

# FACT ACTS

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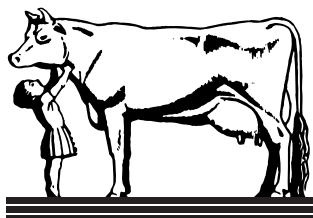
## Superbug Suit FACT to FDA; Enough is Enough!

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Super Suit	1
Food Safety	2
Humane Principles	3
Free Book	4
Long Time Donors	5



Last month FACT and our allies filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seeking an end to the use of antibiotics in animal feed. This practice contributes to the rise of drug-resistant superbugs and endangers the health of our families. Roughly 70 percent of all antibiotics used in the United States are given to healthy farm animals to promote faster growth and compensate for unsanitary conditions.



### FACT'S MISSION

The MISSION of Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is to improve the welfare of food producing animals. We seek to broaden opportunities for humane farmers, and address the public health problems that come from the production of meat, milk, and eggs.

**"Antibiotics are vital life-saving drugs that have the unique ability to kill bacteria without harming the patient. When they work they truly are miracle drugs but when they fail the results can be catastrophic. We can't let these precious medicines be wasted so factory farms can save - literally - a few pennies per pig."**

**Richard Wood**  
FACT Executive Director

In 1977 the FDA concluded that adding low-doses of antibiotics used in human medicine to animal feed raised the risk of antibiotic-resistant bacteria – and then allowed the practice to continue for decades. In 1999 and 2005 FACT and colleague groups petitioned the FDA seeking a ban on this factory farm drug abuse. Again, the FDA did nothing. The lawsuit states that the FDA has not met its legal responsibility to protect public health. If successful, it would require the agency to ban the routine use of penicillin and tetracyclines with farm animals and to respond to the two petitions.

The lawsuit has been covered in the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, as well as by other major media outlets, and the pork industry. Until our leaders find the courage to stand up for farm animal welfare and public health, life on factory farms will continue as usual. This is not acceptable. That is why we need your help. Take action today! Go to [www.foodanimalconcerns.org](http://www.foodanimalconcerns.org), and click on "Ban the Overuse of Antibiotics in Farm Animals." If you haven't done so already, don't forget to send in the postcard to the FDA we sent to you in May!



Dear friends,

Welcome to FACT ACTS!

FACT promotes humane and healthy farms through science-based advocacy, consumer education, and support for humane farmers. When the federal government fails to address the consequences of factory farming, we act on behalf of farm animals and human health.

For more than 30 years the FDA has known that feeding antibiotics to healthy farm animals threatens public health, and yet the agency has done virtually nothing about it. That is why last month, FACT, along with several allied organizations, filed a lawsuit against the FDA to preserve antibiotics for sick people and animals.

The FDA must act NOW!

FACT's work is also guided by a set of humane principles. This newsletter includes the second article in a three part series that focuses on broiler chickens and laying hens. While FACT does not certify products, we do include our perspective about what to look for when shopping at the grocery store.

I invite you to join FACT as we move towards our vision of humane and healthy farms. Visit our website at [www.food-animalconcerns.org](http://www.food-animalconcerns.org) to become informed about our work. And please make a contribution by either using the enclosed envelope or clicking our "donate" button on-line.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of farm animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Wood".

Richard Wood  
Executive Director

## Keeping Food Safe

In addition to the recent lawsuit, FACT is a leader in bringing together organizations to apply pressure on the FDA. FACT, as part of Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW), advocates for common sense steps to stop the spread of resistant bacteria that are escaping from factory farms. FACT provides leadership to KAW, a coalition of 13 health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, and humane organizations with a combined membership of more than eleven million people.

While we are working hard to change regulatory policy through the FDA lawsuit, FACT is simultaneously taking a legislative approach through Congress. For example, we advocate for federal legislation called the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act. If passed by Congress, this bill would end the routine use of critically important drugs with healthy farm animals.

The recent deadly outbreak of *Escherichia coli* in Europe is a perfect example of why our work is important. While this outbreak of *E. coli* was most likely spread from a person to beans sprouts, some of the genes that made it so toxic are normally found in *E. coli* in cattle. FACT has a new project that will look at what role farm animals can play in the spread of these new types of *E. coli*.

We also actively work to make sure that animal feed does not contain ingredients dangerous for animals or people who consume meat, milk, and eggs. FACT recently scored a victory when the FDA announced that roxarsone, a form of arsenic, would no longer be sold in the United States or fed to chickens – a step we have previously demanded they take.



Public Health Program Director Steve Roach on an Iowa farm that does not feed antibiotics to its pigs.

# FACT Way vs. Factory Way

## Humane Principles That Guide FACT's Work

FACT believes animals that are humanely raised are generally happier, healthier and experience a better quality of life than farm animals raised by industrial agriculture. The following article is the second in a three-part series where we lay out the humane principles which guide our work. We also contrast FACT's way with how animals are generally treated on factory farms. In the last edition of FACT ACTS we focused on the welfare of beef cattle and dairy cows. We now outline how our principles apply to broiler chickens and laying hens.



