

## 1: Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals And The Feminine Connection

*Chickens (Animals That Live on the Farm) [Joann Early Macken, Jeanne, Ph.D. Clidas] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)  
\*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Fascinating farm animals fill the pages of this exciting series.*

Chickens bred for meat are arguably the most genetically manipulated of all animals, forced to grow 65 times faster than their bodies normally would, and the industry continually seeks to increase their growth rate. Chickens are housed in giant, overcrowded sheds, where they are packed in by the thousands and forced to stand and sit on filthy, manure-laden flooring, which is typically cleaned out only every 2 to 4 years. Heart failure afflicts chickens at a rate of at least 4. Their baby hearts cannot keep up with their adult-sized bodies. Lameness causes intense pain. Every year globally, at least 1 billion chickens die in the process they suffer from broken legs and wings, lacerations, hemorrhage, dehydration, heat stroke, hypothermia, and heart failure. Millions die before even reaching the slaughterhouse. Chicken-catching machines vacuum up chickens and blow them through to a conveyor belt or directly into cages as shown here. Chicken-catching machines resembling giant street sweepers were introduced in the 1950s. These 6-ton machines vacuum up 7,000 birds an hour with rubber finger-like projections that place them on a conveyor belt and force them into crates. Anita Krajnc, taken at a Toronto Chicken Save vigil. Jammed inside these crates, chickens may travel up to 12 hours to the slaughterhouse through extreme temperatures and weather conditions without food or water. Upon arrival, chickens may languish in these crates for an additional 12 hours before being unloaded. Chickens too sick or injured to enter the food supply are dumped into large mass graves alive, as exposed in this video footage from an undercover investigation at a poultry farm, conducted by one of the leading farmed animal advocacy organizations, Compassion Over Killing. Millions of chickens and turkeys are scalded alive after their throats are cut. Their heads are pulled through a small opening, and their necks are slashed as they thrash and scream in agony and blood flows out of their mouths. Since poultry products are the main source of foodborne illness in people, due to the filthy conditions in which they are raised, slaughtered chickens are soaked in toxic chemicals which are consumed along with their flesh. Chickens can now be killed at a rate of 100 chickens per minute up from 10, and slaughter plants can police themselves even more, making them more efficient killing machines with less government interference than ever. Now that you have the basics on how chickens are routinely used and abused in agriculture, check out what they are really like in their natural environment. See our comprehensive report, *Chicken Behavior: An Overview of Recent Science*.

### 2: Chicken - Wikipedia

*Chickens are creatures of the earth who no longer live on the land in numbers anywhere near the countless billions of chickens locked in factory farm buildings virtually everywhere on earth. If there is such a thing as "earthrights," the right of a creature to experience directly the earth from which it derived and on which its happiness.*

Adams and Josephine Donovan. Copyright by Duke University Press. The author wishes to thank Duke University Press for the opportunity to extend our educational outreach on behalf of chickens and the ideas set forth in this essay. Please visit the website of Duke University Press: This happened during the time when my interest in animal rights was becoming increasingly centered on the plight of farm animals. Years earlier, an essay by Tolstoy that included an excruciating account of his visit to a slaughterhouse had opened my eyes to what it meant to eat meat. However, I continued to consume dairy products until a description of the life and mammary diseases of dairy cows ended my consumption of those products. My growing preoccupation with the plight of farm animals did not particularly arise from the clear perception I now have of the exploitation of the reproductive system of the female farm animal epitomized by the dairy cow and the laying hen. However, two important things happened, one through reading and the other through personal experience, to clarify my thoughts and, ultimately, my career. My reading led me to two contemporary essays in which chickens are represented as a type of animal least likely to possess or deserve rights. One was by Carl Sagan. A researcher watched two chimpanzees cooperating to lure a chicken with food while hiding a piece of wire. Like Charlie Brown to the football, the chicken reportedly kept returning, revealing that "chickens have a very low capacity for avoidance learning," whereas the chimpanzees showed "a fine combination of behavior sometimes thought to be uniquely human: Sagan poses the question whether nonhuman species of animals with demonstrated consciousness and mental ingenuity should not be recognized as having rights. At the top of the list are chimpanzees. At the bottom somewhere are chickens. The second essay derived from the field of environmental ethics. A Triangular Affair," J. Baird Callicott draws upon "The Land Ethic" of A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold to argue that domesticated and wild animals have differing moral statuses and that, similarly, individual animals and species of animals have differing moral statuses. Regarding domesticated versus wild animals, the relevant distinctions for Leopold are between things that are "unnatural, tame, and confined" and things that are "natural, wild, and free. Leopold to all appearances never considered the treatment of brood hens on a factory farm or steers in a feed lot to be a pressing moral issue" Callicott , , In the midst of these reflections I moved to place where for the first two years the owner continued her practice of raising a flock of about a hundred chickens each summer for slaughter. That is how I became acquainted with Viva, the chicken hen, the first chicken I ever really knew. In the essay that I later wrote about her, I have described how one day in August, I was surprised to discover the chicken house, which I had gotten into the habit of visiting, deserted. Then I saw her. She was stumbling around over by the feed cylinder on the far side where the low shelf piled with junk makes everything dark. A shaft of sunlight had caught her, but by the time I was able to get inside she had scrunched herself deep in the far corner underneath the shelf against the wall. She shrank as I reached in to gather her up and lift her out of there. I held her in my lap stroking her feathers and looked at her. She was small and looked as if she had never been in the sun. Her feathers and legs and beak were brownstained with dirt and feces and dust. Her eyes were as lusterless as the rest of her, and her feet and legs were deformed. I let her go and she hobbled back to the corner where she must have spent the summer, coming out only to eat and drink. She had managed to escape being trampled to death in this overcrowded confinement shed, unlike the chicken I had found some weeks earlier stretched out and pounded into the dirt Davis , I took Viva into our house where she lived with my husband and me until she died a few months later in November. She was severely crippled but resourceful, and determined to get around. To steady herself, she would spread her wings out so that the feather ends touched the ground, and standing thus she would totter from side to side in a painstaking adjustment before going ahead, a procedure that had to be repeated every other step or so. Just one unsuccessful foray off the rug onto the hardwood floor caused her to avoid bare floors thereafter. Viva was not only strong willed and alert; she was expressive and responsive. One

