

FACT ACTS

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FACT Way vs. Factory Way

Humane Principles That Guide FACT's Work

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Animals on factory farms are treated like food producing machines that are immune to suffering. They are pumped full of antibiotics to compensate for their squalid, crowded living conditions and to make them grow faster. They are deprived of the opportunity to live according to their natural behaviors, cramped into small spaces and often fed an unnatural diet.

FACT believes there is a better, more humane way to raise pigs, chickens and cows. At a minimum, these animals deserve adequate space, access to the outdoors, clean water and air, the opportunity to express their natural behaviors, and safe, healthful feed.

Several of our past projects, including Rambling Rose veal and NEST EGGS® cage-free eggs, have addressed the welfare of farm animals. Through this work a set of humane principles has evolved, expressed in terms of the "Factory Way versus the FACT Way." In a series of FACT ACT articles, we will outline these principles, beginning with beef cattle and dairy cows. You can also find all this information and more on our website at www.foodanimalconcerns.org.

Beef Cattle

Factory Way:

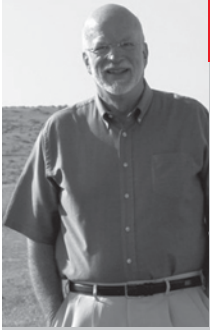
Most cattle are born and initially raised on "cow-calf" operations, grazing on rangeland. However, when they are six or seven months old, calves are forcibly weaned from their mothers and moved to either a "stocker operation" to bulk up or directly to a feedlot. Weaning is an extremely stressful event in a calf's life as the young animal is denied access to its mother's milk and social interaction with the herd.

Cattle spend the last six months of their lives confined to the feedlot, crowded by the thousands into dusty, manure-laden holding pens where they are fed an unnatural and harmful grain-based diet. A diet high in corn and other grains can cause cattle to develop liver abscesses and other metabolic disorders since they are ruminant animals with a digestive system designed for grass and forage. Beef cattle are routinely

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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.



Dear friends,

Welcome to FACT ACTS!

The FACT Way vs. the Factory Way – what's the difference?

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. Our lead article is the first in a two-part series where we lay out the humane principles which guide our work. In this FACT ACTS we focus on the welfare of beef cattle and dairy cows. Next time we will include information on chickens and pigs. While FACT does not certify products, we do include our perspective about what to look for when shopping at the grocery store.

FACT's concerns for animal welfare also guide our advocacy before Congress and the regulatory agencies. For example, we don't want antibiotics to be continuously fed to healthy farm animals. This is a common practice on factory farms as a substitute for humane and healthy husbandry. This newsletter describes the progress FACT has made in its work with Congress and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

We have also made significant strides in humane education. Not only have we developed a new workshop but staff members will be presenting at the Association of Professional Humane Educators Annual Conference this winter.

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 to become informed about our work. Together we can make a difference in the lives of farm animals.

Sincerely,

Richard Wood

FACT Way vs. Factory Way continued...

given hormones and antibiotics to treat easily preventable ailments and to accelerate weight gain during finishing on the feedlot when they are being readied for market.

FACT Way:

- Beef cattle should not ever be confined on feedlots or other types of confinement feeding operations.
- Cows and their calves should live in conditions where they have freedom of movement and the ability to engage in natural behaviors, such as socializing, exercising, and grazing.
- Calves should be reared with their mothers and other cows and calves. Weaning should be determined by the health condition of the cow and her calf, with preference given to longer weaning times.
- Beef cattle should be fed a natural diet consisting of grasses and forages for their entire lives, with the exception of milk consumed by calves prior to weaning.
- All animals should be provided continuous outdoor access to properly managed pastures and not undergo tail docking, dehorning, hot branding or freeze branding.

What You Should Look For

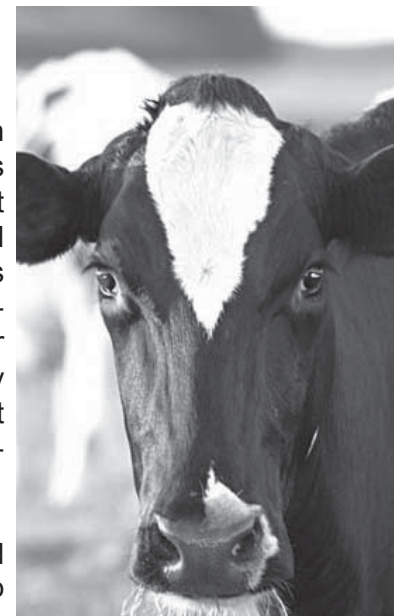
Labels that read "raised without hormones and antibiotics" are better choices, although humane treatment is not guaranteed. It is best to purchase beef that is labeled grass-fed, pasture-raised or grass-finished (in addition to raised without hormones and antibiotics) as this implies that the animals were on pasture for their entire lives.

