

# The lives and deaths of dairy cows

The lives of dairy cows are short and sad. In order to produce commercial quantities of milk. they are forced to endure a cycle of invasive artificial insemination, pregnancy and separation from their calves.

Their young are often seen as an unwanted by-product. If female, the calves may suffer the same life of exploitation as their mothers; if male, they may be shot at birth or sent to veal farms. Dairy cows are increasingly 'zerograzed' - factory farmed inside sheds and rarely allowed outside.

## **Death and disease**

Lameness is commonplace in dairy cows and is partly due to the vast size and weight of their overworked udders.

The excruciating udder infection, mastitis, is also common. Both these conditions lead to thousands of cows being slaughtered prematurely each year. Others die in on-farm accidents and during calving. Cows are also killed when they fail to get pregnant. Seven times as many cows are 'culled' for this reason than because they contracted TB. Ultimately, all dairy cows are 'culled' when they stop producing sufficient quantities of milk. Despite the appalling level of suffering on British dairy farms, the industry focuses irrationally on bovine TB and points the finger at badgers.



The government and the farming industry are determined to kill badgers, despite overwhelming public opposition and a lack of scientific support for the killing.

Independent analysis of the 2013 pilot cull showed that the killing was **inhumane** and **ineffective**. Furthermore, it is more expensive than vaccinating badgers, which has been shown to work in Wales. The government won't listen.

### There are two key things you can do:

- **Contact the Badger Action Network** and find out how you can actively campaign against the cull.
- 2 Boycott dairy. You'll be sending a strong message to dairy farmers that it is not acceptable to blame badgers for their own failings, and you'll no longer be contributing to the suffering of cows.

## Yes. I would like to support this campaign

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