of the most touching things about her was her voice. She would always talk to me with her frail "peep" which never got any louder and seemed to come from somewhere in the center of her body which pulsed her tail at precisely the same time. Also, rarely, she gave a little trill. Often after one of her ordeals, in which her legs would get caught in her wings causing her terrible confusion and distress, I would sit talking to her, stroking her beautiful back and her feet that were so soft between the toes and on the bottoms, and she would carry on the dialogue with me, her tail feathers twitching in a kind of unison with each of her utterances. This kind of nature and experience did not seem to have a niche in environmental ethics, including the radical branch of deep ecology, making environmentalism seem in a certain sense to be little more than an offshoot of the prevailing scientific worldview with its hard logical categories and contempt for the weak and vulnerable. Concerning farm animals, even the animal community tended to stand clear and, as ecofeminist animal advocate Harriet Schleifer pointed out, to hedge on the issue of "food" animals and vegetarianism, making the public feel "that the use of animals for food is in some way acceptable, since even the animal welfare people say so" Schleifer, It seemed, however, fair to ask what chance there could ever be of protecting the chickens of the world if their only defenders viewed their plight as less than a "high priority". This dilemma, crystallized for me by my recent encounters with Sagan, Callicott, and Viva, led me to compose an essay, "Farm Animals and the Feminine Connection," on the triangular affair between feminism, farm animals, and deep ecology. I argue that although nonhuman animals are oppressed by basic strategies and attitudes that are similar to those operating in the oppression of women, it is also true that men have traditionally admired and even sought to emulate certain kinds of animals, even as they set out to subjugate and destroy them, whereas they have not traditionally admired or sought to emulate women. Animals summoning forth images of things that are "natural, wild, and free" accord with the "masculine" spirit of adventure and conquest idolized by our culture. Animals summoning forth images of things that are "unnatural, tame, and confined" represent a way of life that western culture looks down upon. The contrast can be vividly seen in our literature. Not only men but women and animal protectionists exhibit a culturally-conditioned indifference toward, and prejudice against, creatures whose lives appear too slavishly, too boringly, too stupidly female, too "cowlike. Human rights for chickens? This brings in the question of deep ecology. The philosophy of deep ecology, with its emphasis on the ecosphere as a whole, including both sentient and nonsentient beings, presents a salutary challenge to the reductionist logic and homocentric morality of western culture. As the branch of environmentalism that emphasizes the spiritual component of nature and of our relationship to the natural world, deep ecology offers deliverance from the western exfoliative global enterprise based on mechanistic models and unbridled greed of acquisition and inquiry masquerading as progress. However, like its parent stock of environmentalism, deep ecology is infested by a macho mystique, whereby "things natural, wild, and free" continue to be celebrated and phallogized as corresponding to the "human" order of experience and idealized existence. Activities such as hunting, fishing, and meat-eating are extolled on recreational and spiritual grounds as part of the challenge posed by Leopold to "think like a mountain. Armed with the new ethic, men essentially give to themselves a new lease to run with the predators, not the prey, and to identify with the "wild" and not the "tame. Thus it is not surprising that many proponents of deep ecology cannot not find an ethical niche for farm animals or for the qualities of mercy and compassion and the desirability of treating others as we wish to be treated. I discussed these issues in a further essay, "Mixing Without Pain," and there things stood until my participation in the Summit for the Animals Meeting recalled them to my attention so vividly that I wrote a reply, this time from the viewpoint of a battery caged "laying" hen. In the meantime, a year and a half before the Summit Meeting, in October, I had founded United Poultry Concerns, a non-profit organization that addresses the treatment of domestic fowl in food production, science, education, entertainment, and human companionship situations and promotes the respectful and compassionate treatment of domestic fowl as fellow creatures rather than a food source or other commodity. United Poultry Concerns grew out of the above experiences, and from my volunteer internship at Farm Sanctuary an enterprise based on the rescue of factory farm animals where I extended my acquaintance with chickens and got to know turkeys, ducks and geese. Tulip was my beloved friend for a year until she died of the heart attack that chickens bred for rapid growth and excessive muscle tissue "meat" are susceptible to. Since then, chickens have become the

center of my personal and professional life. I had an enclosure built onto our kitchen for rescued chickens who have the run of our three-acre yard. Amid the darkness of my knowledge of the horrible experiences inscribed within billions of chickens by our species, they are the peace and the light. The Summit Meeting had as its featured speaker environmentalist-historian Roderick Frazier Nash, who presented the attractive holistic concept of environmentalism, along with the, to me, unattractive outlook in which species and biosystems prevail over the individuals composing them--except in the case of the human species for which environmentalism in general seems to provide an exemption. Concerning hunting, the familiar justifications were given including the inquiry how and why the sacrifice of one or two deer should matter as long as the herd or species is preserved from decimation or extinction. Humans are predators by nature. Ideally, an intensely urban culture would flourish on the basis of a hunter-gatherer society complete with predator initiation rites. The exciting hunter part is vividly evoked; the boring gatherer part is left for the reader to infer. As usual, farm animals are relegated to the wasteland of foregone conclusions in which they are considered to be not only ecologically out of tune but too denatured and void of autonomy for human morality to apply to them. The situation of these animals, within themselves and on the planet, does not appear to exact contrition or reparations from the perpetrators of their plight, while the victims are per se denied "rights," of which the most elemental must surely be the right of a being to be perceived before being conceptually trashed. In an article following "Triangular Affair," J. Baird Callicott assigns farm animals a fixed degraded niche in the conceptual universe. To condemn the morality of these roles. I think to myself listening to the trumpet blasts and iron oratory of environmentalism, how could the soft voice of Viva ever hope to be heard here? In this world, the small tones of life are drowned out by the regal harmonies of the mountain and their ersatz echoes in the groves of academe. A snottish article in Buzzworm: The Environmental Journal Knox on animal rights versus environmentalism clinched matters. This is how I came to write "Clucking Like a Mountain," in which I examine the ethical foundations of environmentalism from the imaginary viewpoint of a factory farm battery hen via a human interpreter. The ethical result is moral abandonment of beings whose sufferings and other experiences are inconsequential compared to the "big realm. Clucking Like A Mountain "Why do you keep putting off writing about me? Alice Walker , In answering the call of ecologists to think like a mountain, I have to know whether this would conflict with my effort to think like a chicken. For I have chosen with the American writer, Alice Walker, to be a microphone held up to the mouths of chickens to enable them to step forward and expound their lives. I am glad that I have been able to see and identify with a chicken, though I grieve that my ability to communicate what I have seen and have identified with may be limited by profound but obscure obstacles which it is nevertheless my task to try and traverse. To think like a mountain implies a splendid obligation and tragic awareness. Environmentalist Aldo Leopold ; coined this image to contrast the abiding interests of the ecosphere with the ephemeral ones of humans, arguing that unless we can identify with the ecosphere and "think like a mountain," our species and perhaps even our planet are doomed. I prize these thoughts but have been saddened that Aldo Leopold may not have intended that chickens, too, should give voice in the Council of All Beings along with California Condor, Rainforest, Wombat, Wildflower and the rest of the biotic host convened in empathic rituals designed to reconstitute the experience in humans of a larger ecological Self. In the Council of All Beings, says a workshop guideline, "the beings are invited to tell how life has changed for them under the present conditions that humans have created in the world" Seed , I am a battery hen. I live in a cage so small I cannot stretch my wings. I am forced to stand night and day on a sloping wire mesh floor that painfully cuts into my feet. The cage walls tear my feathers, forming blood blisters that never heal. The air is so full of ammonia that my lungs hurt and my eyes burn and I think I am going blind. As soon as I was born, a man grabbed me and sheared off part of my beak with a hot iron, and my little brothers were thrown into trash bags as useless alive. My mind is alert and my body is sensitive and I should have been richly feathered. In nature or even a farmyard I would have had sociable, cleansing dust baths with my flock mates, a need so strong that I perform "vacuum" dust bathing on the wire floor of my cage.

