

FACT ACTS

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FACT'S Mission

FACT seeks to improve the welfare of food animals; broaden opportunities for humane farmers; and address public health problems that come from the production of meat, milk and eggs.

Make Humane Grilling Choices This Summer!

Summertime for many Americans is a time to cook on the backyard barbeque with family and friends. For those of you who eat meat, remember that the food choices you make in the grocery store can have a significant impact on the welfare of farm animals across the country. Your purchases let retailers and producers know that consumers are interested in humanely-raised food products.



Food labels are often confusing and misleading, which is why FACT advocates for strict standards for production claims on meat, milk, and eggs. There is no one label that consumers can rely on to indicate that the animals used to produce the food were humanely raised and handled. Because informed consumers are so important to the animal welfare movement, we have provided some tips below for how you can make humane food choices this grilling season.

The factory farms of modern agriculture are a model of efficiency: they support a system designed to produce the most meat, milk and eggs as quickly and cheaply as possible. Animal welfare is blatantly disregarded. Thousands of animals are crammed into unhygienic, crowded quarters. Antibiotics are dispensed constantly to animals through their feed and water, creating serious health hazards for both animals and people.

What to Look for at the Grocery Store or Farmers' Market: Beef

On factory farms, beef cattle are routinely raised with hormones and antibiotics to speed growth and accelerate weight gain during finishing on the feedlot (when animals are readied for market). Dairy cattle are often treated with hormones to increase milk output and then dosed with antibiotics to treat the increased incidence of mastitis (udder infections) that occurs. When antibiotic treatments fail, these dairy cattle end up at the slaughterhouse for use in hamburger and processed meats.

Products with labels that read "raised without hormones and antibiotics" are better choices, although humane treatment is not guaranteed. We recommend you purchase beef that is labeled grass fed, pasture-raised or grass-finished as this implies that the animals were on pasture for their entire lives. Although most beef cattle are raised on pasture, typical factory-farmed beef is finished for the last few months on a feedlot diet of corn. Cattle should be raised *and* finished on pasture as it is their natural diet. Some farmers will supplement with grain, but the less grain, the better, as grass is a more natural diet for cattle and will not upset their rumen (stomach). (cont. page 2)



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer 2008 edition of FACT ACTS. This edition provides an update on important issues related to making farms humane and healthy places for farm animals, and identifies steps you can take to help. In our last issue of FACT ACTS, we highlighted our Consumer Against Litter in Feed (CALF) campaign. We have completed a comprehensive review of the literature and share some of our key findings on page 3. You will also find tips on how to make humane grilling choices and an opportunity to take action to stop drug abuse on farms.

I would also like to thank you for your financial support, which is what makes it possible for FACT to accomplish so much. In addition to donations made by check or credit card, FACT gratefully accepts bequests and other 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. For more information on making a gift to FACT, please call us at (773) 525-4952 or read our article on legacy giving on page 6. And don't forget to check out our website at www.foodanimalconcerns.org to read about our current work.

Sincerely,

Richard Wood

BAD LABEL BRIGADE

Common Assumption

'Natural' meat is healthier and produced under humane conditions.

What it Really Means

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. The natural label needs to be defined more precisely for consumers who pay premium prices for food they believe was produced under healthy and humane conditions.



Poultry (Humane Choices cont...)

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, try to purchase birds that were raised on pasture, as exercise and fresh air provide many health benefits to the birds in terms of reduced lameness and respiratory infections. Although most pastured poultry are fed grain, they should be raised on grass, and free to peck and walk around. FACT suggests visiting your local farmers' market and buying directly from the farmer.



Since the average life of a broiler (or chicken raised for meat) is fairly short, they are not beak-trimmed. Furthermore, birds raised for meat are never caged as cages can cause severe bruising. If poultry meat is labeled as cage-free, you can be sure it is simply a marketing gimmick to mislead the consumer. Note that hormones are not permitted in poultry production by law. Therefore, a "no added hormones" claim on chicken and turkey is misleading.

