

Committee: Youth Delegate Forum (YDF)

Issue: Tackling Animal Abuse and Mistreatment in Factory Farms

Student Officer: Konstantina Plesti

Position: Co-Head

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Konstantina Plesti and I am an IBDP1 student at Athens College and it is my utmost honor and pleasure to be serving as one of the Co-Heads in the Youth Delegate Forum (YDF). I would like to welcome you all to the 6th session of the DSTMUN. During the conference, you will have the opportunity to debate, find measures and solutions on vital topics and cooperate with your fellow delegates.

This year's agenda is comprised of two highly debatable and significant topics that need to be tackled as to move towards climate sustainability and to shift the focus toward the environment, which is this year's conference theme. As concerns this study guide, the topic that will be covered is the first one, "Tackling Animal Abuse and Mistreatment in Factory Farms". This study guide should provide you with the fundamental information on this topic. Nevertheless, you are highly encouraged to carry out your own research to get a better and more profound understanding of the topic. The bibliography can be beneficial to the research process.

Should you have any questions regarding the topic, the conference, or the committee, do not hesitate to contact me via email at kplesti@athenscollege.edu.gr.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Best regards,

Konstantina Plesti

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The intensive farming system was conceptualized approximately a century ago. Even if it is believed that factory farming practices began much later, they were actually introduced in the 1930's in Chicago, US and quickly expanded to the UK and other nations. Factory farming has continued to grow ever since, and it has recently started to reach Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

In a historical context, animals are considered to be the main victims of history from the first humans reaching Australia and the colonization of America

which led to destroying most large animals and mammals respectively to the extinction of half of all the terrestrial mammals of the planet by previous human species.

The rearing of farmed animals today is dominated by industrialized facilities known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs (often referred to as “factory farms”), whose absolute goal is the production of the largest volumes of yield for the smallest possible price, which is the main reason why animals are treated as production units, and not as living beings. Factory farms have significant impacts on the lives of animals, because farmed animals are legally considered to be livestock and belong to the companies, and are consequently not treated as the sentient, intelligent and empathetic beings they are.

It is also worth noting that the farming landscape is not as we imagine. Today, it is characterized by small, windowless spaces which cause a plethora of diseases to the animals. The animals also suffer from violence and inhumane treatment. It is made evident that they are treated as property and livestock rather than actual, sentient beings, which is why it is vital to tackle the topic sufficiently with a variety of measures.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Aquaculture

“Aquaculture, also called fish farming, fish culture, or mariculture, the propagation and husbandry of aquatic plants, animals, and other organisms for commercial, recreational, and scientific purposes.”¹

Disbudding

“Disbudding involves destroying the corium of the horn bud without causing significant damage to the periosteum. Fourteen days after birth horn tissue starts to form around the horn bud.”²

Castration

“Castration is the removal or inactivation of the testicles of a male animal. Castration is a common management tool in the beef cattle sector in order to stop the production of male hormones, prevent unplanned mating and decrease aggression to enhance on-farm safety for handlers and animals.”³

¹ “Aquaculture.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/topic/aquaculture

² “Goat | Description, Breeds, Milk, and Facts.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/animal/goat

³ “Castration - BeefResearch.ca.” *Beef Research*, www.beefresearch.ca/topics/castration-in-beef-cattle

Livestock

“Livestock, farm animals, with the exception of poultry. In Western countries the category encompasses primarily cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses, donkeys, and mules; other animals, such as buffalo, oxen, llamas, or camels, may predominate in the agriculture of other areas.”⁴

Cultured Meat

“Cultured meat, sometimes called lab-grown, clean, or cultivated meat, is grown in a lab from a few animal cells. It's real meat, but it doesn't require animals to be slaughtered the way traditional meat does.”⁵

Bodily Mutilation

“An act or instance of destroying, removing, or severely damaging a limb or other body part of a person or animal.”⁶

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The history of Factory Farming

Before factory farming and industrialized agriculture, farms were less, farmers had a variety of crops and animals that were able to graze freely and not be encaged, and the decisions made for the animals were not handled by corporations, whose sole purpose was maximizing cost. Farmers were able to make their own decisions concerning the animals, farms and crops. Transportation was not needed since the products were distributed and consumed within the local community.

