

SHOULD INDUSTRIAL FARM ANIMAL PRODUCTION BE IMPLEMENTED?

Word count: 1999

Sierra Pittman

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

Industrial farm animal production should not be implemented because it can be harmful to consumers' health, it causes pollution, and it is abusive towards animals. Nevertheless, some may believe that industrial farm animal production should be implemented because it is cheaper for consumers and provides comfortable housing for the animals. According to Humane Society International, (2015) Industrial Farm Animal Production (IFAPs) is an agricultural operation where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. IFAPs congregate animals, feed, manure and urine, dead animals, and production operations on a small land area. (The impact of industrial farm animal production on food security in the developing world, 2011) Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures, fields, or on rangeland. (The impact of industrial farm animal production on food security in the developing world, 2011) This source, the Humane Society International, is a collaborative, charitable, world renowned organization who serves a vital role in global attempts to reduce animal suffering and produces innovative and scientifically sound approaches to animal welfare, nonetheless, has an emotional tie to animals. (About Us: Humane Society International, 2015).

Industrial farm animal production should not be implemented because they are harmful to consumers' health.

Many factory farms routinely give low levels of antibiotics to animals, even if they aren't sick. By creating a perfect breeding ground for antibiotic-resistant bacteria, this nontherapeutic use of antibiotics on factory farms can reduce the effectiveness of antibiotics for human patients. (What's Wrong With Factory Farms, 2010)

As consumers eat meat that contains antibiotic-resistant bacteria, they retain the bacteria inside their bodies, and when antibiotics are given to them, the bacteria is immune. (What's Wrong With Factory Farms, 2010) A method that results in this is highly inefficient and costly, as the company is then responsible for the victim's health and the potential payment to treat them, as well as any legal issues that may arise with problematic situations such as this. To support a business, the factory farm method is not a sustainable option as the conceivable costs are abundant. Factory farming must not be considered a viable option for meat production if it casually uses antibiotics, resulting in the failure of antibiotics for human consumers. "In 2010, the crowded, unsanitary conditions at two Iowa egg companies caused a recall of more than half a billion potentially Salmonella-tainted eggs." (What's Wrong With Factory Farms, 2010) Both of these above quotes are supplied by Food and Water Watch, which is a non-profit organization

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

that advocates for a democracy that will put the people before corporations and is an affiliate of Food and Water Europe, nevertheless, they are an activist organization and have an emotional tie to the environment. (About, 2015) Because factory farms consist of compact quarters, disease is far more easily transmittable through the animals. (What's Wrong With Factory Farms, 2010) This not only hurts the animals, but damages the people and the company as well. A recall can be highly expensive and damaging to the reputation of the company at hand. A method of farming that results in the product containing a serious disease, such as industrial animal production, should not be implemented for the safety of the consumer.

Not only is industrial farm animal production harmful for the consumer, it is also horrific for the environment. According to Humane Society International (2015), previously discussed, a study conducted in a pig producing region of the Philippines found that the majority of commercial pig producers dump waste directly into waterways. Water pollution is an extreme concern because so much life is held in the oceans and other bodies of water. Many industries, such as the fishing industry, could be negatively impacted if the ocean becomes unlivable due to pollution from livestock production. Unlike traditional methods of farming, factory farms produce far more waste per the amount of land they are on, so the waste cannot be reasonably spread as fertilizer. Industrial farm animal production produces so much waste that the soil cannot incorporate it all, and it is spread as runoff into nearby water sources. (What's Wrong With Factory Farms, 2010) Traditional methods are a far better option due to the nature of the possible prevention of pollution. Although the characteristic compactness of industrial livestock production is most commonly viewed as a positive trait, in the question of environmental concerns, it is crippling. The livelihood of our environment is too great a factor to overlook in the implementation of factory farms. Countless number of wildlife would be affected if our environment was at stake, along with a number of industries.

Perhaps the most detrimental factor in the implementation of industrial livestock production is the abuse it causes animals.