Pork

Most pigs are raised in small pens on slatted metal or concrete floors. Breeding sows are raised in gestation crates. These crates are actually small, individual stalls on slatted floors which severely restrict freedom of movement, including turning sideways or lying down comfortably. FACT considers these conditions very inhumane because there is inadequate opportunity for exercise; conditions are unsanitary, with pigs often caked in their own feces; and the air is heavily fouled with the fumes from manure pits which lie beneath the slatted floors.

Look for pork that is labeled as free range, pasture-raised or "raised in deep-bedded housing." These systems allow for freedom of movement and the expression of natural behaviors, which is especially important in reducing overall stress. Humanely produced pork is often also labeled as "raised without hormones and antibiotics." However the use of hormones in pork production is also prohibited by law.

Your food choices can make a difference. For a list of farmers and other humane choices in your area, please contact FACT. You can also visit www.eatwild.com or www.eatwell-guide.org to search for local options. FACT is committed to making farms healthy and humane places for animals to live—and we hope you will join us today!

Campaign Update: Consumers Against Litter in Feed

Safe animal feed is essential for maintaining the health and welfare of farm animals—and the health of people who consume meat products. As FACT has reported in the past, feeding poultry manure and litter to cows is an inhumane yet legal practice that puts the well-being of farm animals at risk.



The poultry litter fed to cows is what factory farmers scoop up from the floors of the buildings where broiler chickens, or chickens raised for meat, are raised. Litter consists of manure, feathers, spilled chicken feed, wood shavings, corn husks, and straw that accumulate on the floors of the buildings. It can also contain disease-causing bacteria, antibiotics, heavy metals, restricted feed ingredients including meat and bone meal from dead cattle, and even foreign objects such as dead rodents, rocks, nails and glass. This material is collected, processed using techniques such as composting and deep-stacking, and then added to cattle feed because of its high protein and mineral content. Using animal waste as animal feed can spread human and animal diseases. It can also contain drug residues and antibiotic resistant bacteria which can cause serious food-borne illnesses.

Over the past year, in collaboration with a public health graduate student from the University of Illinois at Chicago, we have completed a comprehensive review of scientific studies, federal and state regulations and agriculture industry guidelines that have influenced current policies and practices. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first such review since the late 1970s. Our findings suggest that this practice is neither adequately monitored nor researched, endangering the health of animals and humans.



KEY FINDINGS

- The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) current position on poultry litter in cattle feed has not changed since 1980, in spite of the recognition of the risk of mad cow disease, sweeping changes in agricultural practices, and 28 years of veterinary and biomedical developments contributing to new understandings of agriculture and food-related health threats.
- While the responsibility for monitoring the use of poultry litter as cattle feed is held by individual state Departments of Agriculture, most states’ policies are either poorly known or nonexistent. Enforcement may be sporadic at best.
- There are no reliable estimates of how much litter is used as feed or where it is used. The figures we do have for the percentage of the total chicken litter fed to cows range between one and 35 percent, and were approximated through surveys and calculations performed by industry and government groups. The variation in these estimates illustrates the absence of any significant monitoring and suggests that state governments are ill-equipped to respond to adverse health events associated with litter feed.
- Recommendations for processing litter to make it suitable for use as feed are highly variable and often conflicting. For example, it is necessary to heat litter to a high enough temperature to kill bacteria but some publications warn that too high a temperature would make it less nutritious as feed. Lack of consistent information is problematic. Litter used as a feed ingredient lacks mandated and enforced processing standards to ensure it is safe.

FACT is in the process of completing a report on this research and plans to publicly release it by the end of 2008. The report’s findings will be the backbone for future steps we will take to advocate for a ban on the practice. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to be a Consumer Against Litter in Feed! For more information on this issue, please visit <http://www.foodanimalconcerns.org/humanecalfbkgr.htm>.

What's Wrong With This Scenario?