### 3: 6 Best Farm Animals to Raise When You're Just Starting out

*Chickens used for egg production are among the most abused of all farm animals. In order to meet the consumer demand for eggs, million hens laid billion eggs in From hatching to slaughter, egg-laying hens are subjected to mutilation, confinement, and deprivation of the ability to live their lives as the active, social beings they.*

Didactic model of a chicken. In the UK and Ireland, adult male chickens over the age of one year are primarily known as cocks, whereas in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, they are more commonly called roosters. Males less than a year old are cockerels. Females over a year old are known as hens, and younger females as pullets, [10] although in the egg-laying industry, a pullet becomes a hen when she begins to lay eggs, at 16 to 20 weeks of age. This use of "chicken" survives in the phrase "Hen and Chickens", sometimes used as a British public house or theatre name, and to name groups of one large and many small rocks or islands in the sea see for example Hen and Chicken Islands. In the Deep South of the United States, chickens are also referred to by the slang term yardbird. In some breeds the adult rooster can be distinguished from the hen by his larger comb Chickens are omnivores. Adult chickens have a fleshy crest on their heads called a comb, or cockscomb, and hanging flaps of skin either side under their beaks called wattles. Collectively, these and other fleshy protuberances on the head and throat are called caruncles. Both the adult male and female have wattles and combs, but in most breeds these are more prominent in males. Domestic chickens are not capable of long distance flight, although lighter birds are generally capable of flying for short distances, such as over fences or into trees where they would naturally roost. Chickens may occasionally fly briefly to explore their surroundings, but generally do so only to flee perceived danger. Behavior Hen with chicks, India. Hen with chicks, Portugal. Chickens are gregarious birds and live together in flocks. They have a communal approach to the incubation of eggs and raising of young. Individual chickens in a flock will dominate others, establishing a "pecking order", with dominant individuals having priority for food access and nesting locations. Removing hens or roosters from a flock causes a temporary disruption to this social order until a new pecking order is established. Adding hens, especially younger birds, to an existing flock can lead to fighting and injury. He does this by clucking in a high pitch as well as picking up and dropping the food. This behaviour may also be observed in mother hens to call their chicks and encourage them to eat. Hens cluck loudly after laying an egg, and also to call their chicks. Chickens also give different warning calls when they sense a predator approaching from the air or on the ground. More specifically, mating typically involves the following sequence: Male approaching the hen. Female crouching receptive posture or stepping aside or running away if unwilling to copulate. Male tail bending following successful copulation. Chicks before their first outing Hens will often try to lay in nests that already contain eggs and have been known to move eggs from neighbouring nests into their own. The result of this behaviour is that a flock will use only a few preferred locations, rather than having a different nest for every bird. Hens will often express a preference to lay in the same location. It is not unknown for two or more hens to try to share the same nest at the same time. If the nest is small, or one of the hens is particularly determined, this may result in chickens trying to lay on top of each other. There is evidence that individual hens prefer to be either solitary or gregarious nesters. Hens are then said to "go broody". The broody hen will stop laying and instead will focus on the incubation of the eggs a full clutch is usually about 12 eggs. She will "sit" or "set" on the nest, protesting or pecking in defense if disturbed or removed, and she will rarely leave the nest to eat, drink, or dust-bathe. While brooding, the hen maintains the nest at a constant temperature and humidity, as well as turning the eggs regularly during the first part of the incubation. To stimulate broodiness, owners may place several artificial eggs in the nest. To discourage it, they may place the hen in an elevated cage with an open wire floor. Skull of a three-week-old chicken. Here the opisthotic bone appears in the occipital region, as in the adult Chelonian. Breeds artificially developed for egg production rarely go broody, and those that do often stop part-way through the incubation. However, other breeds, such as the Cochin, Cornish and Silkie, do regularly go broody, and they make excellent mothers, not only for chicken eggs but also for those of other species—even those with much smaller or larger eggs and different incubation periods, such as quail, pheasants, turkeys or geese. Hatching

and early life Fertile chicken eggs hatch at the end of the incubation period, about 21 days. Before hatching, the hen can hear the chicks peeping inside the eggs, and will gently cluck to stimulate them to break out of their shells. The chick begins by "pipping"; pecking a breathing hole with its egg tooth towards the blunt end of the egg, usually on the upper side. The chick then rests for some hours, absorbing the remaining egg yolk and withdrawing the blood supply from the membrane beneath the shell used earlier for breathing through the shell. The chick then enlarges the hole, gradually turning round as it goes, and eventually severing the blunt end of the shell completely to make a lid. The chick crawls out of the remaining shell, and the wet down dries out in the warmth of the nest. Hens usually remain on the nest for about two days after the first chick hatches, and during this time the newly hatched chicks feed by absorbing the internal yolk sac. Some breeds sometimes start eating cracked eggs, which can become habitual. She leads them to food and water and will call them toward edible items, but seldom feeds them directly. She continues to care for them until they are several weeks old. Embryology Play media Earliest gestation stages and blood circulation of a chicken embryo In , scientists researching the ancestry of birds "turned on" a chicken recessive gene , *talpid2*, and found that the embryo jaws initiated formation of teeth, like those found in ancient bird fossils. John Fallon, the overseer of the project, stated that chickens have " The domestic chicken is descended primarily from the red junglefowl *Gallus gallus* and is scientifically classified as the same species. According to one early study, a single domestication event which took place in what now is the country of Thailand gave rise to the modern chicken with minor transitions separating the modern breeds. Instead, the origin could be the Harappan culture of the Indus Valley. Eventually, the chicken moved to the Tarim basin of central Asia. Phoenicians spread chickens along the Mediterranean coasts as far as Iberia. Breeding increased under the Roman Empire , and was reduced in the Middle Ages. It was during the Hellenistic period 4th-2nd centuries BC , in the Southern Levant, that chickens began widely to be domesticated for food. Araucanas, some of which are tailless and some of which have tufts of feathers around their ears, lay blue-green eggs. It has long been suggested that they pre-date the arrival of European chickens brought by the Spanish and are evidence of pre-Columbian trans-Pacific contacts between Asian or Pacific Oceanic peoples, particularly the Polynesians, and South America. In , an international team of researchers reported the results of analysis of chicken bones found on the Arauco Peninsula in south-central Chile. Radiocarbon dating suggested that the chickens were Pre-Columbian, and DNA analysis showed that they were related to prehistoric populations of chickens in Polynesia. In contrast, sequences from two archaeological sites on Easter Island group with an uncommon haplogroup from Indonesia, Japan, and China and may represent a genetic signature of an early Polynesian dispersal. Modeling of the potential marine carbon contribution to the Chilean archaeological specimen casts further doubt on claims for pre-Columbian chickens, and definitive proof will require further analyses of ancient DNA sequences and radiocarbon and stable isotope data from archaeological excavations within both Chile and Polynesia. Poultry farming and Chicken as food A former battery hen, five days after release. Note the pale comb - the comb may be a reliable indicator of health or vigor. Friction between these two main methods has led to long-term issues of ethical consumerism. Opponents of intensive farming argue that it harms the environment, creates human health risks and is inhumane. Broiler A commercial chicken house with open sides raising broiler pullets for meat Chickens farmed for meat are called broilers. Chickens will naturally live for six or more years, but broiler breeds typically take less than six weeks to reach slaughter size. Reared for eggs Main article: Egg as food Chickens farmed primarily for eggs are called layer hens. In total, the UK alone consumes more than 34 million eggs per day. Hens, particularly from battery cage systems, are sometimes infirm or have lost a significant amount of their feathers, and their life expectancy has been reduced from around seven years to less than two years. Some flocks may be force-moulted several times. Temperature regulation is the most critical factor for a successful hatch. Humidity is also important because the rate at which eggs lose water by evaporation depends on the ambient relative humidity. Evaporation can be assessed by candling, to view the size of the air sac, or by measuring weight loss. Lower humidity is usual in the first 18 days to ensure adequate evaporation. The position of the eggs in the incubator can also influence hatch rates. For best results, eggs should be placed with the pointed ends down and turned regularly at least three times per day until one to three days before hatching. Adequate ventilation is necessary to provide the