The industrialization of agriculture developed so rapidly that farming faced more changes during the 20th century than since it first began, approximately 10,000 thousand years ago. The process was abetted by the invention of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in the early 20th century. Later on, antibiotics began to be added to the feed of the majority of farm animals, enabling the confinement in smaller spaces.

The concept of industrialized farms began in the 1920's with the realization that there would be a major increase in egg production should the birds not be free in farmyards and pastures but confined in cages, where it would be feasible to have more birds. However, Factory Farming originated in the US in the 1930's with the

⁴ “Livestock | Definition, Examples, and Facts.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/animal/livestock

⁵ “Cultured Meat: What to Know.” *WebMD*, 21 Apr. 2023, www.webmd.com/diet/cultured-meat-what-to-know.

⁶ “Definition of MUTILATION.” *Mutilation Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster*, 26 July 2023, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mutilation.

mechanization of pig slaughterhouses, which rapidly expanded to the poultry industry. The intensive animal farming model was growing in popularity through the mid and late 20th century, and it continues to grow up to this day. By the end of the 20th century, almost 10 billion animals were killed for food annually with the vast majority of animals being raised in factory farms.

Nowadays, animals live confined, mostly windowless spaces, outside of their natural habitat. Their life is filled with discomfort, pain and fear in the intensive farming system. The main problem is that in the facilities they live in, they are provided with the bare minimum until their slaughter. Their whole life is rushed; they are raised to grow quickly so that they can be turned into products. Today, factory farming is commonplace in most More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs), including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and the European Union. Factory farming is also the place where the majority of animals is exploited.



Figure 1: Animals killed or exploited annually by industry in the US ⁷

Animal Cruelty and Abuse in Factory Farms

Animals commonly reared in factory farms include pigs, cows, chickens, ducks, turkeys, fish, and shrimp. All animals, no matter their species or purpose, are subjected to cruelty and inhumane treatment in factory farms.

More specifically, birds in the egg industry, mostly chickens and turkeys, have been bred to grow abnormally fast, and are subjected to severe stress on their

⁷ "Farmed Animals - There Are an Estimated 9 Billion Animals Raised and Killed for Food Every Year." *Animal Legal Defense Fund*, aldf.org/focus_area/farmed-animals.

bodies.⁸ Many factory-farmed chickens and turkeys suffer from heart failure and painful blisters on their chests. “Their legs are unable to support their fast-growing bodies, resulting in fractures and lameness. Birds may not be able to access food or water and die slowly of dehydration or starvation.”⁹ In the egg industry, laying hens are subjected to several procedures including debeaking and forced molting, which severely harms their welfare. As concerns to debeaking, chickens are fully conscious during the procedure and receive no pain medication. Following the procedure, chickens are experiencing acute pain, open wounds, and impaired ability to eat and drink. During forced molting, hens are not given any food, sometimes for up to two weeks. Their access to water is also restricted. Artificial light can also be used to manipulate the cycle of egg laying and increase egg laying in their flocks by affecting their hormone levels, because laying hens rely on the changes in daylight hours in order to know when they should lay their eggs.

