

## **Know What You Eat, Especially With Your Meat**

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Farm animal abuse includes when the cages of animals are overcrowded with unnatural light patterns and when workers are rough and abusive. In order to keep animals alive until slaughter, farmers routinely feed animals antibiotics. Factory farming is a way to make animal products, where animals are paying the price. People have been getting infected with germs like salmonella by ingesting animal products. The Socially Responsible Agriculture Project believes if you keep an animal healthy and treat it well, it will produce a higher quality product for consumers. 10 billion farm animals are raised each year in the U.S. and are treated in a way that consumers would not accept. The organization known as Certified Humane thinks consumers would prefer that animals be treated as they should. For example, they should be able to move around freely, be able to eat as much as they need, and not have to have a specific amount. Their goal is to help make the life of farm animals life better by increasing demand for humane farm animal practices.

Some studies examine animal cruelty rights as a broad movement. Because of the rising population, scientists invented factory farming to develop animal products quicker. For nearly 50 years, chickens were the only factory farmed animals. Then, in the 1970's pig farmers started factory farming their animals. Today, nearly 95% of farm animals are factory farmed for human consumption. So the farm food you're eating won't always be very healthy. There is also farm animal welfare. Farm animal welfare is caring for the animal and the exact opposite of factory farming. Farm animal welfare means when an animal copies the conditions it lives in. This isn't as common in the United States of America as it is in Europe because farm animal welfare occurs slower in the USA. If you go to a grocery store, many of the products they sell could be from a factory farm and you just don't notice it.

Over 95% of farm animal abuse is in the United States. The U.S raises and slaughters chickens 10 times more than any other animal. In the U.S, over 100 million pigs are raised in inhumane conditions and slaughtered. Hens that lay eggs are starved and exposed to changing light patterns to shock their bodies into molting, 5% to 10% of chickens die during this process. Also, the management of animals raised for food impacts humans health. 5% to 10% farms force molting on hens to trick the hens bodies for higher levels of egg production. One thing that happens to farm animals like hens and chickens is debeaking. Debeaking is when farmers take off a chicken's beak so that they don't resort to cannibalism due to stress.

Chicken's, turkey's, and duck's beaks are usually removed to stop cannibalism and excessive feather picking. Birds usually act like this when they are stressed or overcrowded. Chickens, cows, and pigs are treated with hormones and antibiotics as an attempt to keep them "healthy" for human consumption. Two out of three farm animals are now factory farmed. Chickens are usually either bred for their meat or for their eggs. Either way, both of these types of chickens suffer from physical problems due to genetic mutations.

PETA is an animal rights organization that focuses its attention on animal abuse in laboratories, clothing trade and in the food industry. PETA is the largest animal rights organization in the world with more than 6.5 million members and people who support it. PETA also works on animals like rodents, birds, and animals that can be considered pests. They work through places like public education, investigations, research, animal rescue, legislation, special events, celebrity investigations, and protest campaigns. PETA has also written many articles about farm animal abuse and the behind the scenes of the industry behind meat and dairy.

We learned so many things in this article. But for a fact farm animals are suffering and they need our help. Here are some ways you can help out. One way you can help is by joining an organization that supports saving farm animals. You could help by supporting other organizations. Another way you can help save farm animals is by going vegan or vegetarian. Eat less meat and dairy. What you have learned you could tell family, friends and neighbors.