

# Should Factory Farming be Adopted Globally?

Jocelyn Starcher

Word Count 1940

“A factory farm is a large-scale industrial operation that houses thousands of animals raised for food.” (11 Facts about Animals and Factory Farms, 2015) Factory farming should not be adopted globally because the conditions of animals are inhumane and they present numerous health concerns. With ethics aside, factory farming could be adopted globally because it produces inexpensive food, and it decreases production time.

Factory farming should not be adopted globally because the conditions of animals are inhumane. This can be seen in The Humane Society International’s article about factory farms in Brazil, where they said that

The majority of egg-laying hens in Brazil are nearly immobilized in battery cages, and most pregnant sows spend their entire 114-day pregnancies confined in gestation crates that prevent them from walking or even turning around. (From Production to Consumption: The Impacts of Factory Farming In Brazil, 2011)

The Humane Society International is an international animal protection organization whose sole purpose is to protect animals and make sure they are safe. They have received many awards for their work, but inherently they are one sided. While the issue of animals having the same rights as humans is greatly debated, they should at least be allowed to move about and not be stuck in a small crate their whole life. Many animals become violent, stressed, and depressed when they are confined and not allowed to move about. This can actually cause a decrease in weight which is counterproductive to the goal of factory farms. Another example of factory farms having inhumane animal conditions would be what they do to male chicks at factory farms that produce eggs. On Farm Sanctuary’s factory farming tab they said that

Because male chicks will not grow up to lay eggs and, therefore, have little value to the egg industry, 260 million are killed each year upon hatching. Methods include being sucked through a series of pipes onto an electrified “kill plate,” being ground up alive and fully conscious in a “macerator,” or being gassed. (Factory Farming - Chickens used for meat and Chickens used for Eggs, 2015)

Farm Sanctuary is an animal protection organization, founded in 1986 as an advocate for farm animals and was the first farm animal shelter, but they are very one sided and could leave out particular information to make a situation sound worse than it is. Also, when these male chicks are killed, they are still fully conscious and feeling all of the pain. They also haven’t done anything wrong and are being killed only because they are male. If people found out that 260 million baby boys were killed yearly, they would be livid and something would be done about it.

Just because they are chicks, nothing should be different. No one should have to die for no reason in such a terrible way. Factory farming should not be adopted globally because the conditions of animals are inhumane.

Another reason why factory farms should not be adopted globally is because it presents health concerns. Factory farms can spread bacteria and other diseases.

Poor sanitation and waste management on factory farms ... can lead to the contamination of the food supply by bacteria like E. coli and salmonella. Each year 76 million Americans become ill from food borne illness, and thousands die. (Factory Farming and Human Health, 2015) One specific strain [of bacteria] known to cause UTIs invades the bloodstream resulting in an estimated 36,000 deaths annually in the U.S. alone. Researchers that tested over 1,000 food samples from multiple retailers found fecal contamination in 69% of beef and pork, and 92% of poultry, with a shocking 50% of the poultry samples infected with the UTI causing E. coli. (Greer, 2014)

Abigail Greer is president of Mino Valley Farm Sanctuary a nonprofit safe haven for rescued farm animals in Spain and also created The Kind Kitchen where she shares vegan recipes and gives advice on how to live healthier lives. She has saved many animals and cares a lot for them so she is very one sided. She lacks specialized education in the field, but she has had a lot of on the job experience and is very passionate about animal protection. If many diseases are being spread and created by factory farms lack of sanitation, than either they need to be not used or inspected and watched thoroughly to prevent the spread of bacteria. Other diseases that are caused, worsened or spread by factory farms are H1N1 and Avian Flu. (Factory Farming and Human Health, 2015) According to an article on Farm Sanctuary

Some diseases, like H1N1 (Swine Flu) and Avian Flu, are communicable from animals to humans. These “zoonotic” diseases have the potential to become pandemics. Experts believe that the outbreak of H1N1 was likely caused by the overcrowding of pigs on factory farms and the storage of their waste in giant manure lagoons. (Factory Farming and Human Health, 2015)