As concerns to the meat industry, cows are bred to produce as much milk as possible in an unnatural manner, which has doubled over the past several decades. This can cause several health problems, including lameness, physiological derangements like ketosis and milk fever, painful udder infections and discomfort from heavy udders. While pigs are known for their skills as intelligent and sentient animals, but also their cognitive abilities, they are still handled with cruelty and suffer extreme physical and psychological trauma and depravation. It is also possible that because of their abilities, they learn and remember the procedures that they have undergone. Both cows and pigs in factory farms experience procedures that are painful and stressful. The most common procedures are tail docking and castration. Concerning tail docking, it is mostly performed without anesthesia or any pain medication. The procedure causes immediate intense pain, as tails are composed of many nerves, muscle, connective tissue, and bones. The amputation of their tails renders them unable to keep flies off their bodies, thus increasing the chance of injury and infection due to flystrike. Regarding castration, it is a painful procedure performed on male cows and pigs without the use of pain medication. It causes immediate pain and trauma, but also as concerns to long-term health, this procedure is associated with higher mortality rates in castrated versus uncastrated pigs.

⁸ <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fanim.2021.775311/full>

⁹ “What Is Bad About Factory Farming? Is It Cruel?” *Sinergia Animal*, 9 May 2022, www.sinergiaanimalinternational.org/single-post/factory-farming.

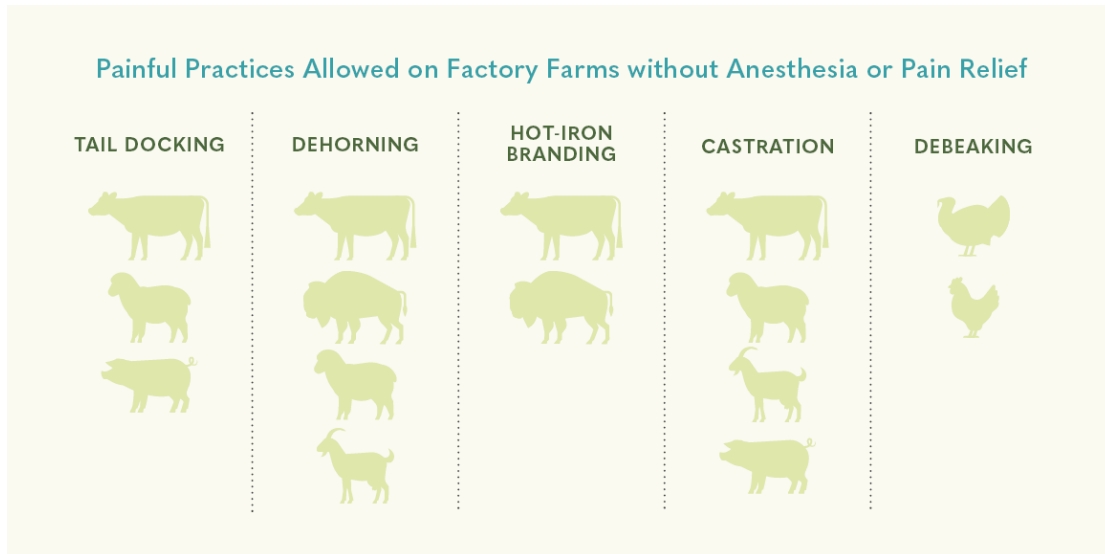


Figure 2: Painful Practices Allowed in Factory Farms without Anesthesia or Pain Relief ¹⁰

Aquaculture is also a domain of the intensive farming system. Despite what is believed, scientific research¹¹ shows that fish can feel pain and suffer like other animals, but farmed fish have yet to receive legal protection like all other farmed animals. Up to date, there are no specific requirements as to how they should be handled or killed. The fish that we eat today are mostly raised in aquafarms, where they spend their lives in confined and tightly packed environments. In settings like these with high ammonia levels, fish are harmed, and their health is affected. They also become susceptible to bacterial infection and their resistance to disease decreases.

Inhumane treatment in factory farms

Factory farm animals are deprived of anything natural and fulfilling in their lives. They endure acute situations such as extreme confinement, long transportation to slaughterhouses, toxic environments and are finally slaughtered in inhumane ways. Mothers and babies are separated from early on, often within moments of birth. Specifically, cows have been observed to experience extensive grieving after the loss of their calves.

