

## **Research**

FACT recently completed a three-year review of the scientific literature which documented widespread incidence of diseases in American herds and flocks of farm animals. It is of interest that this study was supported by the Pfeiffer Foundation which usually only funds research relevant to human health.

In the mid-1980s FACT also launched a ten-year, large scale, on-farm research project, first to develop an economically viable way to free laying hens from cages, and then to develop a protocol to reduce widespread contamination of eggs with Salmonella. Results included the establishment of a national niche market in supermarkets for humanely produced eggs and an FDA proposed regulation based on FACT's research requiring all egg farms to test for Salmonella. The study, "Salmonella enteritidis Control in Layer Flocks Housed in a Non-intensive Husbandry System," can be found on our 'Publications' page.

FACT is now in the second year of a long-term, on-farm research project to test achievable steps dairy producers can take to improve the welfare of their cows. We first conducted an extensive review of the scientific literature on possible management practices that could improve dairy cow welfare, and then visited with dairy producers and their consultants. In 2006, FACT started research on two dairies in Texas with an initial focus on heat stress, a major calf and cow welfare issue on Southwest dairies.

Research provides the framework for FACT's response to issues related to human health and humane husbandry.