

## Factory Farming

Since the 1960's more and more traditional family farms have been replaced by large-scale animal factories. Over 90% of farmed animals in the U.S. are raised on factory farms in intensive confinement. There are no laws requiring factory farms to provide animals with spacious environments, clean surroundings, fresh air, or sunlight. The factory farming system of modern agriculture strives to produce the most meat, milk, and eggs as quickly and cheaply as possible, in the smallest amount of space possible, and at the lowest possible cost, to maximize productivity and profits.



Overcrowding animals in unnatural conditions causes many of them to die -- but as a group, the monetary return is higher. The animals are regarded as mere commodities. They are treated like machines with no concern for their pain or suffering. They are deprived

of exercise so that all their energy goes toward producing flesh, eggs, or milk for human consumption. They are fed growth hormones to fatten them faster and are genetically altered through selective breeding and gene splicing to grow larger or to produce more milk or eggs than they would naturally.



Animals in factory farms are sprayed with pesticides that accumulate in their bodies and are passed on to the people who eat them, posing health risks. Intensive confinement requires the use of [antibiotics](#) and [pesticides](#) to control the spread of disease and pestilence exacerbated by these crowded living conditions. As a direct consequence of antibiotic use in animals, bacteria that harm humans are developing resistance to antibiotics, leading to more deadly, untreatable infections.



Confining animals in crates no larger than the animal itself leads to physical problems such as [osteoporosis](#) and joint pain, and psychological problems including boredom and frustration, as shown by repetitive or self-destructive actions. The animals spend their entire lives in tiny cages and stalls where they are often unable to even turn around or lie down. They live on concrete, slatted metal, or wire mesh floors. They are forced to live in their own and other animal's wastes. The ammonia fumes burn their sinuses and cause respiratory disease. A quote from *Hog Farm Management*, an industry journal, states "Forget the pig is an animal. Treat him just like a machine in a factory". Sows (known to be very intelligent and social animals) spend their lives in narrow crates shackled by girth straps to metal-slatted or concrete floors, where they cannot walk or even turn around.



Despite the suffering inflicted on animals in factory farms, the animals raised for food production are exempt from the Animal Welfare Act.