Farm animals are bred with the intention of maximizing profit for the corporations. Factory farm animals are most of the time genetically manipulated to develop traits like larger musculature that increase profit for farmers.¹² This process involves altering its genetic material by adding, changing or removing certain DNA sequences in a way that does not occur naturally. It aims to modify specific characteristics of an animal or introduce a new trait, such as disease

¹⁰ "Inhumane Practices on Factory Farms." *Animal Welfare Institute*, awionline.org/content/inhumane-practices-factory-farms.

¹¹ "Do Fish Feel Pain?" *Understanding Animal Research*, www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/news/do-fish-feel-pain.

¹² The Humane League. "How Are Factory Farms Cruel to Animals?" *The Humane League*, 5 Jan. 2021, thehumaneleague.org/article/factory-farming-animal-cruelty.

resistance or enhanced growth.¹³ Nevertheless, these characteristics negatively impact animals' welfare and lead to a range of physical and physiological problems.

These animals are also confined in the smallest spaces possible, mostly due to the nature of factory farms and the industry's goals. Consequently, they cannot express any of the natural behaviors vital for their health and well-being, such as running, stretching, escaping unwanted social interactions, and seeking preferred social relationships. While all factory farms practice extreme, unnatural confinement for animals, the most common examples include crates that inhibit mother pigs from getting involved in any form of natural maternal care, battery cages that restrain egg-laying hens from naturally moving, tie stalls where dairy cows are tied by the neck and impede any kind of movement, and small, dark stalls for calves intended for veal production that prevent them from interacting with other cows.

Since factory farms are ultimately businesses, they always try to maximize production, while minimizing profit. As a result, many animals are crowded into small indoor spaces, causing waste buildup and animals living, eating and sleeping in their waste. They are also often exposed to ammonia, a harmful gas emitted from the manure and urine of pigs, cows, chickens and other farm animals. While in smaller amounts it does not harm them, when the exposure levels are high the ammonia can cause burns on their feet and chests, as well as respiratory problems. It is also common for animals to suffer from diseases such as mastitis, pneumonia and ketosis, which could be attributed to the environment they are living in with their confinement. The environment can engender abnormal behavioral patterns that are psychological responses stemming from fear and stress of being behaviorally stifled. Farmers try to prevent these psychological responses with practices of direct bodily mutilation.

As regards to the process of slaughtering, animals are not killed instantly like many believe. Actually, they are transported to centralized slaughterhouses after harrowing journeys that are harmful to animals' physical and mental health. During their journey, they are tightly packed into large trucks and transported regardless of the weather conditions. Some animals don't make it to the slaughterhouses and the ones that do face intense pain and distress. Slaughterhouses prioritize speed and efficiency, not animal welfare, and routine practices in slaughterhouses lead to prolonged animal suffering. In fact, in that last stretch of the drive to slaughter, the terror only intensifies for cows, who've been proven to be intelligent and emotional and who can smell blood from a half-mile away. Pigs, also renowned for being smart and sensitive, are highly empathic. Each pig feels when others are scared or stressed, and so they feed off each other's emotions—not unlike a crowd of people. These animals due to their skills, are able to understand danger and death and are consequently wary of what will happen should they get off the vehicle.

Impacts

¹³ "Genetically Modified Animals." *European Food Safety Authority*, 25 Jan. 2017, www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/genetically-modified-animals.

Factory farming has negative effects on animals in various ways, but also affects the planet and human beings. Not only do factory farms jeopardize the planet and the environment, but also the economy and our health.