Animal Drug Industry Funds FDA to Consider Approval of New Drugs More Quickly



FACT, along with many other like-minded groups across the country, is facing a serious challenge. Unknown to most, it is now standard practice for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to receive fees from animal drug companies in exchange for the agency's commitment to consider the approval of new drugs more quickly. On the surface this sounds like an illegal scheme conjured up by the drug industry to fast track their products to market. In reality, it is a legal and accepted practice, formally established by the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) in 2003, and now before Congress for renewal. FACT believes that this system needs to change.

ADUFA creates a risk to human and animal health because it sets up a system whereby drug companies pay "user fees" to the FDA and in turn the agency is mandated to consider approval for a certain percentage of applications for new drugs within a specific time period. As antibiotic use increases, so does the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

The miracle drugs of the 20th century are under threat, thanks in large part to their misuse on factory farms with pigs, chickens and cows. Drugs like penicillin and tetracycline, relied upon by doctors to treat respiratory disease and heart infections in humans, are also fed routinely to farm animals – not to treat diagnosed disease, but instead to promote growth and to compensate for the overcrowded, stressful, unsanitary conditions found on confined animal operations. This reckless use in animals of tried and true human antibiotics has contributed to the development of serious antibiotic resistant human disease. It has also made these antibiotics less effective in treating sick farm animals.

For many years FACT has urged Congress to pass the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, legislation that would limit the routine agriculture use of antibiotics important to human medicine. While Congress has begun to hear our call to action, it has not taken any serious steps to address the crisis. Instead, Congress has set its sights on renewing ADUFA. As the bill moves through Congress, FACT believes that it should, at minimum, be revised to include provisions that end unnecessary drug use with food animals.

You can take action by encouraging your Members of Congress to support legislation that stops drug abuse on farms. In the box is a sample letter you can edit, personalize and send. You can also visit <http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/pamta2007/> to keep antibiotics working!

TAKE ACTION NOW

Dear [insert name of Member of Congress],

I am writing to urge you to cosponsor the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 962/S. 549).

Roughly 70 percent of antibiotics used in the United States each year are added to the feed and water of food animals that are not sick -- a practice intended to promote faster growth and prevent diseases caused by overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions.

Scientists agree that this misuse of antibiotics is contributing to the rise of antibiotic resistant human diseases. Patients suffer through longer illnesses and higher medical costs, and doctors are left with a dwindling arsenal of drugs to fight disease.

Given the serious human health implications and enormous financial cost of antibiotic resistance, I ask you to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.

Sincerely,
[Your name]
[Your address]

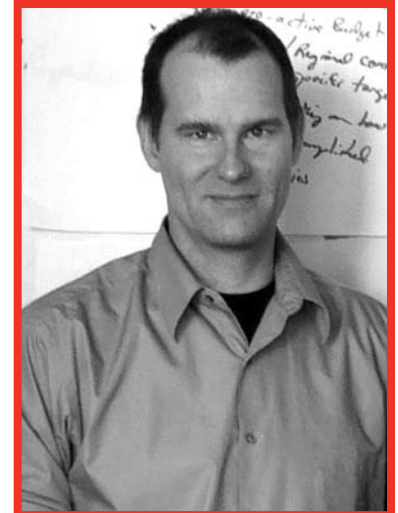
Write to your Senator at: *U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.*

Write to your Representative at: *U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.*

FACT Joins in the International Debate on Animal Drug Use Standards

Earlier this spring, FACT's Public Health Program Director Steve Roach made two trips to Europe for meetings on antibiotic resistance. While FACT primarily works in the United States we find it helpful to learn from the experience of other countries. For example, before creating FACT's Nest Eggs Program, Board President Robert Brown spent time on farms in Europe studying their welfare-friendly management practices. During these two recent trips, Steve interacted with experts from around the world to learn how other countries are protecting animal health and welfare while reducing antibiotic use. It is our hope that similar management methods will one day be common practice in the United States.

In May, Steve was in Brussels, Belgium working on international guidelines for ways to reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance coming from the farm. Steve represented Consumers International at the Codex Ad hoc Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance. Consumers International is an umbrella group made up of hundreds of organizations. Codex is the body that sets international food safety standards. Steve participated as the sole consumer representative among a large group of government officials, public health experts, and pharmaceutical industry representatives.



