm Sanctuary
www.farmsanctuary.org/

Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)
www.fawc.org.uk/
Includes reports on farm animal welfare issues.

Food Animal Initiative
www.faifarms.co.uk/
Includes a series of project reports and technical data sheets.

Farmed Animal Net
www.farmedanimal.net/

Farm Animal Reform Movement
www.farmusa.org/

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
www.fao.org/

Humane Farming Association
www.hfa.org/

Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org/ace/11513

Humane Slaughter Association
www.hsa.org.uk/

Organic Research
www.organic-research.com/

Outlawed in Europe: Three Decades of Progress
www.ari-online.org/pages/europe1.html
A Report for Animal Rights International by Clare Druce and Philip Lymbery.

Pighealth.com
www.pighealth.com/welfare.htm
Farm animal welfare – the power struggle

Soil Association
www.soilassociation.org/

Books

Animal Factories
Jim Mason, Peter Singer
Publisher: Harmony Books
ISBN: 0517577518

Animal Machines
Ruth Harrison
Publisher: Stuart & W
ISBN: 0722400365

Animal Welfare and Meat Science
N.G. Gregory, T. Grandin
Publisher: CAB International
ISBN: 085199296

Assault and Battery
What Factory Farming Means for Humans and Animals
Mark Gold
Publisher: Pluto Press
ISBN: 0861047273

Factory Farming
Andrew Johnson
Publisher: Blackwell Publishers
ISBN: 0631178430

Farm Animals
Michael Fox
Publisher: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins
ISBN: 0839117698

Farm Animal Behaviour and Welfare
(Third Edition)
Fraser, Broom
Publisher: CABI Publishing
ISBN: 0851991602

Farm Animal Welfare: School, Bioethical and Research Issues
Bernard Rollin
Publisher: Iowa State University Press
ISBN: 0813825636

Farm Animal Welfare: What If Any Progress?
Ruth Harrison
Publisher: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)
ISBN: 0900767456

In too deep: the welfare of intensively farmed fish
Philip Lymbery
Publisher: CIWF Trust
ISBN: B0000CP095

Livestock Handling and Transport
T. Grandin
Publisher: CAB International
ISBN: 0851994091

Livestock Health and Welfare
R. Moss
Publisher: Blackwell Science
ISBN: 0582060842

Livestock Housing
C. M. Wathes, D. R. Charles
Publisher: CAB International
ISBN: 0851987745

Management and Welfare of Farm Animals: The UFAW Farm Handbook
Edited by P. Ray, Frances Kim-Madslien,
Barrie Hart and Roger Ewbank
Publisher: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
(UFAW)
ISBN: 1900630001

Social Behaviour in Farm Animals
L. J. Keeling, H. W. Gonyou
Publisher: CABI Publishing
ISBN: 0851993974

WSPA Resources

The Guiding Principles for Humane and Sustainable Farming
(2005)

Industrial Animal Agriculture: The Next Global Health Crisis?
Danielle Nierenberg, Worldwatch Institute and Leah Garcés, WSPA
Full Report (2005) and Summary Report (2004)

Forced Feeding
Advocates for Animals and WSPA (2000)
An Inquiry into the welfare of ducks and geese kept for the production of foie gras.

For a selection of **Farmwatch** leaflets and reports, see:
www.wspa-international.org

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