## CHICKENS (ANIMALS THAT LIVE ON THE FARM) pdf

embryo with oxygen. Older eggs require increased ventilation. Many commercial incubators are industrial-sized with shelves holding tens of thousands of eggs at a time, with rotation of the eggs a fully automated process. Home incubators are boxes holding from 6 to 75 eggs; they are usually electrically powered, but in the past some were heated with an oil or paraffin lamp. Diseases and ailments Chickens are susceptible to several parasites , including lice , mites , ticks , fleas , and intestinal worms , as well as other diseases. Despite the name, they are not affected by chickenpox , which is generally restricted to humans.

### 4: 6 Things No One Tells You About Living on a Farm | [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*Some of the food grown on farms feeds farm animals, and other food is sent from the farm to feed people. A visit to a farm might involve meeting many different animals that live there. You might see cows, pigs, chickens, horses, sheep, goats, llamas, and donkeys living on farms.*

From this trash-filled scene to our scenic farm in Watkins Glen, NY, these birds have had quite a change in their lives. Tad, Tupac, Bethany, and Sarah after their cage was cleaned. Still no way to live, and thankfully, we got them out just a week after this photo was taken. A little fresh air and sunshine made all the difference! Brother Tupac also looking better and growing stronger. These boys were in a cage in the middle of an ammonia-filled barn, suffering from respiratory illness and lots of parasites. Luther, a few months after he arrived, was able to come up on the main farm. He still looked thin and in poor feather condition, but that has definitely changed. Luther now is much more confident and a whole lot chubbier. This boy has grown into quite a beautiful rooster with a very happy life that he clearly appreciates. Each of the incredible chickens who came from these horrific conditions has now come around and is displaying a very unique personality all his or her own. The outdoor housing at the facility was not much better than the indoor housing, and many of the birds suffered frostbite along with their other illnesses due to filthy conditions. Retina enjoying the grass under her feet. Before her rescue, she lived in constant garbage and mud, and she seems to really enjoy her new world. Everyone arrived frightened, and very sick. The girls who had been living in indoor housing were in such horrific condition that the vets from APHIS required respirators to enter the enclosure. The stench burned your nose and eyes, and you could see the dander and manure dust in the air. The beautiful Scarlet Crofton, a stunning Ameraucana gal, looks amazing in comparison to when we found her, when she was nearly featherless. As the birds recovered, it was fun to see what breeds of chicken they were, since they looked very different at the time of their rescue. Those who had been living outside were faring no better and all of them had respiratory issues as well. Chinook is friendly with people, unlike her sister Cellini, who is very shy. As important as good physical health is to our bird residents and all of our animal friends, the psychological needs of every animal must also be met. We allow the birds to pick out their own people and put them in flocks accordingly. We do not allow chickens who are picked on to remain in that area, and instead find them a new place. These girls still hang together, but Cellini is harder to get pictures of. And we watch everyone closely. We try to place birds who are friends who clearly spend time together together in homes, and we do the same at our sanctuaries. Birds do have some serious cliques. Joe Boo on the move. He is quite the good-looking young roo. All of our bird residents have their own spaces, and they are accounted for each night no bird left behind. Each bird area has a whiteboard that gives the daily head count of the animals who live in the barns. Norm and his lady friends enjoying an early spring day. Norm is quite the character and always has a hen sitting under him odd but true. Jumping for joy when you realize that you are seen, you are appreciated, and you are finally someone, not something.

### 5: Work as a Farm Caretaker, and Live Rent Free | MOTHER EARTH NEWS

*Because meat chickens represent the most numerous and some of the most abused animals in our food system, please demand change by pledging to Shop With Your Heart. Egg-Laying Hens Most egg-laying hens in the U.S. live on factory farms in long, windowless sheds containing rows of stacked "battery cages."*

Comments 2 comments by Karen Davis, Ph. An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry and other groundbreaking books and articles about the plight and delight of domestic fowl. From Forest to Farmyard to Factory Farm In the eighteenth century, the New Jersey Quaker John Woolman noted the despondency of chickens on a boat going from America to England and the poignancy of their hopeful response when they came close to land. Behind them lay centuries of domestication, preceded and paralleled by an autonomous life in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia and the rugged foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. Descendants of the ancestors of domesticated chickens, known as jungle fowl, continue to occupy their forests homes, even as the forests are being eroded, in part to grow crops for chickens on factory farms. Chickens are creatures of the earth who no longer live on the land in numbers anywhere near the countless billions of chickens locked in factory farm buildings virtually everywhere on earth. They have not changed, but the world in which they evolved to live has been violated for human convenience against their will. Chickens were the first farmed animals to be permanently confined indoors in large numbers in automated systems based on genetic manipulation for food-production traits and reliance on antibiotics and drugs. In the twentieth century, the poultry industry in the United States became the model for animal agriculture throughout the world. In the average number of chickens for the three million reporting farms in the United States was twenty-three. Poultry diseases proliferated with the growing concentration of the confined utility flocks that kept getting bigger. As a result, traditional poultry-keeping and poultry shows came to be viewed as potential disease routes, similar to current claims that chickens kept outdoors spread avian influenza viruses. Following World War II, the system known as vertical integration replaced earlier methods of chicken production. Under this system, a single company or producer, such as Tyson Foods, owns all production sectors, including the birds, hatcheries, feed mills, transportation services, medications, slaughter plants, further processing facilities, and delivery to buyers. In this way, a major capital investment along with the burden of land and water pollution is shifted to the growers. The treatment of chickens in modern food production is surpassingly ugly and cruel. The mechanized environment, beak mutilations, starvation versus overfeeding procedures and methodologies for mass-murdering birds raise profound and unsettling questions about our society and our species. In fact, chickens do not gain weight and lay eggs in inimical surroundings because they are comfortable, content, or well-cared for, but because they are manipulated to do these things through genetics and management techniques that have nothing to do with happiness, except to destroy it. Productivity is an economic measure referring to averages, not the well-being of individuals. Many more birds suffer and die on factory farms than on traditional farms relative to their numbers, but the amount of flesh and number of eggs is much greater on the industrial scale. Chickens are not suited to the captivity imposed on them to satisfy human wants in the modern world. Ulcerative and necrotic diseases in agribusiness chickens are endemic. Necrotic enteritis involving the bacterial agent *Clostridium perfringens* shows intestines swollen with gas, oozing putrid fluid, and full of ulcers. Gangrenous dermatitis, a skin disease, affects the legs, wings, breast, vent, abdomen and intestines of the birds as a result of toxins emitted by *Clostridium perfringens* in conjunction with exposure to immunosuppressive viruses in the chicken sheds. The foot-long windowless metal sheds the chickens are raised in can be seen lined up and clustered together in rural areas. Inside the sheds, 30, or more young chickens sit in a swirl of disease microbes, carbon dioxide, methane gases, hydrogen sulfide, nitrous oxide, lung-destroying dust, ammonia fumes, and particles of feathers and skin suspended in the air. Trying to ease the pain, afflicted birds rub their heads and eyelids against their wings. The skin on their stomachs and legs ulcerates in the ammoniated manure they are forced to sit in, and respiratory illnesses are chronic and ubiquitous. The lighting in the chicken houses is kept dim so that the birds will move only to eat, drink and sit down again, in order to accelerate their weight gain. To a person standing in the doorway of one of these

