

## Research

Research provides the framework for FACT's response to issues related to human health and animal husbandry. In the mid-1980s FACT launched a large scale research project on egg farms. Our first objective was to develop an economically viable way to produce cage-free eggs, known as our NEST Eggs project. In addition, we conducted research to develop a protocol to reduce widespread Salmonella contamination in eggs. As a result of this project, FACT created a national niche market in supermarkets for humanely produced eggs. Based on this research, FACT also spurred the FDA to craft a new policy that requires all egg farms to test for Salmonella. FACT's study, "Salmonella enteritidis Control in Layer Flocks Housed in a Non-intensive Husbandry System," can be found on our 'Publications' page.

Since then, FACT has focused on our Humane and Sustainable Dairy Research Project. This project was aimed at improving cow and calf welfare in the Southwest, the region where the dairy industry is growing the fastest. Heat stress was identified as a major welfare problem for dairy calves and cows in this region. FACT established a working relationship with researchers from Texas A & M University who helped set-up projects on two cooperating dairies in the Southwest during the summer of 2006. In August 2008 we completed our research and analyzed the results during the months that followed. Tests were replicated to verify results, volumes of data were collated, conclusions were drawn, and reports were drafted. The research was ground-breaking in that it studied the effects that heat stress can have on calves immediately after birth. Going forward, we are hopeful that what may seem like small, specific changes in dairy management will eventually have a broad impact on the welfare of dairy calves.