95 percent of the 280 million egg-laying hens raised on factory farms spend their lives in battery cages. Each hen is allotted less floor space than the size of a standard sheet of letter paper and enclosed in thick wire bars. This tight enclosure causes extreme distress to birds that are forced to constantly rub against one another and wire grates, causing feather loss, bruising and abrasions. (Shocking Images Illustrate Cruel Confinement of Animals on Factory Farms, 2015)

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

One Green Planet is an independent publishing platform for the eco-conscious generation, they inform the public of environmental impacts of their choices, and support companies who take sustainable initiatives, however, is an activist organization with an emotional tie to the environment. (About Us, 2015) This kind of abuse is specific to factory farms, and employing only traditional methods could bypass torturous confinements and create drastic improvements for the well-being of the animals compared to these inhumane methods of treatment. A Purdue chicken factory farmer was charged with multiple animal cruelty felonies after he was caught kicking, throwing, and stomping birds to death. (Undercover Investigations Expose Animal Abusers, 2015) The investigation also exposed birds bred to grow unnaturally fast suffering painful leg deformities and dying in agony from heart attacks and organ failure. (Undercover Investigations Expose Animal Abusers, 2015) Although Mercy for Animals is a charitable nonprofit that educates the world on the cruelty that factory farms perpetrate on the animals while fighting for global policy changes of animal advocacy, they have an emotional tie to animals and are an activist organization. (About Mercy for Animals, 2015). As animals confined in factory farm cages cannot move at all, these barbaric methods of increasing profit are put in place to take advantage of that, fattening up chickens far past the point of safety and resulting in agonizing experiences. Any possible benefits of factory farming are overridden by these inhumane methods of treating animals. Industrial farm animal production should not be implemented because it puts consumers' health at risk, results in the pollution of the environment, and leads to the abuse of animals.

Although industrial farm animal production has serious problems, such as the potential harm to consumers, the degradation of the environment, and the abuse of animals kept in captivity, some may argue that industrial farm animal production should be implemented. Factory farming leads to a cheaper product and provides safer, more comfortable housing for animals.

With many people around the world unable to feed themselves, the cost of food is extremely important. With factory farming, the cost to the consumer is cheaper. According to Promar International, (2009) barn systems have 21% higher costs and free-range has 50% higher costs than modern cage housing systems. The Industrial farm production has the potential to allow more people to afford food. The money people will save will also be spread to other

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

industries, spreading profits and strengthening the economy. Negatives aside, the feeding of the hungry population is an extremely important world issue and we must do all we can to assist it, such as implementing factory farming. The lower class can be greatly assisted by the dropped prices, regardless of the consequences. Not only will this effect the everyday consumer, but implementing industrial farm production will affect governmental spending.

We estimate that about \$677 million was spent on eggs under the various programs. (School lunch and breakfast, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women , infants, and Children, and the Food Stamp Program) Consequently, a 25% increase in egg prices would result in a \$169 million increase in Federal outlays on these programs. (Impacts of banning cage egg production in the United States, 2009)

Both of the above information is provided by Promar International, who is the United Kingdom's largest farm, environment, and agri-food consultancy business, and research is presented by a collection of people, nevertheless, the names, and therefore credentials, of those people are absent. Saving the government from spending money on more expensive eggs can have an extreme effect of the wellbeing of people all over the country. They can fund other things, such as education, internal improvements, and research. The simple price of food can have a ripple effect of the general welfare of far more than expected. Industrial food production should be implemented because it lowers prices, generating an effect that can also provide for other important issues of today.

According to The National Chicken Council, keeping birds inside a house protects them from predators such as hawks and foxes. In the case of windows, a fine mesh screen keeps insects, rodents and wild birds out of the house and away from the broilers. Such biosecurity measures are critical to ensuring the health of the flock. (Animal Welfare for Broiler Chickens, 2015) The National Chicken Council is a nonprofit trade association representing the U.S. chicken industry before federal agencies, regardless, they act in the interest of the chicken industry. (Overview – The National Chicken Council, 2015) Chickens are more easily protected inside containment, and the reduction of losses due to predators is translated in the lower price of the product. This method is more efficient and beneficial to the birds than traditional methods, keeping them safe against outside harm. “Pigs are extremely sensitive to environmental extremes, including sunlight, wind chill, and persistent hot or cold temperatures. This means that most pigs in Australia are housed indoors... where farmers can best manage the temperature.”

