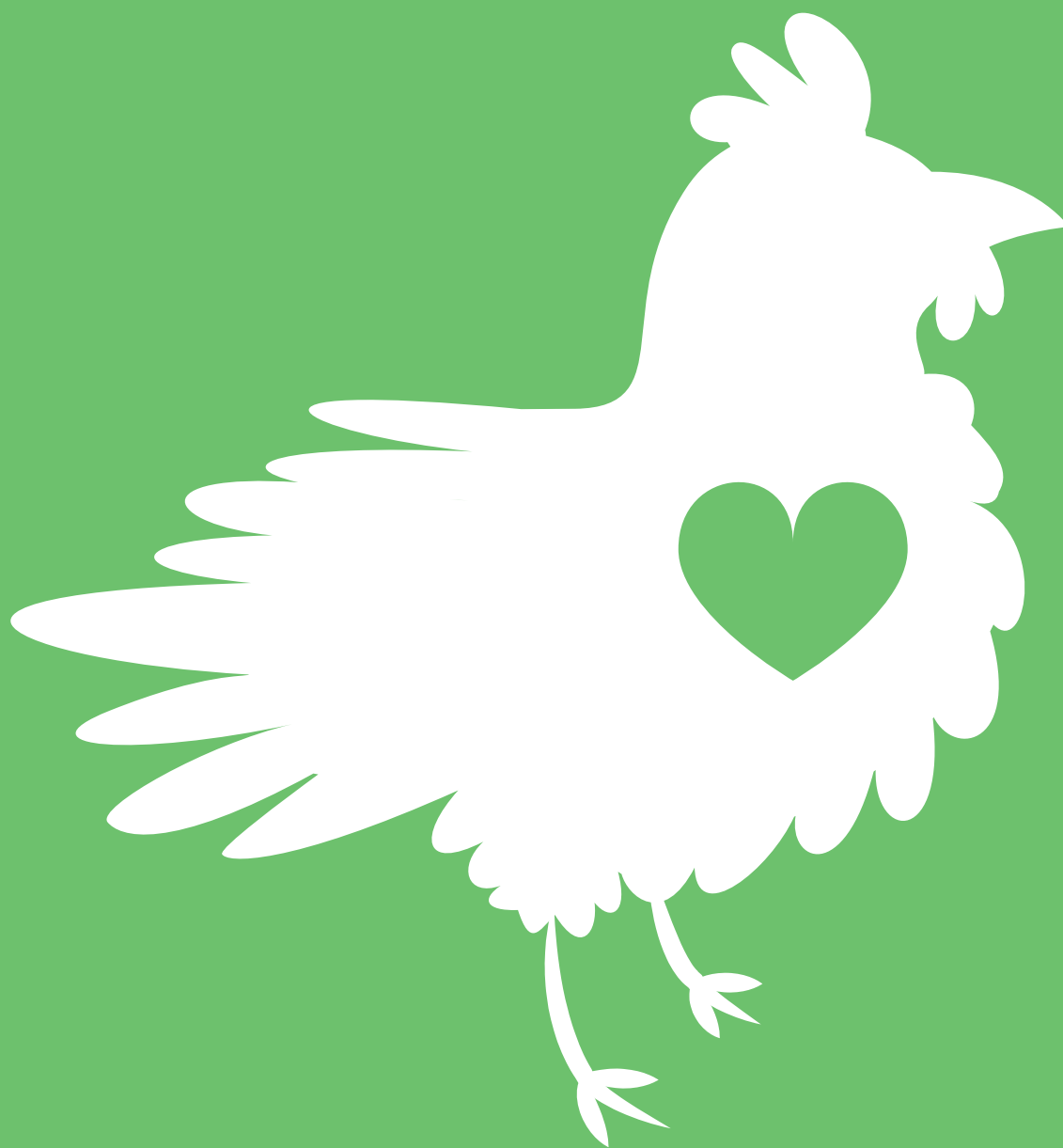
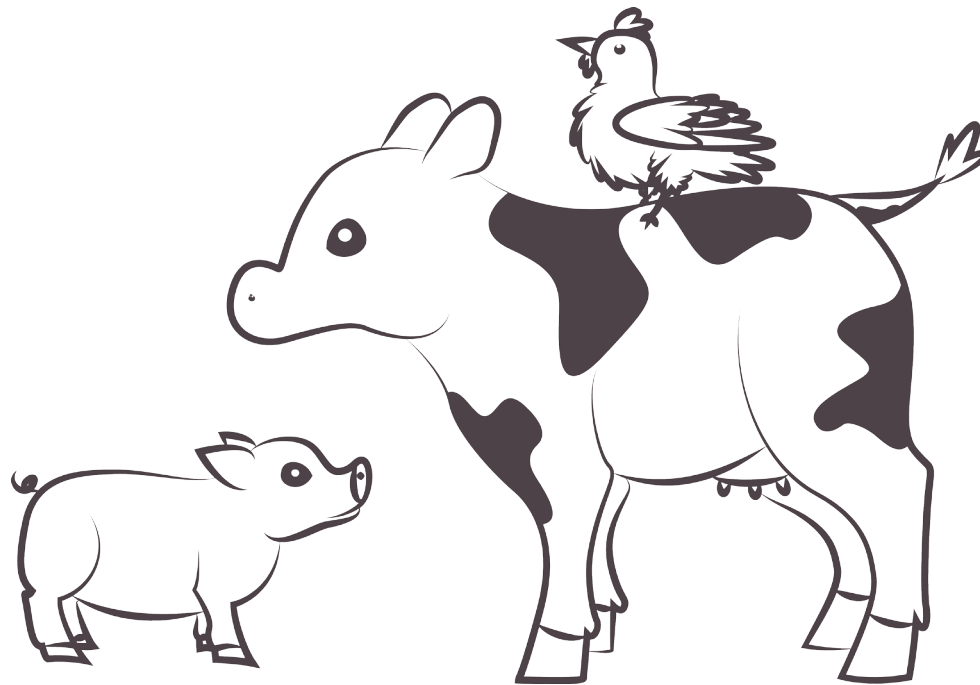


# Factory Farming

Information and how to help





## What is factory farming?

As the demand for cheap meat rose due to the increase in population and the arrival of the fast food industry, farmers had to find ways to cut costs such as cramping animals into small areas, the use of cheaper feeds that are less suited to the animal's diets, use of growth hormones. This also led to the automation of many farming functions such as the feeding, watering and slaughter.