buildings as I have often done on the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, where at any given time over half a billion chickens are confined they resemble, as a journalist in the U. As they move toward the automated knife blades, they are dragged face down through an electrified water trough designed to slacken their neck muscles and contract their wing muscles for proper positioning of their heads for the blades and to paralyze the muscles of their feather follicles so that their feathers will come out more easily after they are dead. Millions of birds are conscious and breathing not only as their throats are cut but afterward, when they are plunged into the scald water tanks to loosen their feathers. Decompression chambers have also been tried. Proponents claim these methods are less cruel. Compared to being tortured with electrical shocks, this is probably true. Their eggs are taken away, so the parents never see their chicks. Left to eat unrestricted, the roosters and hens become so large and disabled that they cannot mate properly or even move without pain. To curb these effects, broiler breeder chickens are kept in low light on semi-starvation diets. When the food is restored, the chickens rush pitifully to the feeders and gorge themselves. On days without food, they peck compulsively at spots on the floor and at the air and try to drink more water to compensate for their emptiness, but since more water results in wetter droppings, their water is limited leaving the chickens with nothing to do but suffer. The soft tuft of feathers that protects their ears is missing, exposing the ear hole, which does not happen in healthy young chickens living a normal life. A foraging hen knows how to select the calcium and other nutrients she needs to synchronize her laying cycles with the cycles of nature. Sunlight passes into her eye, sending a message to her brain, which in turn sends its own message to the anterior pituitary gland which produces a hormone that causes the ovarian follicle to enlarge. The ovary generates the hormones that stimulate the processes required to form an egg, the purpose of which in chickens, as with all birds, is to renew each generation via the natural mating of hens and roosters. In the twentieth century, the small and lively leghorn hens of Mediterranean descent were forced into metal cages stacked and lined in buildings farther than the eye can see through the haze of pollutants. An article in Egg Industry magazine explains that prior to the s, flocks of to 10, birds were kept on floors in houses where feeding, watering, and egg collection were done by hand. The cage system prevailed, with the result that by the s, buildings were being constructed for flocks of 30, hens. By the s such buildings were enlarged to hold 50, to , hens in wire cages. Genetics, lighting, and chemicals have combined to produce a hen capable of laying to eggs a year, in contrast to the one or two clutches of about a dozen eggs per clutch laid in the spring and early summer by her wild relatives. Genetic selection for premature egg-laying cuts the cost of feeding and housing pullets for six months while creating many problems, including the formation of eggs that are often too big for the body of a five-month-old hen, causing her uterus to protrude, inviting infection and vent picking by her cell mates. Egg-laying is further manipulated by forcing the hens to sit under artificial lights designed to mimic the longest days of summer. Originally, each hen had 48 square inches of cage space, and undercover investigations indicate that many still do. Criticism in Switzerland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom in the s spread to the United States in the s and s. By the late s, growing animal-welfare concern prompted United Egg Producers to commission a committee to develop recommendations that set housing standards by at 67 square inches of space per hen for white hens and 76 square inches for the slightly larger brown hens, to be increased to 86 square inches in Similar standards were set in Canada and the European Union. In the European Commission reaffirmed a directive banning the barren cage system by Unfortunately, the ban allows so-called enriched cages. The Story of a Campaign. The rougher they look, the better they lay. The carbon dioxide burns, freezes, and asphyxiates the hens, who mean nothing to their owners. While sentimental anthropomorphism can be a risk, anthropomorphism based on empathy and careful observation is a valid approach to understanding other species, including chickens. Inferences about their emotions, interests, and desires rooted in our common evolutionary heritage are different from imposing alien patterns on them for purely utilitarian purposes. The treatment of chickens bred for human consumption exemplifies utilitarian anthropomorphism at its worst. Chickens are severed from all human sympathy and connectedness with the natural world while simultaneously being subjected to a set of verbal, bodily, and housing constructions designed to reflect only what the exploiters want to extract from them. To the poultry industry, chickens are divisions of labor either piling on flesh or churning out eggs. However, a decline in animal factories cannot happen as long as billions

of people consume animal products. The good news is that animal-free eating gets easier all the time as more and more people seek healthy, delicious vegan food products and restaurant dishes. Whenever I tell people stories about our sanctuary chickens, many become very sad. Many people are surprised to learn that chickens have personalities and will. My experience with chickens for more than thirty years has shown me that chickens are conscious and emotional beings with adaptable sociability and a range of interests, intentions, temperaments, and affections. From rotting in cages to roosting in branches, former battery hens enjoy life at United Poultry Concerns. UPC Sanctuary Photo by: If there is one trait above all that leaps to my mind in thinking about chickens and watching them in our sanctuary yard among the trees and bushes, or sitting quietly together on the porch, it is cheerfulness. Chickens are cheerful birds, and when they are dispirited and oppressed, their entire being expresses their despondency. Likewise, when chickens are happy, their sense of well-being resonates unmistakably. Select References and Recommended Reading.