Farm Sanctuary is an animal protection organization, founded in 1986 as an advocate for farm animals and was the first farm animal shelter, but they are very one sided and could leave out particular information to make a situation sound worse than it is. H1N1 is a flu virus that rapidly spread around the world. (Pandemic Flu History, 2015)

The CDC estimates that 43 million to 89 million people had H1N1 between April 2009 and April 2010. They estimate between 8,870 and 18,300 H1N1 related deaths. (Pandemic Flu History, 2015)

This is an extremely large number of deaths and should be taken seriously. They did come up with a vaccination, but the best way to avoid the virus is to go to the source and reduce the main cause which is factory farming. Because of the health concerns factory farms present, they should not be adopted globally.

Factory farming could be adopted globally because it produces inexpensive food.

Nearly 1/2 of the world's population (more than 3 billion people) lives on less than \$2.50 a day. More than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty, less than \$1.25 a day. (11 Facts about Global Poverty, 2015)

In our world, there is a need for cheap food. An example of factory farms producing inexpensive food would be eggs. The cheapest pastured eggs in San Francisco were \$7.50 per dozen. (Turitzin, 2010) "Compare that to \$3 – \$4 for "cage free" eggs at Safeway and \$1 – \$2 for eggs from chickens in battery cages." (Turitzin, 2010) Mike Turitzin graduated at Stanford University where he studied computer science and philosophy. He is a published writer and artist. However his degrees don't offer themselves to the subject written about and therefore he is not an expert in the field. With these numbers it makes the eggs that come from chickens in battery cages 500% cheaper than organic eggs. If someone is living in poverty, then cheap eggs are better than nothing because they are a good source of protein. With factory farms, they make foods more accessible to those who live in poverty. Another example of factory farms producing inexpensive food would be beef. "Regular factory farmed beef only costs \$5.99 a lb. while organic farm raised beef costs \$8.79 which means factory farmed beef is 47% cheaper." (Cost of Organic Food, 2015) Consumer Reports Online for nearly 80 years has provided knowledge to consumers about the most important products and services so they can make their own more informed choices about what they support, buy, or think. They present both sides to most of their arguments but some of them can be opinionated. Beef is more expensive than eggs, but factory farms make it much cheaper and beef can be made many different ways and has a lot of protein. In this day and age, the inexpensive food that factory farms produce is very appealing and some could think that it should be adopted worldwide because of this.

Factory farming could be adopted globally because it decreases production time. 1 in 9 people in the world is hungry. (Know Your World: Facts about World Hunger & Poverty, 2015) This means that if we can produce more food faster, than we could potentially help the hungry. An example of factory farming decreasing production time is the production of milk.

6.5 gallons [is the] typical amount of milk produced each day by one [dairy] cow. (Dairy Facts, 2008) Saudi Arabia might seem an unlikely candidate to be among the world's top 10 dairy producers, but its mega-dairy Almarai has grown to be one of the biggest food producers in the Persian Gulf. With a total herd of 135,000 dairy cattle, Almarai's installation at Al Kharj 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the capital Riyadh, houses one of its largest herds of 67,000. The ... entire herd produces 2.5 million liters of milk a day - an average of 40 liters per cow per day, roughly double the European average. (Shadbolt, 2013)

Purdue University is a land-grant college and has a good agricultural program. They have many different professors who are experts in the field and have many resources available to them for research, however they don't specifically state where the information is from or if the data is still valid. Peter Shadbolt has been a journalist since 2009 in England and works for CNN. He has had a lot of experience writing about different topics but people such as Jason Linkins and Elyse Siegel think that CNN has a reputation of twisting the truth or not being two sided. Milk is drunk worldwide and is a very important part of many people's diets because it is a good source of protein, vitamins and calcium. (Milk, 2015) In 2011, the average milk consumption worldwide per year was 108 Kg (238 lb.) per person. (Current Worldwide Total Milk Consumption per capita, 2011) If milk is produced faster, then more milk can be drunk by the world and help those who are hungry or suffer from Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM). (2015 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics, 2015) Another example of factory farming decreasing production time is the amount of eggs laid by hens in factory farms. On Farm Sanctuary's factory farming tab they said that

Today's hen selectively bred and artificially induced to yield high egg production, will produce more than 250 eggs annually, compared to 100 eggs annually a century ago.