Steve was invited to participate in a newly created World Health Organization advisory group on antibiotic resistance—an important step that provides FACT an additional opportunity to advocate for humane and healthy farms.



One advantage of working through Codex is that its outcomes can affect international trade. Because export markets are important to U.S. farmers, the guidelines that Codex establishes can therefore motivate change in U.S. agriculture. The work of this task force is ongoing and we will continue to participate in the coming years.

In June, Steve attended an international scientific meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark that focused on resistance in bacteria coming from farm animals. Denmark is a major exporter of meat, collects large amounts of information on animal production and was the second European country to ban the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. Growth promoting antibiotics are given to healthy animals to make them gain weight more quickly. FACT first visited Denmark (and Sweden) in 2001 to learn about how farmers there raise animals with fewer antibiotics. Eight years after the ban went into effect in Denmark, the initial conclusion that growth promoters could be withdrawn without negative impacts on animal health and productivity has been demonstrated over the long term.

The conference also focused on agriculture's contribution to the rise of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The consensus of the researchers at this meeting was that a group of related MRSA strains in livestock with the potential to cause much harm to human health have already spread globally. As such, it is imperative to take steps to control resistance on a global level because of the frequent movement of food around the world. FACT will use the knowledge gained during the two trips to advocate for change in the United States. The vast quantity of antibiotics fed to our food animals signifies an unhealthy way of farming. FACT will continue to push for humane treatment of farm animals to reduce the need for antibiotics.

Summertime in Chicago

On June 14th and 15th, FACT connected with the local Chicago community by staffing a booth at the popular Andersonville Midsommarfest. This was the first time FACT participated in this annual summer festival and staff members had a wonderful time educating consumers on how we can all help make farms humane and healthy places to raise food animals.

FACT staff distributed information on local humane food choices as well as on the many issues we address. One lucky resident won a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant, Uncommon Ground, which features seasonal, regional and organic food. By the end of the weekend, FACT met with hundreds of people and raised awareness about the struggles faced by farm animals.



Larissa McKenna and Lisa Isenhardt proudly show off their FACT t-shirts. FACT spent the weekend reaching out to the local community about humane farming.

Help FACT Make the Future More Humane for Farm Animals

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. There are numerous ways to give to FACT. In addition to donations made by check or credit card, FACT gratefully accepts bequests and other 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. FACT can send you sample language for establishing bequests. For more information on making a gift to FACT, please call us at (773) 525-4952.

We are deeply appreciative of our donors and want to recognize their extraordinary generosity and exceptional commitment. The following individuals have provided bequests during the past four years. For this, we thank them.

Ms. Sarah H. Brodsky
Lee Coleman
Ms. Gertrude Copley
Ms. Elsa M. Challstrom
Ms. E. Caroline Dillenburg
Mr. John D. Dixon
Miss Jane C. Gattavara
Walter J. Jadeson Trust
Mrs. William Jones
Mrs. Mildred A. Lillis
Harold Marth Trust

Estate of Elizabeth B. Martin
Miss Jane M. McAuliffe
Miss Elizabeth Moch
Estate of Lillian Moore
Jane O. Robbins Estate
Estate of William John Roberts
Rowley Family Trust
Miss Agathe M. Schuurman
Helen L. Titus Trust
Ms. Norine D. Wedig
Mrs. Lillian T. Widner

Charge your Gifts

Your donation makes it possible for us to do more for farm animals. If you would like to contribute to FACT with a credit card, please complete this authorization form and mail it back in the enclosed envelope.