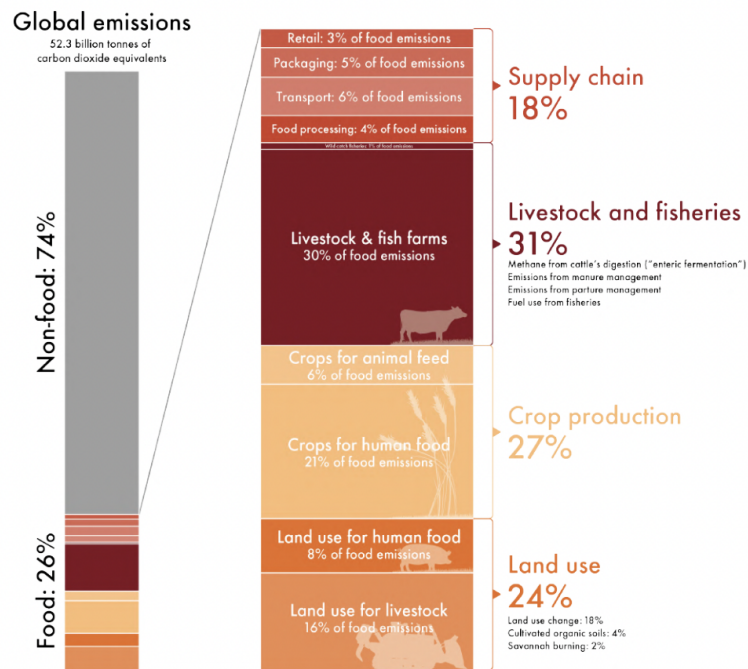
Factory farming is believed to have negative effects on the economy. Large farms are always trying to minimize cost and do so more efficiently than smaller and local operations. As a result, there is a creation of monopolies and smaller farms suffer from job loss, incomes decline and reduced value of their farms. “Four large conglomerates overwhelmingly control meat supply chains, driving down earnings for farmers while driving up prices for consumers.”¹⁴ Actually, “80% of all beef production is controlled by only the top four suppliers, a significant increase from 1970, when the top five suppliers controlled only 25% of production. Furthermore, 99.9% of chickens are raised on factory farms. Overall, two thirds of all meat production in the United States is controlled by just six companies.”¹⁵

Factory farming is also unsustainable, with overcrowded farms overwhelming local ecosystems, leading to depletion of natural resources. The need to grow large amounts of high-energy feed leads to increasing deforestation and soil erosion; and the pollution of water, soil and air by agrochemicals and manure waste is already a huge concern. The industrialization of farms has had a plethora of effects on the environment. First of all, the demand of land in which cattle graze when raised for beef, or for crops like corn and soy, is a major driver for the deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon rainforest. Furthermore, factory farming has contributed to air pollution with the emission of large quantities of methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide (greenhouse gases that drive climate change). Factory farms are a major cause of air pollution that contributes to human deaths. Actually, “Agricultural production in the United States results in 17,900 annual air quality–related deaths, 15,900 of which are from food production. Of those, 80% are attributable to animal-based foods, both directly from animal production and indirectly from growing animal feed.”¹⁶ Moreover, water pollution is another environmental impact of factory farming. More specifically, farms contribute to the pollution of surrounding water systems and damages ecosystems with the hundreds of tons of waste that they create annually.

¹⁴ House, The White. “Addressing Concentration in the Meat-Processing Industry to Lower Food Prices for American Families | the White House.” *The White House*, 8 Sept. 2021, www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/blog/2021/09/08/addressing-concentration-in-the-meat-processing-industry-to-lower-food-prices-for-american-families.

¹⁵ “It’s Time That We Factor Out Factory Farming | FFAC.” *Factory Farming Awareness Coalition*, 17 Mar. 2022, ffacoalition.org/articles/its-time-that-we-factor-out-factory-farming.

¹⁶ *PNAS Air Quality–Related Health Damages of Food*, www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2013637118#:~:text=Agricultural%20production%20in%20the%20United%20States%20results%20in%2017%2C900%20annual,indirectly%20from%20growing%20animal%20feed.