6: There are 12 animals in a [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) are cows the rest are [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*The Many Animals That Live on a Farm - Children's Agriculture Books by Baby Prof See more like this Farm Animals Pig Cow Sheep Chicken Terry Towel Kay Dee Farm Life Pattern Brand New.*

To us jet setters, the countryside seems so beautiful Goats shit like an I Love Lucy skit. And according to my studies, cows digest only 2 percent of what they eat. The rest is simply coated in filth and flung out of the back of the animal. The only two events in the life cycle of a cow are ruining grass and death. Continue Reading Below Advertisement A nice thing to do for animals is to keep a layer of hay on the floor of their barn. You just pick it up with a shovel and move it, right? They were also peeing on that, and the second you disturb the swampy toilet they call a home, ammonia shoots out to burn your lungs and sear your eyeballs. Evolution gave these monsters natural weapons that actually prevent you from cleaning up after them. In all the animal kingdom, nothing shits like a chicken. They do, enthusiastically, but more notable than the amount is the coverage -- chickens can and will put their crap everywhere. They never go in the same spot twice. I have seen eggs come out of chickens with feces already on them. And I can prove it. It was like an upside-down bucket that drip-fed into a little moat. In order for that to happen, they had to be deliberately and uncomfortably backing their assholes into their own water supply. There was even crap on the top and sides of the waterer, which meant that the more athletic chickens were leaping over it and moving their bowels with precision timing. I swear the reason chickens run around after you cut their heads off is because their bowels still have so much to live for. Continue Reading Below 5 Animals Are Also Dicks, Stupid, or Stupid Dicks If your only interaction with farm animals is petting zoos and cheeseburgers, you probably see them as lovable and innocent creatures. Every time a living thing breaks eye contact with a goat, a coin flips in its brain. Tails, it charges as hard as it can. A goat head is like a cement block with horns because the only things those stupid things know how to do is lick salt and head butt. Continue Reading Below Advertisement In the country, even dogs are assholes. That territorial instinct is multiplied as their territory expands. Growing up, if we wanted to get home safely from the bus stop, we had to fill the weakest child with dog poison. When you live on a farm, you also have to deal with wild animals. Raccoons will spread your garbage out horizontally. Badgers will rip the heads off of your chickens. Even the "cute" animals are a pain in your ass. Deer will use their majestic leaping ability to hop into your garden and eat everything you grow. Country mechanics probably spend more time scraping deer carcasses out of truck grills than they do fixing engines. Chickens Are Rapists Let me explain how the mating cycle of a free range chicken works. A hen struts around, darting her beak into the ground and ejecting terrible amounts of black and white acrylic paint from her ass. With the stealth of a jungle cat and the romance of a running start, he leaps onto her and pelvic blasts her for one explosive, squawking second. The female chicken will hate this. Continue Reading Below Advertisement The rooster does this to every chicken every day, and none of them have ever wanted it. Chickens are these stupid little fat squirting things that look like a pillow fight when they try to fly, and the only thing they can do with any elegance is violent sexual assault and pantomiming the shame they feel afterward. Continue Reading Below Advertisement After being furiously impregnated against her will, the hen lays her egg and sits on it as often as she can for 22 days. This is usually cut short by about 22 days when a farmer or his disinterested children yank the egg out from under her. To do this, one simply pries the fluttering, pecking hen out of her coop. If a chicken manages to outsmart you by disguising its egg as an egg-sized pile of feces for 22 days, and it will, this of course hatches into a chick. If the chick grows up to be your second or second millionth hen, fine. Determining its sex is easy. You simply pinch its body until its anal vent protrudes and check it for bumps. Continue Reading Below Advertisement If you screw up and get a second male chicken, the competition to be the top rapist drives them all insane. Roosters have a biological aversion to sloppy seconds, and any time one bones any amount less than percent of the nearby ladies, it becomes a feral, unpredictable attack bird. So to sum up: However, most of them are constantly being cleaned. In the country, no one is there to clean it up. Old combines, plows, tools, trespasser skeletons, cars Most farmers produce as much rusty metal junk as they do food. An un milked cow dies in screaming pain. Unweeded thistles will devour your crops and launch seeds

into every neighboring county. Your sprinkler system is watching for your truck to drive away so it can malfunction and turn your garden into a mud wrestling pit. Continue Reading Below Advertisement If you let an egg sit under a chicken over the weekend, its yolk turns from a delicious breakfast into a veiny fetus. Each egg I cracked had a higher and higher chance of dropping a face and placenta into the bowl, and I was raised American, so we only ate face and placenta on Chinese New Year. The maintenance required to keep a farm going never ends. You can handle it in two ways: Which brings me to my next point But they are infinitely better than the neighbor who pulled a shotgun on me and my brother when we were playing Rambo too close to his cabin. Continue Reading Below Advertisement Wild hermits are unusual, but everyone in the country owns a gun, and like all gun owners they fantasize all day about using them. I rode the bus with moon-headed children who were by the very literal definition of the word inbred. I got in a fist fight with one of them in fourth grade, and I have a vivid memory of my deadliest karate blows having no effect on his indefinably wrong face. The house nearest to ours had actual booby traps on it. I honestly never asked, but we had enough jam and canned corn to outlast their siege. My folks used to turn off the electricity on weekends to prepare us for a life of self-sustained everything. I had so many knives and spears stashed in tree forts that my version of Home Alone would have been rated NC, and my parents thought that was rad. I should have made it clear earlier that when I said, "In the country, all your neighbors are insane," I was mostly talking to the people living next to me. Seanbaby invented being funny on the Internet with Seanbaby. Awesome people follow him on Twitter.

### 7: Animals of Farm Sanctuary – Reintroducing Beeley Pippin and the Chickens of

*Chickens are a commonly raised farm animal because they are multipurpose animals. They are a great source of eggs, meat, and fertilizer. Chickens require about 4 square feet of space per hen in the coop. Chickens require a covered area to stay dry, fresh water, and a place to nest and lay their eggs.*

Best of all, you will live rent free! Well, farm caretaking is somewhat similar. Plus, you get to see what farm life is all about—firsthand and close up—without having to invest thousands of dollars in your own "spread". Sound like a good deal? We thought so, after a friend of ours explained the idea to us. At the time we had just spent weeks gumshoeing around the backwoods in search of low-rent rural housing to no avail, we were ready to try anything. We will protect and maintain your farm property for the privilege of living there. Caretaking includes safeguarding adjacent outbuildings, livestock, equipment, crops, woods, roads, fields, and water systems. No utilities needed except on-site water and stovewood privileges. Louis papers, and we also placed the notice in seven county journals that were published in the areas where we wanted to live. The widely read St. Louis newspapers pulled the biggest response, from landowners, who lived right in town and from folks as much as miles distant. All told, we received about 60 replies to our little advertisement. The propositions sent to us were amazingly varied. After looking into several attractive offers, we moved to a acre farm with fine old house, barn, and well-preserved sheds 80 miles west of St. We simply walked in the door and began living. Not only was the house itself completely furnished down to blankets, pots, and pans. We figure that our method of farm hunting should work for anyone, just about anywhere in the country. Remember, though, that situations are always changing. Ask the landlord about this little detail before you seal any agreement. This could prevent hard feelings later. Put your duties, privileges, conditions of stay, etc. Remember, your very presence is a service and thus has a dollar value. So try to look—and be—genuine and hardworking! While making our deal I cut my hair for the first time in three years and found that, as a result, I was much more quickly accepted. We worked three years to get ourselves "together" mentally, physically, and spiritually for the Big Move. The owner of "our" farm plans to reside here one day himself but is currently tied to a job in the city. In the meantime we live on his property, chop our own wood, gather wild foods, keep a garden, and rejuvenate old fruit trees. Take it from us: All you need is a willingness to work, a desire to leave the city. I have a rather new passion for gardening and farming. I want to live-in, work, and most importantly learn about homesteading; so that one day I may have a place of my own. I am a fully capable male that has zero disabilities to prevent me from physical work. A fast learner and excellent at leading a project with clear objectives or known procedures. Thank you for your time; I can be reached at the following email: I have a degree in Animal Biotechnology and Conservation focusing in animal science, and many years farm experience. Must be drug and felony free. Powell Ky You can reach us as davedeleon40 gmail. Im retired military used to own my qwn dairy an beef farm. I have carpentry skills and tools. I am looking for a rural modest farmhouse for my 3 rescued dogs and myself to live, in return for maintaining home and property. Hard working, reliable vehicle and very respectful! I would love to be a caretaker for plants, no animals please. My boyfriend has much experience working construction as well as hunting, and farming. We are hard workers who are looking to work in a beautiful setting outdoors while living a simple lifestyle. My boyfriend has several years experience in farming, construction and hunting. We are hard workers, we are creative, we are honest and reliable. You can contact me at independent gmail. Both have experience and would love the opportunity to meet with you and or come to work for you. You may reach us at either indeprndent gmail. We are in a pinch right now and need to move out our home by end of June but would like to move out sooner considering our situation. We can chat when you make contact with us! We also have a dog and 2 cats. I work from home as an educational test grader but I am an energy healer, teacher, artist, writer. We are in Kentucky and would be interested in the following areas: I am good when it comes to taking care of animal,crops,construction,carpentry. I would love to share my experince by being a caretaker on someones farm and you will not regret it. I need along term If you like fishing, woodworking, terrace gardening, maybe small flock tending with guardian animals, and overall mountain living, this might be the

