

Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 1 Chicken production

Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.



Producing chicken indoors



photo: © Colin Seddon

The picture shows a crowded chicken shed. Chicken meat is cheap because of intensive farming. Is it fair on the animals?

My opinion of producing chicken indoors



Producing free-range chicken



photo: © Colin Seddon

Free-range chickens are kept outside. They live longer because they grow at a slower more natural rate. Does this justify the higher price?

My opinion of producing free-range chicken



Producing organic chicken



photo: © Colin Seddon

These animals can go outside and are fed on a diet which doesn't contain chemicals. This should be better for the animals and the environment, but it makes the meat much more expensive.



My opinion of producing organic chicken



Selectively breeding chickens to grow faster



photo: © Colin Seddon

If chickens grow faster, the farm can produce more chickens per year and keep costs down.

Yet growing too fast can cause suffering to the chickens. Sometimes their legs cannot support their body weight and many go lame.



photo: © FAUNA

My opinion of selectively breeding chickens to grow faster



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 2 Egg production



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Producing battery eggs



photo: © Vicky Alhadeff

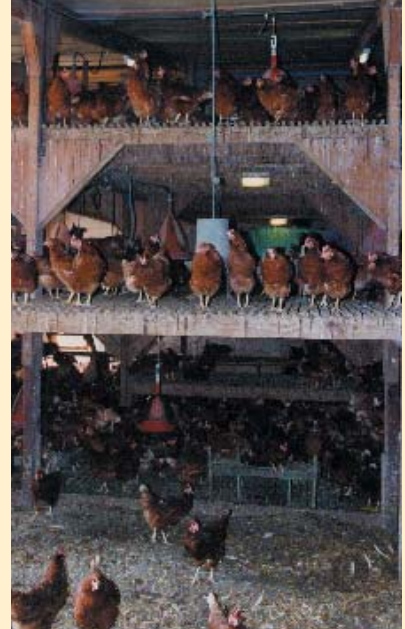
Battery eggs are the cheapest to produce. Does this justify crowding the animals into small cages?

My opinion of producing battery eggs



Producing barn eggs

Barn hens are free to move around a large barn. They are kept in fairly crowded conditions. Barn eggs are cheap to produce, though a little more expensive than battery eggs.



My opinion of producing barn eggs



Debeaking hens



Hens kept in crowded conditions often attack and sometimes kill each other. Cutting off the tip of the beak can discourage this.

Debeaking is stressful. It works by making it painful for hens to peck, but pecking is an important activity for hens. One kinder, but more expensive, way of reducing their aggression would be to give them more space.

My opinion of debeaking hens



Producing free-range eggs from chickens kept in small groups



Free-range hens can exercise and perform natural behaviours such as nest-building and dust-bathing.

Eggs produced by this system are more expensive.

My opinion of producing free-range eggs from chickens kept in small groups



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 3 Pig rearing



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Rearing pregnant pigs in sow stalls



photo: Philip Lybery

At present, most European sows kept indoors spend their pregnancies in sow stalls. The purpose is to make pigs easier to manage.

This system is illegal in the UK. The sows cannot turn round. They are caged for months without a break.

Is this cruel?

My opinion of rearing pregnant pigs in sow stalls



Using farrowing crates



Sows which live indoors are penned in small crates before they give birth. The object is to reduce the number of piglets which are lain on and accidentally killed, though well-designed alternatives can achieve the same purpose.

This prevents the sow from exercising or relating fully with her young. Piglets born outdoors often survive as well as those born in crates.

My opinion of using farrowing crates



Breeding pigs outdoors



photo: Philip Lybery

This has proved to be economical, as well as being a kinder way of keeping sows. It is labour intensive and may provide more employment.

Not all land is suitable for keeping pigs outdoors. The piglets may be kept intensively after being removed from their mother.

My opinion of breeding pigs outdoors



Organic pig production



photo: Philip Lybery

Both mother and piglets are kept free-range for most of their lives, which is kinder to animals. The food the pigs eat is produced without chemicals for the sake of the environment and human health.

It is more expensive. Could everyone afford organic food?

My opinion of organic pig production



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 4 Live exports & free trade



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Live export of sheep for slaughter (or further fattening)



Sheep are exported live from the UK to France, Belgium, Italy, Greece and Spain. Some farmers believe live exports mean they get more money for their lambs.

Long lorry journeys cause stress and discomfort. Some sheep do not survive the journey. With breaks, the total trip can last up to 80 hours.

My opinion of the live export of sheep for slaughter (or further fattening)



Live export of calves for veal production



Calf exports from the UK are currently suspended due to BSE. If they start again, dairy farmers may get higher prices for their calves.

Long journeys are stressful for young calves who have just been separated from their mothers. Until 2007, it will still be legal on the Continent to keep these calves in narrow crates which have been banned in the UK.

My opinion of the live export of calves for veal production



Subsidies for cattle exports



Cattle are exported live from Ireland and Germany to the Middle East. This trade is subsidised by the European taxpayer to help cattle farmers.

The cattle suffer long journeys and may be killed by cruel slaughter methods. Should we pay for this?

My opinion of subsidies for cattle exports



Banning the import of cruel food



When the battery cage is banned in 2012, we will still import battery eggs from the rest of the world. This is because of free trade rules decided by the World Trade Organisation.