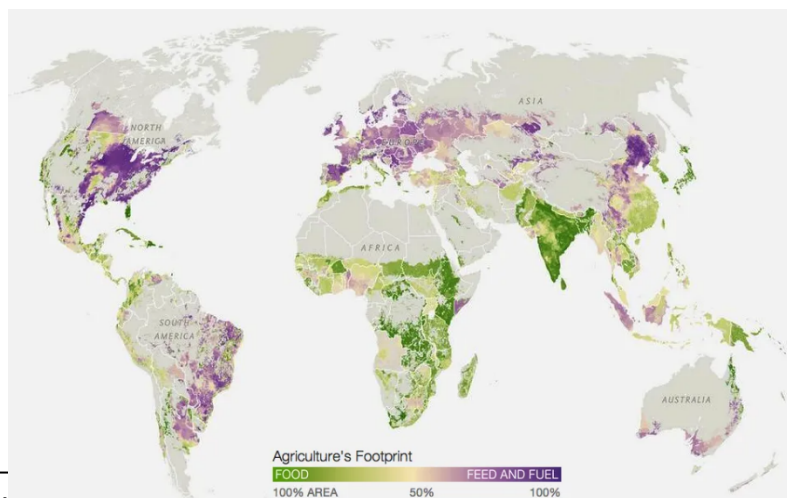


Global Greenhouse Gas emissions from food production including the emissions associated with animal agriculture³³.

Figure 3: Global Greenhouse Gas emissions from food production including the emissions associated with animal agriculture¹⁷

Lastly, animals consume a very large portion of the world's crop calories, making it more ecologically efficient to use these crops to feed people directly. Just 55 percent of the world's crop calories are actually eaten directly by people. Another 36 percent is used for animal feed. And the remaining 9 percent goes toward biofuels and other industrial uses."¹⁸

Factory farms seriously affect and pose several risks to humans and their



¹⁷ "THE HIDDEN

www.worldanimalprotection.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/HealthImpactsofIndustrialLivestockSystemsFINALWEB.pdf.

¹⁸ "Redefining Agricultural Yields: From Tonnes to People Nourished per Hectare." iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/8/3/034015/pdf.

rotection,

health. More specifically, “factory farms and the contamination that they produce cause illnesses in humans that range from brain damage and depression to miscarriage and birth defects. They are also responsible for antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections and severe respiratory problems.”¹⁹ “The rise of antibiotic-resistant diseases is an urgent global public health concern. According to a 2022 report in *The Lancet*, nearly five million human deaths could be attributed to antimicrobial resistance in 2019. “.²⁰ It is also worth-noting that animal farms negatively impact rural communities with the air pollution and odor of farm animals, which prevent them from spending time outdoors.

Figure 4: Proportion of the world's crops that are grown for direct human consumption (in green) versus all the crops that are grown for animal feed or biofuels (in purple)

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The United States of America

The USA was the country that initialized the process of factory farming back in the 1930's in Chicago. Intensive confinement, suffering and genetic selection started a decade later and radically expanded over time. Animal testing also started developing during the 20th century. The Federal Humane Slaughter Law in 1958 was the first major federal law passed concerning animal welfare. The USA has passed several laws since the 20th century for animal rights and their welfare. To this day, the USA continues to be one of the largest consumers of meat and by-products from factory farms.

People's Republic of China

In China, there is no law that bans mistreatment, suffering and abuse of animals. Whilst there have been proposals for the protection of animal rights in the past, none of them passed. The subject of meat consumption and production has been a highly debated topic, especially with the presence of cat and dog meat industry, along with the consumption of wildlife animals. The latter was indefinitely banned after the allegations for the origin COVID-19. Thus, although slowly, a shift towards a more regulated animal-consumption industry is being observed in China.

Switzerland

Switzerland has been concerned of animal welfare and protection of animal rights from as early as the 18th century. A century later, animal activism commenced, and it involved a plethora of campaigns for all animals, including farm animals. By 1885, there were several regulations protecting animals and their well-being, while approximately a century later, in 1992 Switzerland became the first country to recognize animals in their constitution. There are several laws for the animals and

¹⁹ “Other Health Risks of the Meat Industry | PETA.” *PETA*, 23 June 2010, www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-food/health-risks-meat-industry.