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

(Aussie pig farmers- looking after our pigs, 2015) Aussie Pig Farmers is an informational website that provides consumers with a deeper understanding of the pig farming process in Australia, nonetheless, they have a vested interest in the reputation of the pig farming industry. By using industrial farm production, farmers are able to control factors for their animals, such as temperature. Using this method, animals can be far more comfortable than if they were in unpredictable conditions with traditional methods of farming.

Previously, I was unaware of industrial farm animal production and I was indifferent as to whether meat should be produced through this model. Now that I have looked at both the advantages and disadvantages in detail, I can objectively reach a conclusion that while there are extreme economic advantages, the treatment of animals and potential health risks to humans are too great a consequence. My personal standpoint has been shifted in a complete different direction as I now know the appalling system of modern factory farming, and was unsettled about our previous oblivion. Although I do recognize the immediate need for the price-reduction that factory farming affords and can see why it may seem to be a viable option for many people, I personally cannot stand to think of sacrificing the well-being of animals for a discounted meal. I strongly believe that there needs to be a significant amount of further research on the sustainability of another method of meat farming. While the current method of factory farming is more efficient and compact, the moral and health disadvantages are overwhelming. Researching other methods may produce a system that allows for the feeding of the world without the hindrances of the modern agribusiness model. Industrial farm animal production should not be implemented because it can be harmful to consumers' health, it causes pollution, and it is abusive towards animals. Nevertheless, some may believe that industrial farm animal production should be implemented because it is cheaper for consumers and provides comfortable housing for the animals.

References

About Mercy for Animals. (2015). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from
<http://www.mercyforanimals.org/about>

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

About Promar International. (n.d.). Retrieved December 17, 2015, from <http://www.promar-international.com/about/default.aspx>

About Us: Humane Society International. (2015). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <https://www.hsi.org/about/>

About Us. (2015). Retrieved December 15, 2015, from <https://www.nrdc.org/about/>

About Us. (n.d.). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/about-us/>

About. (2015, August 13). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/about>

Animal Welfare for Broiler Chickens. (n.d.). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.nationalchickencouncil.org/industry-issues/animal-welfare-for-broiler-chickens/>

Aussie Pig Farmers - Looking after our pigs. (n.d.). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.aussiepigfarmers.com.au/our-pigs/>

Campaign Against Factory Farming in India. (n.d.). Retrieved December 11, 2015, from http://www.hsi.org/issues/farm_animal_confinement/facts/india_factory_farming.html

Impacts of banning cage egg production in the United States. (2009, August 1). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from http://www.unitedegg.org/information/pdf/Promar_Study.pdf

Overview - The National Chicken Council. (n.d.). Retrieved December 17, 2015, from <http://www.nationalchickencouncil.org/about-ncc/overview/>

Pollution from Giant Livestock Farms Threatens Public Health. (n.d.). Retrieved December 7, 2015, from <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/nspills.asp>

Shocking Images Illustrate Cruel Confinement of Animals on Factory Farms. (n.d.). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/shocking-images-of-cruel-confinement-of-animals-on-factory-farms/>

Should industrial farm animal production be implemented?

The impact of industrial farm animal production on food security in the developing world. (2011, November 11). Retrieved December 11, 2015, from http://www.hsi.org/assets/pdfs/hsi-fa-white-papers/the_impact_of_industrial_farm.pdf

Undercover Investigations Expose Animal Abusers. (n.d.). Retrieved December 16, 2015, from <http://www.mercyforanimals.org/investigations>

What's Wrong With Factory Farms? (2010). Retrieved November 23, 2015, from <http://www.factoryfarmmap.org/problems/>