## Broiler Chickens

### Factory Way:

Broiler chickens, or chickens raised for meat, are confined by the thousands in crowded, unsanitary buildings with little natural light and poor ventilation. These chickens have been bred to grow faster and larger than their ancestors and suffer crippling and deadly disorders as a result. The birds also experience severe leg disorders because of the excess weight they are forced to carry. Birds raised for meat are never caged as cages can cause severe bruising to their muscle. If poultry meat is labeled as cage-free, you can be sure it is simply a marketing gimmick to mislead the consumer.

### FACT Way:

- Chickens raised for meat should live in conditions that allow the birds to have freedom of movement and the ability to engage in most natural behaviors, such as eating, drinking, sleeping, idling, preening, running, jumping, scratching, foraging and ground pecking, wing flapping, wing or leg stretching, dust-bathing, encounters with other birds, and vocalizing.
- Broiler chickens should not be confined indoors for their entire lives and adult birds should also be given the opportunity to spend significant amounts of time on pasture.
- When they are on pasture, the birds should have access to housing that is comfortable and provides protection from climatic conditions and predators.
- When the animals are inside, they should be raised in conditions that allow for natural light and dark cycles and have access to raised perching areas and dust baths.
- Birds should receive antibiotics only for treatment of disease or illness, as prescribed by a veterinarian.

## What You Should Look For

Look for free-range poultry. These birds are allowed some access to the outdoors, although the amount and type of access can vary greatly. Ideally, look for birds that are raised on pasture, as exercise and fresh air provide many health benefits to the birds in terms of reduced lameness and respiratory infections. It may be difficult to find pasture-raised chicken and turkey in your grocery store. FACT suggests visiting your local farmers market and buying directly from the farmer. That way, you can ask about the production practices and how the birds are treated.

## Laying Hens

### Factory Way:

Hens are packed into tiny wire cages that are typically 20 by 24 inches in area, sharing the space with at least six other birds. It is almost impossible for the birds to stretch their wings in these “battery cages.” Each of the many houses on a large egg operation may contain tens of thousands of birds in cages stacked one on top of each other up to eight cages deep. Hens should receive antibiotics only for treatment of disease or illness, as prescribed by a veterinarian. Laying hens may also be subjected to “force molting” in order to extend their laying capacity. This process involves greatly reducing nutrients to the hens for up to 28 days.



### FACT Way:

- Laying hens should not be raised in cages but rather in conditions that allow the birds to have freedom of movement and the ability to engage in natural behaviors, such as spreading their wings, pecking, dust bathing, perching and nesting. All laying hens should have access to nest boxes and sleeping perches.
- Ideally, hens would be given daily access to the outdoors with preference given to entirely free-range systems.
- The birds should not be subjected to forced molting and should be raised in conditions that do not necessitate debeaking and beak trimming.

### What You Should Look For

Neither the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has any process verification system in place to define, regulate, monitor or validate claims on egg labels. Demand continues to grow for cage free eggs and large food companies are beginning to implement buying policies that include cage free eggs. FACT recommends purchasing eggs from producers who are committed to humane and sustainable production practices. We believe that meaningful access to pasture is essential.

Our next newsletter will feature our final article on pigs. You can also find this information on our website at <http://www.foodanimalconcerns.org/humane4.htm>.



## Limited Time Offer – Free book for FACT Donors

The first 40 people who donate at least \$25 can choose to receive the book, *CAFO: The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories*.

This 450-page, full color hardcover book retails at \$50 and provides an unprecedented view of concentrated animal feeding operations - where increasing amounts of the world's meat, milk, eggs, and seafood are produced. It features essays by today's leading thinkers on food and agriculture including Wendell Berry, and Michael Pollan, and offers a compelling vision for a healthier food system. Whether it is for your personal use or to share with others, the book's ultimate message is clear: we can and certainly must do better.

Simply indicate on the return envelope that you would like a book and FACT will mail it out to you. Email Jacki Rossi at [rossi@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:rossi@foodanimalconcerns.org) or call 773-525-4952 if you have any questions. This offer is made possible by the generous support of the Deep Ecology Fund of Tides Foundation.

## FACT's Caring Corner

Your contribution enables FACT to improve the lives of farm animals. The majority of FACT's revenue comes from individual donors. This ongoing and generous support is what makes it possible for FACT to accomplish so much.