Which is more important - the prevention of cruelty, or the freedom to buy and sell what you like?

My opinion of banning the import of cruel food



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 5 Scientific & ethical issues - A



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Routine use of antibiotics in farming



Crowded conditions on farms can lead to a spread of disease among animals. Antibiotics help to prevent illness and can increase growth rates.

Dangerous bacteria can become resistant to antibiotics if they are over-used. This means that vital antibiotics used for people no longer work. An alternative might be to keep animals in less crowded conditions.

My opinion of the routine use of antibiotics in farming



Using hormones in beef production



Hormone implants are used in the US to make cattle grow faster and leaner. This provides cheap beef of a quality which some consumers want.

Hormone implants are banned in Europe because of worries about human health and animal welfare. Should we interfere with an animal's body chemistry to make it grow faster?

My opinion of using hormones in beef production



Keeping animals in cages or small pens



Animals kept in small cages use less energy in exercising so they need less food to grow. Their meat, milk or eggs can be cheaper.

Exercise is good for an animal's health. It also makes life more enjoyable. Is it cruel to prevent an animal from behaving naturally?

My opinion of keeping animals in cages or small pens



Crowding animals together



Keeping animals crowded together can make meat production cheaper. Crowded animals take up less room and may use less energy keeping warm.

Crowded conditions can lead to the spread of disease. Is it good for our health, or kind to animals, to keep them in crowded conditions?

My opinion of crowding animals together



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

How should we treat farm animals? - 6 Scientific & ethical issues - B



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Selectively breeding cows to produce more milk



Cows are selectively bred to produce very large quantities of milk. This helps to keep milk cheap.

The cow's udders may contain over 20 litres of milk at a time. Supporting this weight can make the cow lame. Producing so much milk can cause painful infections in their udders.

My opinion of selectively breeding cows to produce more milk

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3
Totally unacceptable Totally acceptable

Rearing Belgian Blue cattle

Belgian Blue cattle have inherited a mutant gene which makes their muscles larger. They produce plenty of meat and bigger steaks.

Producing a larger calf can make giving birth more painful and difficult for the Belgian Blue cow. The calves often have to be born by caesarean section.



My opinion of rearing Belgian Blue cattle

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3
Totally unacceptable Totally acceptable

Genetically engineering animals to grow faster & leaner



This pig has been genetically modified with a cattle gene in an attempt to produce an animal which grows faster and with less fat.

In experiments like this, genetically modified animals suffered many disabilities and did not live for long.

My opinion of genetically engineering animals to grow faster and leaner

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3
Totally unacceptable Totally acceptable

Growing food organically



photo: © Colin Seddon

Organic food is produced without using synthetic chemicals. It can be kinder to the environment and may be better for health. Organically reared animals are usually kept for most of their lives in free-range, more natural conditions.

Organic food is more expensive in the shops. Should we all be expected to pay more for animal welfare and the environment? Can we feed the world organically?

My opinion of growing food organically

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3
Totally unacceptable Totally acceptable

Where Do You Draw The Line ?

What should we eat? - Farm animals & the ethics of diet - A



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Eating meat from factory farms



Meat is a useful source of protein and some vitamins and minerals. Intensively reared meat is cheaper to produce.

Intensive rearing can be bad for animal welfare and the environment. Is it right to keep animals like this?

My opinion of eating meat from factory farms



Eating meat from free-range farms

Many people want to eat meat, and this way people feel that the animals they eat have had a happier life.

Free-range meat is often more expensive to produce. The animals still have to be killed so that we can eat them.



My opinion of eating meat from free-range farms



Eating fish



Fish is a healthy source of protein. Wild fish have had free lives until they are caught.

Death in a fishing net from injury, suffocation or crushing may be extremely stressful. There is evidence that fish can feel pain, fear and distress.

My opinion of eating fish



Eating farmed salmon



Salmon are reared in cages in lochs or by the coast. Intensive farming has made salmon cheap to buy.

Salmon swim backwards and forwards in their cages; naturally they would swim hundreds of miles out to sea. Fish faeces, and the chemicals used to prevent disease, pollute the marine environment.

My opinion of eating farmed salmon



Where Do You Draw The Line ?

What should we eat? - Farm animals & the ethics of diet - B



Do you think the following are unacceptable or acceptable? Use the scale from -3 to +3 according to how strongly you feel about each card. Choose 0 if you are neutral about the issue.

Eating veggie burgers



These are a popular food with the young. They contain more fibre and anti-oxidant vitamins than burgers made from meat and they are lower in saturated fat. This means they are likely to be healthier.

Are they a natural food? If you want a burger, why not eat the real thing?

My opinion of eating veggie burgers



Eating cats and dogs

In some parts of the world this is seen as no different from eating pork or chicken. They are all made of meat.

Many see dogs and cats as pets and think it is horrible to eat them. Is it different?



My opinion of eating cats and dogs



Going vegetarian



Vegetarians don't eat meat or fish for the sake of their health and to avoid killing animals.

Others like meat and believe that it is a healthy part of the diet.

My opinion of going vegetarian



Going vegan

Vegans eat no animal products including meat, fish, eggs or dairy products. A varied vegan diet can be balanced and healthy and avoids the exploitation of animals.

On the other hand, animal products produce many useful nutrients and people have been eating meat and dairy products for thousands of years.



My opinion of going vegan

