

INDUSTRIAL POULTRY

ANIMALS AS FOOD

- Is it morally permissible to kill an animal for food?
- What is morally relevant?
 - Being sentient (i.e. capable of feeling pain)?
 - Having interests or preferences?
 - Having certain kinds of cognitive capacities?

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

U.S. SLAUGHTER TOTALS, BY SPECIES

- 1985 (4.9 billion land animals)
 - Cattle: 36,593,000
 - Chicken: 4,617,280,000
 - Turkeys: 175,181,000
 - Hogs: 84,938,000
- 2015 (9.2 billion land animals)
 - Cattle: 28,752,000
 - Chicken: 8,822,695,000
 - Turkeys: 232,398,000
 - Hogs: 115,425,000

CONSIDER THE CHICKEN



CHICKEN FARMING

- Two kinds of poultry
 - meat ("broiler" chicken)
 - egg-laying (egg-laying hens or "layers")

EGG FARMS

- Today's egg producing hens can produce over 300 eggs per year; this is over twice the average of 150 eggs per year in 1947.
- Raised with relatively little space
- Often killed after peak egg production years (1-2 years)
- Between 200 & 250 million male chickens are killed each year in egg industry

BROILER FARMS

- Broiler chickens are selected and bred for large-scale, efficient meat production
- Breeding produces "welfare" problems
 - Sudden death syndrom (acute heart failure)
 - Skeletal disfunction & lameness
 - Respiratory diseases (ammonia inhalation)

BROILER "PROCESSING"

- Broiler chickens are stunned/paralyzed but not rendered unconscious before slaughter
- On average 825,000 chickens are boiled alive each year due to improper slaughter conditions

SENTIENCE & SCALE

The vastness of the poultry industry means that if there is anything wrong with the system, there is something terribly wrong in our world. (JSF, Eating Animals, 136)

- If the relevant moral consideration is sentience then the poultry industry is facilitating or engaging in massively morally objectionable behaviour

IS IT CRUEL TO KILL CHICKENS FOR FOOD (MEAT & EGGS) IN THE WAY THAT THE IFS DOES?

1. Yes
2. No

DEFENSES OF FACTORY POULTRY FARMING

- Animals have evolved into dependents
- Pain is different from suffering
- Factory farming of poultry is necessary to feed the world's population