## Is factory farming necessary?

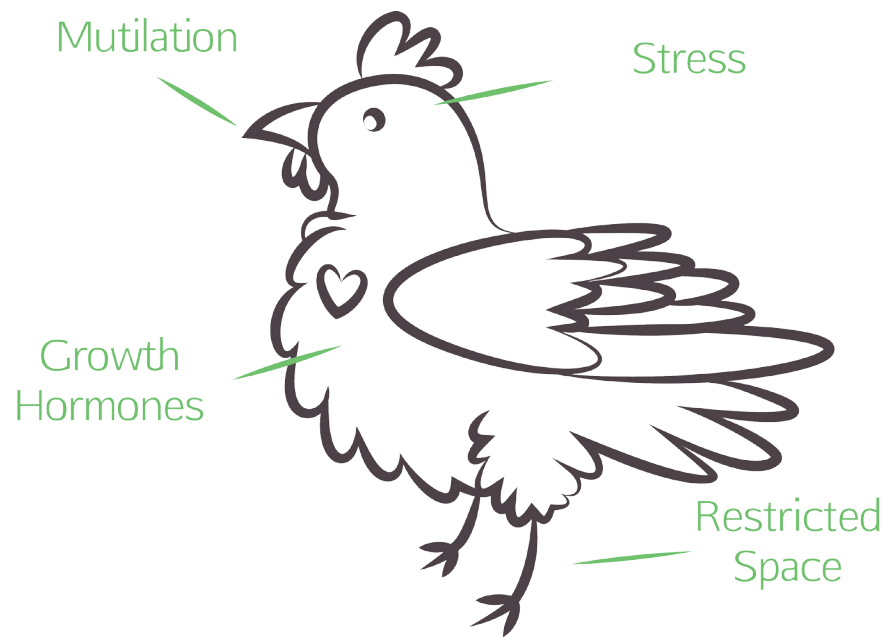
Given our current appetite for cheap meat, factory farming is probably the only way of producing this massive amount of animal products. However, a lot of people eat a lot more animal products than necessary and lowering the demand for animal products can make way for more compassionate and natural farming.

## What happens to these animals?

Due to the constraints of space in crowded pens, they have little room to move which leads to injuries, stress and living in their own feces. Due to the use of growth hormones, they often have many painful health problems. aside from physical injuries, factory farm animals also experience an unnatural amount of stress and lack of stimulation which can even lead to self-mutilation.

“Around two-thirds of farm animals are factory farmed worldwide every year -- that's nearly 50 billion animals”

- Compassion in World Farming



## Treatment of Factory Farm Animals

### Cramming

Animals in factory farming are often crammed into barns, battery cages or pens. This prevents natural behaviors like socializing, nesting and foraging. Due to boredom, stress and frustration, they often engage in self-mutilation and harming of other animals.

### Mutilation

To prevent the afore mentioned attack on other animals, farmers often mutilate the animals. They will have their beaks or teeth clipped and their tails docked. This, along with castration, is most often done with no pain relief or sedation.

### Transportation

Due to lack of regulations, farm animals undergo long distance travel that can span over days or even weeks. During this time they have little space, food or water and are often made to endure extreme weather conditions.

### Accelerated Growth

To accelerate growth, industries use selective breeding, designed feed and growth hormones. This fast growth causes health problems such as lame or broken limbs and cardiac issues.

For more information visit the Compassion in World Farming site: <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/>

# Environmental Impact

## Climate Change

The concentrated amount of manure found in a factory farm environment produces a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide. Animal transport also contributes to pollution and the energy required to grow feed, tend to the large number of animals, slaughter and processing of the meat has an impact as well. This includes carbon dioxide and methane.

## Loss of Biodiversity

Factory farming requires the destruction of habitat to house the animals and grow their feed. Not only this but their toxic output such as nitrogen, which can turn into ammonia, which leads to the acidification of water and depletion of the ozone which leads to even more habitat destruction.

## Waste of Resources

An immense amount of water is used by the factory farming industry. Keeping factory farm animals fed and watered till slaughter uses up considerably more water and feed than the meat consumers get at the end of the process. If the animals were grass fed and not farmed excessively, this would cause no problem, but since billions of animals are factory farmed every year, this adds up to monumental resource waste.

# How To help

## How do I help?

The easiest way to help is to reduce meat consumption, buy free-range, certified humane or organic. A great way to help is to replace some of what you already eat with vegan alternatives. Look for these logos on food.



## Certified Organic

In Canada, organic farmers are certified according to a single set of national standards — the Canadian Organic Standards. The standards for animal care are quite similar to the BC SPCA Certified standards, They include:

- Prohibition on battery cages for hens, tie stalls for cows and gestation/farrowing stalls for sows
- Minimum space requirements that far exceed industry standards
- Nest boxes, perches, bedding and/or rooting material required
- Prohibition on tail docking of dairy cows
- Access to outdoors required for all animals
- Prohibition on forced moulting of poultry

Source

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

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