Dairy Cows

Factory Way:

In general, dairy cows are raised in free stalls or drylots, without access to pasture or a natural ruminant diet of grasses or forages. Free stall style housing makes use of barns with open cubicles for the cows. Drylots are essentially unpaved, outdoor dirt lots. The dairy industry's primary objective is to maximize the amount of milk produced, leading to high energy diets and frequent milkings.

However, grain-based diets and confinement housing contribute to most of the common cow health



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Humane Education - new workshop, new partner & national conference!



Since kicking off our humane education project in October 2009, FACT staff members have presented our innovative workshops to hundreds of young people. The interactive workshops raise awareness about the struggles faced by farm animals and cultivate positive character traits in children through animal stories, puppetry, and movement. We currently offer three workshops free of charge to students across the Chicago metro area:

The Awesome Adventures of Sweet Pea the Pig: Sweet Pea's tale tells the story of a courageous pig who escapes from a factory farm. With the help of friends she meets along the way, she finds a new home on a family farm where she is treated humanely.

The Egg-cellent Adventures of Rhoda the Hen: Disbelieving of Sweet Pea's tale, Rhoda the Hen goes on her own journey to find out the truth about factory farming. In the end, Rhoda realizes that she was wrong and apologizes to Sweet Pea for not believing her.

And our most recent story, which debuted in November 2010...

Hannah Moo-tana and the Case of the Curious Calf: In this story, Hannah Moo-tana the dairy cow and her inquisitive calf Douglas investigate pollution coming from a factory farm. Douglas learns a lesson about listening to his mom and why it's important to stop water pollution so that animals and people don't get sick.

We are happy to announce that we have expanded our partnership with the YMCA. In addition, staff members Lisa Isenhardt and Larissa McKenna will be presenting at the Association of Professional Humane Educators Annual Conference this winter. At the conference they will share information about FACT's humane education project in their presentation titled, "Adventures in Humane Education: Cultivating kindness for farm animals through storytelling, puppetry and yoga." For more information about our Humane Education activities, please visit www.foodanimalconcerns.org/humane2.htm.

BAD LABEL BRIGADE

'Natural' label



Many people might think that meat labeled as 'natural' is healthier and produced under humane conditions.

Unfortunately this is not necessarily the case. The term 'natural' can be applied to all kinds of food products, including soft drinks, cereals and meats. It is defined as "a product containing no artificial ingredients or added color and is only minimally processed." It does not say anything about how the animals were raised on the farm, whether antibiotics were used, or if the animals were given access to the outdoors and allowed to exhibit their natural behaviors.

FACT believes the natural label needs to be defined more precisely, particularly because consumers often pay premium prices for food they believe was produced under healthy and humane conditions.

What is Humane Education?

FACT views humane education as the primary way that values of a humane lifestyle are taught and learned. Living humanely means caring about the people and animals that inhabit this world, and making choices that demonstrate compassion and respect for others. Humane education is an approach that seeks to instill the desire to live with these qualities, along with many more such as integrity, empathy, and honesty. We believe that these character traits are essential components of a humanely-oriented community and world.

FACT Advocates for Strong Feed Safety & Antibiotic Use Policies

FACT continues to work hard to reduce the negative impacts industrialized animal farming has on human health. We are doing this in numerous arenas, from improving animal feed safety to strengthening policies related to how antibiotics are used on farms.

Feed Safety

Feed can contribute to the spread of both animal and human disease. If feed is contaminated with disease-causing organisms, animals consuming the feed can become infected and then spread the illness to other animals. In addition, certain types of feed can promote the growth of disease-causing bacteria, also known as pathogens. Animals can be exposed to pathogens via contaminated feed. Once animals are infected, they can transmit the pathogen to humans who eat either products from the infected animals or other foods such as vegetables that are contaminated by the manure from infected animals.

Late last year, FACT organized consumer groups to fight against an FDA proposal that would weaken feed safety standards. We submitted comments opposing changes in feed regulations that would allow the sale of feed known to be contaminated with Salmonella. Salmonella is the most common cause of foodborne bacterial illness in the United States and should not be allowed in animal feed.

Antibiotic Use on Farms

For the first time ever, the FDA recently released data on the amount of antibiotics sold for use in food animals. The data clearly show that over 70 percent of antibiotics used in the United States are used in food animals. FACT has asked the FDA to provide more details on this drug use. For instance, we would like to know what amount is mixed in feed as compared to the amount used for disease treatment by injection. Such details would help us understand how antibiotics are actually used on farms. Then, better policies could be formulated and trends in antibiotic resistance could be analyzed more accurately.

