

5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**The 2016 Oxford Real Farming Conference showcases Compassion's new report:  
*Cheap Food Costs Dear***

The 2016 Oxford Real Farming Conference will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January, where Compassion in World Farming's new report, [Cheap Food Costs Dear](#), will be launched.

Peter Stevenson, Compassion's Chief Policy Advisor, will be discussing his new report written on behalf of Compassion in World Farming. In it, he explores the impact of factory farming on people and the planet as well as the cost of industrial livestock production.

In compiling this [report](#), Peter said: *"The essential purpose is to highlight the deep concerns and imbalance surrounding factory farming.*

*"It's important we remain acutely conscious of the long term and potentially irreversible impact the rearing of animals on an industrial scale has on our health and environment."*

The bleak conditions imposed on factory farmed animals are far too often justified by the claim that this gives us cheap food. But scratch the surface and you'll soon find that in order to have meat at an acceptable price we not only have to treat the animal appallingly, but the planet too.

The industrial production of livestock has far-reaching negative consequences, including impaired human health, environmental degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution and loss of biodiversity. These crucial issues summarise a major flaw in the true cost of meat production and the vulnerability of the planet when it comes to industrial scale animal rearing.

Industrial livestock production is hugely inefficient, dependent on feeding human-edible cereals to animals. For every 100 calories fed to animals in the form of cereals, just 17-30 calories are returned for human consumption as meat or milk.

Feeding cereals to animals is a wasteful use not only of these crops but of the land, water and energy used to grow them. The need to grow huge amounts of grain to feed factory farmed animals has fuelled the intensification of crop production with its use of agro-

chemicals and monocultures. Recent studies show that intensive agriculture has eroded the quality, productivity and biodiversity of UK soils.

In addition, Compassion's CEO, Philip Lymbery, will host a panel of experts at the conference. These include Peter Stevenson, Tim Lang, Professor of Food and Policy at City University and Charlie Clutterbuck - arguing the case against intensive livestock production.

The two-day event is a unique gathering of UK sustainable food and farming movements, offering delegates the opportunity to connect with other farmers and hear from experts in the field.

**Ends**

**For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact:**

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Compassion in World Farming was founded in 1967 by a British dairy farmer who became horrified at the development of intensive factory farming. Today Compassion is the leading farm animal welfare organisation dedicated to ending factory farming and achieving humane and sustainable food. With headquarters in the UK, we have offices across Europe in the US, China and South Africa.