



What's Wrong with Factory Farming?

Some statistics...

Excrement:

Production of excrement by total US human population: 12,000 pounds/second
Production of excrement by US livestock: 250,000 pounds/second (including 25 pounds of manure per cow per day)
Sewage systems in US cities: Common
Sewage systems in US feedlots: None

Antibiotic Resistance:

Antibiotics administered to people in the US annually to treat diseases: 3 million pounds
Antibiotics administered to livestock in the US annually for purposes other than treating disease: 24.6 million pounds
Antibiotics allowed in cow's milk: 80
Percentage of staphylococci infections resistant to penicillin in 1960: 13%
Percentage of staphylococci infections resistant to penicillin in 1988: 91%

Numbers of Animals Slaughtered for Food in US:

Number of cows and calves slaughtered every 24 hours in the US: 90,000
Number of chickens slaughtered every minute in the US: 14,000
Food animals (not counting fish and other aquatic creatures) slaughtered per year in the US: 10 billion

Factory Farm Animals with Diseases from Intensive Conditions:

A report by the USDA estimates that 89% of US beef patties contain traces of the deadly E. coli strain.
Reuters News Service 8/10/00
Primary source of Campylobacter bacteria: Contaminated chicken flesh
People in the US who become ill with Campylobacter poisoning every day: More than 5,000
American turkeys sufficiently contaminated with Campylobacter to cause illness: 90%
Americans sickened from eating Salmonella-tainted eggs every year: More than 650,000
Americans killed from eating Salmonella-tainted eggs every year: 600
Average lifespan of a dairy cow - 25 years; average lifespan when on a factory dairy farm - 4 years.

Water:

Water needed to produce 1 pound of wheat: 25 gallons
Water needed to produce 1 pound of meat: 2,500 gallons
Cost of hamburger meat if water used by meat industry was not subsidized by US taxpayers: \$35/pound
The amount of water that goes into a 1,000 pound steer would float a (Naval) destroyer. (*Newsweek* article "The Browning of America")

All statistics and information compiled from *The Food Revolution* by John Robbins (2001), *Diet for a New America* by John Robbins (1987), Frances Moore Lappe's *Diet for a Small Planet* and the Rainforest Action Network.