Mastercard Discover Visa

Amount to Charge \$ _____

Name on Card _____

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

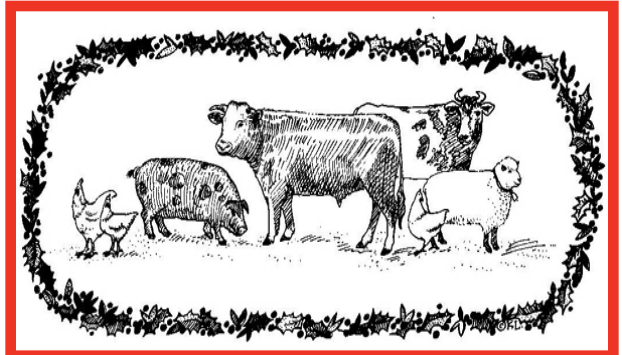
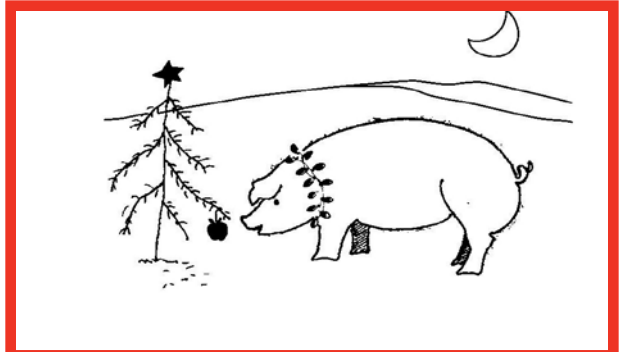
Signature _____

Contributions to FACT are tax-deductible. A minimum gift of \$10 is required for credit card donations. Thank you for your support.

Help FACT Design Our Annual Holiday Card

Each year FACT collaborates with an animal welfare-oriented artist to design our annual holiday card. This year we decided to turn to prospective artists who care about farm animals the most — our donors! FACT would be honored to display artwork designed by one of our supporters on our holiday card, as a demonstration of our shared commitment to making farms humane and healthy places for animals. Please read below for more information. We look forward to receiving your entry!

Examples of past holiday cards:



Guidelines

1. Entries must be received by September 15, 2008 but can be submitted at any time up to that date. The winner will be announced by October 1, 2008, and will be recognized on the back of FACT's holiday card, as well as on our website.
2. The contest is open to FACT donors and family members of all ages and talents. Name, address and telephone number must be submitted with the entry.
3. All entries must be original work. Acceptable media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, crayon or photography. All entries must contain name, address and telephone number. We are looking for a winter and/or non-religious holiday theme and the design should feature cows, chickens and pigs or a combination of all three.
4. The card will be printed in black, white and one other color. While it not necessary that the original artwork be black and white, please consider this constraint in your design.
5. Entries must be done on paper that will allow for duplication and should be no larger than 11" x 17." Entries should not be framed, matted, laminated or folded. You can mail the hard copy or email the electronic version. Please send electronic entries in jpeg or PDF format. All grayscale and color images should be provided at a minimum resolution of 300dpi.
6. Submissions become property of FACT. Through submission of artwork, contestants grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted.
7. The winning design which best represents our vision of making farms humane and healthy places for animals will be selected by FACT staff members. In the event that no entry meets all criteria of the contest, FACT reserves the right to use alternative artwork.
8. Mail entries to: **Jacki Rossi**
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)
P.O. Box 14599
Chicago, IL 60614
9. For further information please contact Jacki Rossi at (773) 525-4952 or jrossi@foodanimalconcerns.org.

FACT 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.

FACT Sheets

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, please email Jacki Rossi, Public Education Coordinator, at rossi@foodanimalconcerns.org or call (773) 525-4952.

Privacy Policy

FACT maintains a database with names, addresses and a record of donations from contributors. This information is maintained only on a computer in our offices and is never provided to other organizations on a rental, name trading, or other basis. Donors who wish to see the information kept on them at FACT may request a print out of this information and then request any changes desired.

FACT

Food Animal Concerns Trust
P.O. Box 14599
Chicago, IL 60614-9966

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MODIFY *

- Change as shown
- Remove individual from list

* Please mail address changes to address at left or fax address changes to (773) 525-5226.

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FACT staff members think big about the future. In May, staff participated in a day of strategic planning. Seen here from left to right are: Steve Roach, Larissa McKenna, Tina LoCoco-Mosio, Lisa Isenhart, Richard Wood and Jacki Rossi