²⁰ CDC. “National Infection and Death Estimates for AR.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 6 July 2022, www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/national-estimates.html.

serious sanctions should someone not oblige with the laws, including banning keeping animals or breeding them.

International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA)

The International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA) is a non-governmental (NGO) and non-profit organization that operates for the defense of animal rights and the protection of all animals from cruelty, abuse and exploitation internationally. OIPA is partnered with UN Department of Global Communications, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), accredited at UN Environment Assembly and Programme. OIPA is also involved with foreign delegations as well as member league associations worldwide.

World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)

The World Organization for Animal Health was founded as The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in France. It is an intergovernmental organization whose goal is to work across borders to improve the health of animals and therefore the health of humans, which will ameliorate the future for all sentient beings. WOAH ensures transparency through their dissemination of animal disease news, collects and analyzes scientific information to aid Member Countries in the process of controlling and eradicating animal diseases, provides international technical support when requested by Members, promotes sanitary safety by the publication of health standards for overseas trade in animals and by-products and prioritizes the improvement of Veterinary Services in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). The organization's creation originates from an International Agreement signed by 183 members.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc 1

In the first bloc, there are countries that have passed and/or implemented laws that protect animals' welfare in factory farms. Some of these countries have implemented a strong legal framework. These countries are concerned by the infringement of animal rights and focus on the protection of their rights and their welfare. This bloc would include most European Countries, countries in North America and some countries in South America.

Bloc 2

In the second bloc, there are countries that have done little to nothing concerning animal welfare. These countries do not consider animal welfare as something that should be prioritized and are focused on other, more urgent subjects. Consequently, they have not passed any legislation to protect animals in factory farms. The majority of this bloc also doesn't recognize animal sentience and animal suffering. This bloc would include most Asian and African countries.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
27 August 1958	The Federal Humane Slaughter Law was passed in the US, which introduced humane methods of slaughter, meaning the animals need to be completely sedated and insensible to pain..
10 March 1976	The European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes applies to animals reared or kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including animals resulting from genetic modifications or new genetic combinations. It concerns, in particular, animals kept in intensive stock-farming systems. ²¹
15 October 1978	The Universal declaration of Animal Rights was written for the recognition of animal rights.
2 October 1997	The European Union Protocol on Animal Protection was annexed to the treaty establishing the European Community. The Protocol recognized animals as sentient beings and not as mere property.
10 February 2005	In 2005, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), now with 182 member countries and territories, adopted international Guidelines for the Slaughter of Animals for Human Consumption. ²² (Guidelines as concerns to aquaculture were added in 2016 by the OIE).
December 2020	The first cultured meat product made its entrance into the market when approved by the Singapore Food Agency.

²¹ “EUR-Lex - L12070 - EN - EUR-Lex.” *EUR-Lex - L12070 - EN - EUR-Lex*, eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-convention-for-the-protection-of-animals-kept-for-farming-purposes.html#:~:text=This%20convention%20applies%20to%20animals,in%20intensive%20stock%2Dfarming%20systems.

²² <https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/22-Legal-Protections-Slaughter.pdf>

2 March 2022	A draft resolution on animal welfare and sustainable development was submitted.
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RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Universal declaration of animal rights (15 October 1978) , solemnly proclaimed in Paris on 15 October 1978 at the UNESCO headquarter

The Universal declaration of animal rights is a text co-written by LFDA (La Fondation Droit Animal=The Foundation for Animal Rights) and 40 years later, it has been updated by LFDA's board and validated by members of LFDA's honorary committee. The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights aims for the protection of all animals, including farm animals and the recognition of their rights. The document also refers to animals in the meat industry that should be reared, transported, lairaged and killed without infliction of suffering or distress. This Declaration states the fundamental animal rights and sets some standards as regard to how animals should be treated by human beings.