## CHICKENS (ANIMALS THAT LIVE ON THE FARM) pdf

place for you. Just like the article says, your presence would be service enough for us. So bring your alternative building ideas and relax. No rent and we would expect a reliable, sincerely responsible person to care for our animals, upkeep and maintaining property and home. We live in South Western Wisconsin. I have experience in working as a farm hand taking care of horses. Worked 65hrs a month for rent. Looking to do the same again. My fiance grew up around horses so he has experience as well. Im looking for something in salt lake city utah or jorden utah. Please email me at mrsjackson gmail. I use to be a farm hand and im looking for this again in salt lake city utah. Please call me at I am an ex racehorse trainer and have experience with rescue dogs. Also an experienced organic gardener. Please email me at nokillshelternetwork gmail. I have experience with horses and other animals.. Thank you for reading. Bulding maintenance and animal care. Looking to live, reside in a studio or alike, on a farm or large garden around Boulder Colorado for part rent and part labor. Please call my friend Emme at Timmy lo,i also have construction knowledge,carprntry,concrete,framing,roofing,etc. No animals and live on the farm rent free. I would love to take care of Gardens and Plant Life. How do I get started?

### 8: Animals on Factory Farms | Chickens | Pigs | Cattle | ASPCA

*Chickens are a terrific way to start raising animals on a small farm. They're hardy, easy to take care of, and don't cost much in terms of setup. A small flock can easily produce enough eggs to meet all a family's egg requirements, and a flock of a few dozen can generate a nice little egg business.*

Consumers have a lot of questions about how chickens are raised these days. Are chickens fed additional hormones? And what does the label farm-raised chickens really mean? Best Food Facts checked in with experts Dr. Are hormones given to chickens raised for meat? If not, what is the difference between chicken labeled as hormone-free and chicken that does not carry that label? No chickens raised in the U. Feeding chickens additional hormones has been illegal in the U. Why do some companies label chicken as hormone-free? Chickens have hormones like all living things, but there are no additional hormones labeled to any chickens, anywhere. There is no difference between chickens labeled as hormone-free and those that do not carry that label. Hormones are not used in poultry production for broilers or egg layers. Every animal and plant that exists has natural hormones that they produce. The only difference between chicken labeled hormone-free and chicken not labeled as such is how the company chooses to market the product. What does the label farm-raised chicken mean? They all are farm-raised. Some companies choose to market their products differently to appeal to their customer base. To be honest, every single chicken producer in the country could label their product as farm-raised in a literal sense. Are farm-raised chickens raised with antibiotics? There are some that are, but that is being phased out. Sub-therapeutic doses put in feed, primarily for broilers, to deal with sub-clinical health issues will be phased out. Should I be concerned that eating chicken that was fed antibiotics might have antibiotic residue, or contribute to increased antibiotic resistance? No, first, the dose is really, really small. Secondly, those antibiotics are typically not used in human health. Representatives from every flock are tested for antibiotic residue. Will new regulations limiting the use of animal antibiotics important to human medicine affect how chickens are raised? The new regulations will not affect companies with a veterinarian on staff at all. Animals that periodically have sub-clinical health issues that affect growth rate can cause an economic problem. The industry will just have to deal with it. If, for example, feed efficiency worsens and it takes longer to grow animals to market weight, there will be an economic cost to consumers. Will these new regulations mean chickens get sick more often? Yes, I know of a company that is completely antibiotic free, and they have a hard time combating illnesses. Veterinarians have a hard time not being able to treat animals when they get sick. If the veterinarian works for a company producing antibiotic-free chicken, and they must treat a bird, it has to go to a different processing plant and is a logistical problem. If the chickens get sick more often, feed efficiency amount of feed per lb. Do I need to be concerned about eating chicken that might have been sick? Assuming all safety procedures that are in place work properly, you will not be eating a sick chicken. There are a number of safeguards in place to prevent this. If the chickens are sick, they should not be sent from the farm to the processing plant. When the chickens get to the processing plant they are inspected by crews from the processing plant and USDA inspectors. Also, you should inspect poultry you purchase at the grocery store and be sure to cook poultry to adequate temperatures. As long as you cook chicken properly it should be safe. Animals that go into the food chain go through USDA-inspected plants, so there is a visual inspection of the carcass. With proper handling and cooking, food will be safe. Are there alternatives to antibiotics to keep chickens healthy? I think best management practices and biosecurity methods, to attempt to keep out any pathogens, will be really important. There are many alternatives. Pre-biotics feed the good bacteria and fight off the bad. Probiotics are your good bacteria, similar to yogurt with the live cultures for humans to fight off the bad bacteria. Then you have essential oils, organic acids and a whole slew of options producers can use to keep chickens healthy. The fault with many of them is they just are not as effective as antibiotics, which is why the poultry industry has used antibiotics for so long. Is there a risk that the chicken I purchased from the grocery store may have been raised in the U. I would hazard a guess that Also, any products shipped to the U. Those steps are inspected by USDA, so steps are in place to make sure everything is up to our standards.