In addition to working with the FDA, FACT's Public Health Program Director, Steve Roach, traveled to South Korea in October to participate in the last of four meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Ad hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance. The task force completed a document describing steps that countries could take to combat the critical public health problem of resistance coming from antibiotic use. We were successful in securing an option to remove from the market food contaminated with resistant bacteria if that food creates a public health risk. FACT worked with consumer organizations in Australia, Denmark, Germany, and Japan to influence government delegations from those countries.

At a more local level, Steve traveled to Arizona in January to meet with agriculture state legislators and discussed the link between antibiotics resistance and agriculture. There, FACT recommended actions that states could take to address the problem such as requiring schools and prisons to buy meat from animals raised without unnecessary antibiotics.



FACT Partners with Chicago Area Whole Foods Market on April 6

Purchase healthy and organic products while helping to support FACT! On Wednesday, April 6th, FACT will partner with Whole Foods Market, Sauganash for a community giving day. FACT will receive five percent of the store's net sales from that day. This is a wonderful opportunity for us, to be active in our local community while promoting humane food choices. If you live in the Chicago area, come stock up at Whole Foods Market, Sauganash on Wednesday, April 6, and help support FACT! Whole Foods Market, Sauganash is located at 6020 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.

Calling All eBay Buyers and Sellers!

FACT is happy to announce that we are now part of the eBay Giving Works program. You can support our mission when you buy and sell on eBay. Here's how:

Sell

You can support FACT when you sell on eBay. Just designate our organization to receive 10 to 100% of your final sale price the next time you list something for sale. Simply list an item, select "Food Animal Concerns Trust" as the designated charity, and choose the percentage you would like to give.

Buy

You can find whatever you're looking for on eBay – from baseball cards to cars and more. When you do, shop for items that benefit us. You can get a great deal and support FACT at the same time!

Electronic FACT ACTS Newsletter Sign-Up Now!

FACT strives to find cost-effective yet user-friendly approaches that meet both our environmental goals and the needs of our donors. If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of FACT ACTS rather than a paper copy, please email Jacki Rossi at jrossi@foodanimalconcerns.org with FACT ACTS in the subject line.

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.

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 August 2010 and February 2011:

H. Helenah H. Allen
Joseph L. Monarca
Norine Wedig

Mildred Lillis
Barbara C. Smith
Richard Blacker

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 August 2010 and February 2011 in memory of:

Margaret Brenda Bradley
Wendy Grimm
Beverly Lund

Ralph Fravel
Josie the Cat
Clyde and Irene West

FACT would also like to recognize the following individuals for their generous In-Kind donations between August 2010 and February 2011:

Ms. Mary Ellen Crowley
Mr. Tony LoCoco
Ms. Elsa L. Parli
Mr. John Rossi

Mrs. Frances Krohn
Ms. Linda Maglio
Ms. Jacki Rossi
Ms. Julie Serocki

For more information on how you can choose FACT when making gifts to honor anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, and other special occasions – or in memory of a loved one – please contact FACT at (773) 525-4952 or visit our Donate page at www.foodanimalconcerns.org. There you will find options to make a onetime contribution, an honorary/memorial gift, or a monthly donation.

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 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
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Chicago, IL 60659-3314

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FACT Way vs. Factory Way continued...

problems including mastitis, lameness, sterility and high mortality. Mastitis is an inflammation of the udder. In addition, the use of hormones to promote milk production dramatically increases the incidence of disease and illness. Antibiotics are then needed to treat these problems. Cows on factory farms often live for only three lactations and are then shipped off to the slaughterhouse for use in hamburger and processed meats.

FACT way:

- Dairy cattle should not be kept in confinement feeding operations without access to pasture and calves should not be confined in crates. Rather, cattle should be raised in conditions that allow the cows and their calves to have freedom of movement and the ability to engage in natural behaviors.
- All dairy cows should be provided continuous outdoor access.
- Antibiotics, hormones, or other substances should not be used for milk production, growth promotion or disease prevention.
- Cattle should not undergo tail docking, dehorning, ear notching, and hot branding or freeze branding.

What You Should Look For

Organic dairy products are produced from cows that are not treated with hormones or antibiotics and that graze on pasture for the full length of the local grazing season (at minimum 120 days). It is required that the animals consume at least 30 percent of their food from pasture during the grazing season.

Our next newsletter will describe humane principles for laying hens, broiler chickens and pigs!