### Legacy Gifts

Please consider naming FACT as a beneficiary in your will. Gifts may be made for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the total estate, or a portion of the estate remaining after you have provided for your family. We are deeply appreciative of our donors and want to recognize their extraordinary generosity and exceptional commitment. The following individuals have provided bequests between July 2010 and June 2011:

**Mary Peirano Aiken**  
**H. Helen Helenah H. Allen**  
**Richard Blacker**  
**Barbara W. Dean**  
**Anabelle Howard**  
**Mildred Lillis**  
**Jospeh L. Monarca**  
**Ethel J. Rothman Trust**  
**Barbara C. Smith**  
**Norine Wedig**

### Honorary and Memorial Gifts

Our ability to work on behalf of farm animals is made possible by the kindness of people like you. Your honorary or memorial gift to FACT helps us to continue our efforts to make farms humane and healthy places for pigs, cows, and chickens. FACT has received generous donations between February 2011 and June 2011 in memory of:

**Mary and John, who grew up on farms**  
**Clyde and Irene West**

FACT would like to thank all those donated legacy and memorial gifts. We also would like to thank our donors who responded to our recent survey. Thank you for your generosity and commitment – we couldn't do it without you!

## FACT Recognizes Long Time Donors!

FACT would like to recognize the generosity and loyalty of our long time donors. Your sustained support over the years has made it possible for us to continue to fight for healthier and more humane living conditions for farm animals. The following people have recently supported FACT since 1983:

Mr. Michael H. Bogal	Mrs. Miles F. Mulloy
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Carroll	Ms. Lorain Stephens Olsen
Joan Clark, QC	L. A. Pedersen
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas C. Colletti	Ms. Patricia J. Petro-Mueller
Thomas O. Daly, M.D.	Melitta & Maria Pniewski
Mrs. Genevieve Dawson-Goss	Mrs. Evaline H. Rhodehamel
Ms. Sheila May Dines	Ms. Lyn Ridgeway
Joseph L. Dombrowski, Esq.	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Rothausser
Mary A. Gallucci	Dr. Heidi S. Rothenberg
Sally Haines, DVM	Mr. Thomas G. Scully
Ms. Sheila R. Harper	Mrs. Jeanette Shammas
Miss Alice B. Jansen	Dr. Ellen-Marie Silverman
Ms. Sylvia S. Jaynes	Mellonie A. Smicklas
Mr. Edward N. Kallas, Jr.	Mrs. Shirley A. Stitt
Ms. Sylvia Khan	Janet L. Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford A. Kirk	Mrs. Mimi Taylor
Mrs. Donnajean Lanciotti	Ms. Linda M. Thomas
Dr. Jeanne A. LaTorre	Dr. Toussaint G. Toole
Mr. Richard Leff	Mrs. Sally H. Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin D. Leiner	Ms. Madelin M. Wexler
Mrs. William P. Lesko	Mr. Burlington Willes
Mrs. Rose Marie Lirot	Benjamn & Donna S. Wolf
Ms. Cherie Mason	Mrs. Constance S. Yonan
Ms. Elizabeth F. Moody	

As we approach our 30th anniversary year, we recently asked our long time contributors to share their thoughts about FACT.

Maria and Melitta Pniewski, donors since 1983, wrote that they "wanted to support an organization dedicated to helping the forgotten animals who nourish us and suffer insufferable torment. They go on to say that one of their fondest memories of FACT is Nest Eggs. "We were sorry to see them disappear – but they led the way to the great variety of humanely-produced foods available today! Like its name, FACT presents straight facts about factory farms and conditions in which farm animals are raised!"

Here is what other long time donors had to say:

"Over 20 years ago Robert Brown and I went to farms in Pennsylvania that were producing NEST Eggs. FACT also has very important programs such as Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW)."

- Richard Left, Board Member and donor since 1983

"One of the most important things FACT does is to help get farm animals back on the farm and not in cages and pens. They also work on the unnecessary use of antibiotics. Keep up the good work – it's working!"

- Mimi Taylor, donor since 1983

## FACT'S Programs



### Humane Farming

FACT seeks to improve the welfare of food animals and to broaden opportunities for humane farmers.

### Public Health

FACT addresses public health problems caused by the production of meat, milk, and eggs through research and the promotion of improved farming practices.

If you would like receive email updates on FACT's work and information on how you can help, subscribe to FACT Sheets, our monthly e-newsletter. To subscribe, check the box on the business reply envelope (enclosed) or email Jacki Rossi, Communication Manager, at [jrossi@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:jrossi@foodanimalconcerns.org) or call (773) 525-4952.

### Privacy Policy

FACT maintains a database with names, addresses and donations from contributors. Names and addresses of contributors are never provided to other organizations on a rental, name trading, or other basis. Personal information on FACT's website is protected by an SSL server; any personal information submitted on-line is protected and safe. We ask that all donations be made online or sent by mail to our new office at 3525 W. Peterson Ave., Suite #213, Chicago, IL 60659.

## FACT

Food Animal Concerns Trust  
3525 W. Peterson Ave, Ste. 213  
Chicago, IL 60659-3314

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At a recent Earth Day event, FACT presented our humane education workshop, "The Awesome Adventures of Sweet Pea the Pig."