



Arguments against factory farming

Animal welfare

- Animals in factory farms are confined in small spaces, preventing them from behaving naturally and doing the things they like doing such as running around and playing, digging in the soil, making nests, dust bathing or foraging and exploring.
- The animals spend their whole lives confined inside sheds.
- The hard floors that the pigs have to stand on often lead to painful leg problems.
- Intensively farmed chickens are forced to grow so quickly that they suffer from health problems, and their legs often collapse under their weight.
- The cramped, stressful conditions can lead to unnatural aggressive behaviour amongst animals, such as tail biting and feather pecking.
- Painful practices such as debeaking chickens and docking pigs' tails are often done without anaesthetic.
- Inside chicken sheds there may be 19 birds per square metre. This means that each bird has less floor space than the size of an A4 sheet of paper.
- Mother pigs in factory farms are put into a metal cage called a farrowing crate to give birth and rear their piglets. In these cages they can't turn around and they can barely lie down properly.

Environmental impact

- Factory farms generate large amounts of animal waste that can pollute rivers and lakes.
- Factory farming contributes to climate change. The methane gas given off by animals in factory farms is a damaging greenhouse gas.

Risks to human health

- Crowded and unhealthy conditions in factory farms can promote the spread of infectious diseases, such as swine flu and avian influenza (bird flu), which can be transmitted to humans.
- The overuse of antibiotics in factory farms can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which pose a serious threat to human health.
- The overconsumption of animal products contributes to health problems such as obesity, heart disease, bowel cancer and diabetes.