### 9: Factory-Farmed Chickens: Their Difficult Lives and Deaths – Advocacy for Animals

*Chickens are inquisitive, interesting animals who are as intelligent as mammals such as cats, dogs, and even some primates. They are very social and like to spend their days together, scratching for food, taking dust baths, roosting in trees, and lying in the sun.*

Comments comments More than 9 billion chickens, along with half a billion turkeys, are slaughtered for food in the United States each year. This number represents more than 95 percent of the land animals killed for food in the country. Worldwide, more than 50 billion chickens are raised and slaughtered annually. Chickens are sociable, intelligent animals. Studies have shown that they are able to solve problems and, unlike young children, grasp the permanence of objects they understand that objects taken from view continue to exist. Their natural behavior includes living in stable groups of 30 or so that employ a social hierarchy the origin of the term pecking order. The chickens in a given flock all know and recognize each other. Their communal activities include scratching and pecking for food, running around, taking dust baths, and resting. They crow and chirp in a range of some 30 meaningful vocalizations. Chickens also have a strong urge to nest, and, like most animal mothers, they nurture their young attentively and affectionately. A hen carefully tends her eggs in the nest, turning them up to five times an hour and clucking to them; remarkably, the unborn chicks chirp back to her and to one another. People who have had opportunities to become acquainted with chickens—for example, while growing up on farms or visiting farm-animal sanctuaries—often remark on how affectionate chickens can be and how they seem to have their own personalities. Through the s, even chickens raised for eventual slaughter were kept in traditional small coops of no more than 60 or so birds, with free access to the outdoors; they could nest, roost, and share space according to their natural behavior. Quite the contrary—the reality of the life and death of factory-farmed chickens, both those raised for meat and those used to lay eggs, is shocking. As in all factory-farming industries, chicken production is designed for maximum efficiency and maximum profit. The results are overcrowding, disease, high death rates, and observable unhappiness for the animals involved. Some broiler chickens who do not succumb to these problems still die of thirst, because they are physically unable to even reach the water nozzles in their sheds. Other common causes of death pre-slaughter are heat prostration, cancer—in an animal less than seven weeks old—and infectious diseases. Broiler-chicken facilities tend to be extremely overcrowded, with tens of thousands of birds crammed into a single closed broiler house. Each chicken is given less than a square foot of space, so hardly any floor is actually visible. The birds are unable to roam, to scratch, or, indeed, to avoid each other at all. Their instinct to live in a hierarchical community is thwarted, and social tension results. This debeaking process, like much else in factory farming, is run assembly-line fashion, without anesthesia; the chicks are placed beak-first into an apparatus that quickly cuts the tips off the beaks with a hot blade. It is impossible, in such an atmosphere, to maintain health and cleanliness. Other health problems include the proliferation of Salmonella bacteria, which can remain on the slaughtered birds and so frequently cause threats to human health that special chicken-meat handling practices are invariably recommended by health authorities. Once the chickens have attained slaughter weight, they are loaded into crowded trucks that offer no protection from extreme temperatures, and many birds die as they are shipped to processing facilities. The most efficient of these facilities kill some 8, birds per hour, the result of a high degree of automation. Machines run by humans automatically stun the birds, cut their throats, and scald and pluck them. First, human workers strap the live chickens into leg shackles on a moving rail, from which the birds hang upside-down as they move on to baths of electrified water, which stuns them. This is ostensibly for humane purposes, in order to render them insensible before their throats are cut, but some observers believe it is done merely to immobilize them to a degree sufficient to make further processing easier, not to desensitize them. The stunned birds move on to a mechanical blade that cuts their throats. After the chickens bleed out, they are plunged into a scalding bath that removes feathers. Unfortunately, this high-speed assembly-line process contains potential missteps. The voltage in the electrified bath may be too low, resulting in the rapid recovery of the chickens, who are then well aware of the throat-cutting machine as they approach it. The blade misses many chickens, so they consequently are boiled

alive in the scalding bath. The Humane Society of the United States is one of several organizations lobbying to obtain a requirement that poultry animals not be exempted from legislation that would protect them from painful, sometimes torturous, death. Egg-laying hens As bad as conditions are for chickens raised for meat, they are even worse for birds in the egg industry. Erik Marcus, making a comparison to the better-publicized cruelty done to veal calves, says in his book *Meat Market: Animals, Ethics, and Money*: I personally believe that the average battery hen has it worse than the average veal calf. There are about million laying hens in the United States; of these, some 95 percent are kept in wire battery cages, which allow each hen an average of 67 square inches of space—less than the size of a standard sheet of paper. For perspective, a hen needs 72 square inches of space to be able to stand up straight and square inches to be able to spread and flap her wings. There is no room even for the hens to perform self-comforting behaviors such as preening and bathing. Hens are usually kept eight or nine to a cage; long tiers of these cages are built one upon another in sheds that hold tens of thousands of birds, none of whom has enough room to raise a wing. Like chickens raised for meat, laying hens are debeaked as chicks. The hens are deprived of the ability to create nests for their eggs, which instead drop through the wires of the cage for collection. This inability to engage in instinctive behavior causes great frustration. A sad side effect of the egg-production industry is the wholesale destruction of male chicks, who are useless to the egg industry. These chicks are not used in the meat industry either, because they have not been genetically manipulated for meat production. Male chicks are ground up in batches while still alive, suffocated in trash cans, or gassed. Periodic forced molting creates an additional laying cycle: Caged in this way, hens are unable to exercise, and constant egg production leaches calcium from their bones; these two factors cause severe osteoporosis, which leads to broken bones and great pain for the hens. The syndrome is called Cage-Layer Fatigue. Additionally, the wires of the cage injure the feet of the chickens, as the hens must sit in essentially one position their whole lives with their feet pressing into the wires. They rub against the sides of the cage, which causes severe feather loss and skin abrasions. In essence, hens who would normally be able to use their whole bodies and have lives as full as those of any other animal in nature are reduced to immobilized egg-laying machines, existing for that one purpose only. The hens live like this for about two years or less, until their bodies are exhausted from the stresses of constant laying and their egg production decreases. At that point, they are shipped to slaughter to be turned into animal feed or sometimes human food or are simply discarded. In a public outcry brought attention to a California ranch that was reported to have discarded thousands of live hens using a wood chipper; no charges were brought because, as it turned out, this is a common industry practice. What about free-range eggs and meat? There are some facilities like that, but in reality, there is no uniform standard for the free-range designation. No regulations exist that describe the size of the outdoor area or the number of birds allowed in a single shed, for example. In practice, the facilities may be windowless and as overcrowded as any other, and only a few chickens may ever be able to reach the door at all. Further, the breeds used are likely to be the standard ones used in non-free-range operations: Free-range laying hens, like all other laying hens, are killed after about a year or two when their egg production drops. They are usually slaughtered under the same conditions described above. Like battery chickens, free-range chickens come from hatcheries that kill the male chicks. Toward a better future Movements are afoot across the globe to improve conditions for chickens and other poultry animals. The European Union has agreed to abolish the use of battery cages by The Humane Society of the United States HSUS and other organizations are pushing for such a law, and various states and communities in the United States have passed or are considering similar laws. And there have been other successes. In March another fast-food giant, Burger King, promised to implement new animal-welfare policies that include provisions for buying a certain percentage of its eggs from cage-free producers and some of its chickens from producers that use more-humane slaughter methods. The supermarket chains Whole Foods and Wild Oats have also moved away from using and selling eggs from caged chickens. UPC was established to address the plight of domesticated fowl used for food production.

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