(Factory Farming - Chickens used for meat and Chickens used for Eggs, 2015)

Farm Sanctuary is an animal protection organization, founded in 1986 as an advocate for farm animals and was the first farm animal shelter, but they are very one sided and could leave out particular information to make a situation sound worse than it is. Yearly egg consumption per

year per person in the USA is 225, in Mexico it is 321, and in France it is 248. (The World Egg Industry – a few facts and figures, 2015) Producing more eggs faster would benefit the country because then there is more food to feed people and eggs are a good source of protein. The decrease in production time does offer a reason why factory farming could be adopted globally.

Some say that factory farming should be adopted globally because it could solve many problems worldwide because it produces inexpensive food, and it decreases production time. However, I believe that factory farming should not be adopted globally the conditions of animals are inhumane and they present numerous health concerns. I have been a vegetarian for most of my life, so I was already predisposed against factory farming, and believed that it was unethical. With that said, when I did look into factory farms, I found that the procedure is very innovative and efficient and also saves countries who widely utilize the procedure a lot of money on food. I also saw that even when the websites were in support of factory farms, they could not hide some of the disturbing facts such as the conditions the animals live in. Even though factory farms do produce cheaper and faster food I still believe that factory farming should not be implemented globally because the health risks and the poor treatment of the animals outweigh the short term benefits. In the future, research should continue on the safety of the products coming from processing plants that use factory farms as they change and refine the process to attempt to reduce the chances of disease. In conclusion, factory farms should not be adopted globally.

## References

- 11 Facts about Animals and Factory Farms. (2015, March 10). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-animals-and-factory-farms>
- 11 Facts about Global Poverty. (2015). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-global-poverty>
- 2015 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics. (2015). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from [http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world\\_hunger\\_facts\\_2002.htm](http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world_hunger_facts_2002.htm)
- Cost of Organic Food. (2015, March 19). Retrieved December 10, 2015, from <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/03/cost-of-organic-food/index.htm>
- Current Worldwide Total Milk Consumption per capita. (2011). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://chartsbin.com/view/1491>
- Dairy Facts. (2008). Retrieved December 10, 2015, from [http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/faen/dairy\\_facts.html](http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/faen/dairy_facts.html)
- Factory Farming and Human Health. (2015). Retrieved December 10, 2015, from <http://www.farmsanctuary.org/learn/factory-farming/factory-farming-and-human-health/>
- Factory Farming - Chickens used for meat and Chickens used for Eggs. (2015). Retrieved December 11, 2015, from <http://www.farmsanctuary.org/learn/factory-farming/chickens/#>
- From Production to Consumption: The Impacts of Factory Farming In Brazil. (2011, July 11). Retrieved December 11, 2015, from [http://www.hsi.org/news/press\\_releases/2011/07/impacts\\_factory\\_farming\\_brazil\\_071111.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/](http://www.hsi.org/news/press_releases/2011/07/impacts_factory_farming_brazil_071111.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/)
- Greer, A. (2014, January 9). 5 Modern Diseases on the Rise Because of Factory Farming. Retrieved December 1, 2015, from <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/5-modern-diseases-on-the-rise-because-of-factory-farming/>
- Know Your World: Facts About World Hunger & Poverty. Retrieved December 17, 2015, from <http://www.thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>
- Milk. (2015, December 8). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk>
- Pandemic Flu History. Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.flu.gov/pandemic/history/>
- Shadbolt, P. (2013, December 18). Milking the desert: How mega-dairies thrive in Saudi sands. Retrieved December 10, 2015, from <http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/18/world/meast/milking-the-desert-saudi-dairy-farms/>
- The World Egg Industry - a few facts and figures. (2015). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <https://www.internationalegg.com/corporate/eggindustry/details.asp?id=18>

Turitzin, M. (2010, January 4). A Guide to Buying Humanely-Produced Meat, Eggs, and Dairy Products. Retrieved December 10, 2015, from <http://www.miketuritzin.com/writing/a-guide-to-buying-humanely-produced-meat-eggs-and-dairy-products/>