

NHES advocates the establishment of a humane standard of care for farm animals that affords them the opportunity to live a life consistent with their physical, behavioral, and psychological needs as well as providing for their medical needs. Factory farming does not provide such a humane standard. Viable alternatives to the cruel rigors of factory farming do exist. For example, certain ranches and family run farms provide a humane standard of care that incorporates adequate food, water, shelter, ample area for exercise, and veterinary attention as needed for the animals. Food products from these sources can be found in some local health food stores and other stores that carry certified organic animal products.



*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*

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*Presented by The National Humane Education Society*



# Industry of Slaughter and Suffering: Factory Farming



**Be** a voice for animals used for food. Cattle, pigs, chickens, sheep, turkeys, ducks, and geese deserve your support. Factory farming is the assembly line means by which most of the animals used for food production in the U.S. are cared for before slaughter. NHES opposes factory farming because its standard of care for animals is inherently cruel — it fails to provide for the basic physical, behavioral, and psychological needs of animals. As a society, Americans consume billions of farm animals each year and the majority come from factory farms where chickens, pigs, veal calves, turkeys, and most food animals are confined in small, restrictive areas, sometimes in darkness.

Although the United States Department of Agriculture provides humane standards for slaughter operations, there are just not enough U.S.D.A. inspectors nationwide to handle the overwhelming job. In the U.S. alone, nearly nine billion animals are slaughtered each year. In the majority of states, farmed animals are not even covered under anti-cruelty laws that attempt to protect other animals. Common farmed animal practices include things such as debeaking, dehorning and castration without anesthesia, hot-iron branding, force-feeding, shocking, dragging injured animals and overcrowding.

On the federal level, farmed animal protection is limited to transportation and slaughter. The Humane Slaughter Act only applies to federally-inspected slaughterhouses. This Act requires that killing “be carried out only by humane methods” to prevent “needless suffering.” Astoundingly, the Humane Slaughter Act completely exempts poultry, even though birds make up more than ninety percent of farmed animals sent to slaughter.

Write to your legislators and let them know that your vote is tied to their efforts to improve the lives of farmed animals. Caring individuals must help out where and when they can. Find out whether ranchers and meat packinghouses in your area follow humane measures for raising and slaughtering animals for food. If inhumane conditions are discovered, report them to the U.S.D.A. and follow up to make sure changes are made.