The introduction of the UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection (UNCAHP) by animal law experts in 2018

The UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection was proposed initially by the Global Animal Law (GAL) Association and the first draft was released in August of 2018 as a way to protect animals at a UN level but has yet to be adopted. Should this UN Convention be adopted, animals will be protected and have rights by a legally binding treaty for Member States, which is why there is need to move beyond a Declaration. A Declaration is considered a good way to initialize a process but is a document that can make no concrete difference.

Animal Welfare in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) during the OIE Global Forum on Animal Welfare in April 2020 showed how the different SDGs promote and protect animal welfare. During their presentation, it was shown how 13 out of 17 SDGs could potentially, directly or indirectly, contribute to the process of ensuring animal welfare and protection of animal rights. In the conclusion, the UN Environment Programme proposed as a next step the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO), OIE, FAO and UNEP to move towards the integration of animal welfare in their core mandates, activities and projects.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)

“UDAW is a proposed inter-governmental agreement”²³ which intends recognizing the sentience of animals, preventing cruelty and reducing suffering,

²³ “Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW).” *Europa Regina*, europaregina.eu/business-ethics/animal-ethics/universal-declaration-on-animal-welfare.

whilst setting standards on the welfare of all animals, including farm animals. Had the UDAW been adopted by the UN, it would have set several principles concerning the sentience of animals and the responsibilities of humankind towards them. These principles were designed to be the steppingstone for the national governments to provide a strong legal framework for animal protection.

Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW)

“The Africa Platform for Animal Welfare is a platform for the African Continent that would bring together veterinary authorities, authorities in animal production and development, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), training institutions, research institutions, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). AWSA and the action plan play a significant role in decision making and actualization.”²⁴ This platform’s purpose is to aid in the process of implementing the 2017 Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), whose ultimate goal is the protection of animal welfare and their rights in Africa.

The EU Council Directive 98/58/EC of 1998

On 20th July 1998, the EU Council Directive 98/58/EC was adopted and was related to the protection of animals kept for farming purposes set general standards as regards to the protection of farm animals kept for food, wool, skin, fur or other farming purposes. This Directive was based on the regulations of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes. This directive incorporates rules for farmed animals in the European Union.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Adoption of the UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection (UNCAHP) by animal law experts in 2018

An effective solution could be the adoption of the UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection (UNCAHP), which was proposed in 2018 by law experts. This could actually set concrete international standards that protect animal welfare and their rights in UN Member States, while also recognizing their sentience. If this is adopted by the UN, it would also be a legal-binding document with sanctions for anyone not cohering to these standards.

Partnership of UN Agencies WHO, OIE, FAO and UNEP

As it was proposed during the OIE Global Forum on Animal Welfare in April 2020 by UNEP in their conclusion, should this UN Departments form a partnership

²⁴ “Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) | the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).” *Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) | the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)*, 1 Jan. 2023, www.au-ibar.org/au-ibar-secretariats/africa-platform-animal-welfare-apaw.

and integrating animal welfare in their core mandates and projects in order to further explore the link between animal welfare and global concerns including human health, food security and the future of the environment. This partnership could also aid in prioritizing the topic of animal welfare in order to counteract its negative effects.

Limitation of meat consumption and/or promotion of plant-based diets

The meat and egg industry are businesses whose purpose is maximizing profit. Should there be less demand for meat and by-products, corporations will start turning to plant-based products, which will be better for animals' welfare and for the environment. That doesn't mean not eating meat, but consuming with moderation in a way that is healthier for our well-being, animal's welfare and the planet. This solution could have positive effects on setting better standards for animals and promote better quality of meat, since the animals will not be so many and living in these extreme situations. It could also help the economy with promoting local farms than big factory farms operated by corporations.

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