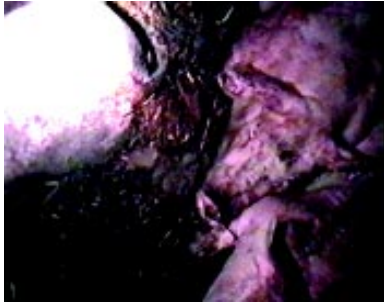


Feeding the Nation

These are the commonplace horrors of factory farming hidden behind closed doors - often right on your doorstep

Pigs



Freedom Food Pigs forced to sleep in their own excrement

Pigs often exist in cramped dirty conditions so overcrowded that it is difficult for them to lay down and rest comfortably. With insufficient straw bedding and sometimes none at all, the pigs have no choice but to sleep in their own excrement. We have uncovered conditions where sick, dying and dead pigs were left amongst the living, increasing the risk of cannibalism, disease and infection. Stale drinking water and discarded medical supplies such as syringes and needles are other examples of negligence and bad management practices that we have filmed.

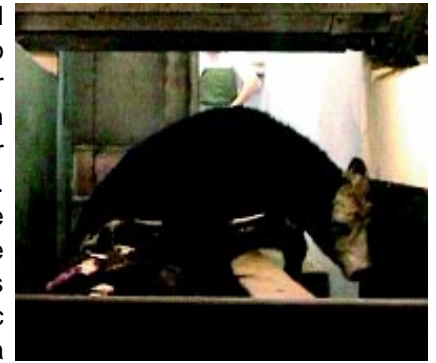
Illegal Slaughterhouses

To date Hillside Investigators have exposed **THREE** cases of this barbaric trade in animal suffering. As a result three men have been sent to prison and three others have been charged and are currently awaiting trial.



Slaughterhouses

It is illegal in the UK to slaughter livestock in front of other animals. Despite this fact, we filmed this horrific scene in a British EEC approved slaughterhouse. You can see how the terrified bullock, next in line to be killed, having witnessed his fate over the killing pen door (top left), makes a desperate attempt to escape unavoidable death.



Broiler Chickens



With lights left on for 22 hours of the day these young chickens are encouraged to overeat in order to put on as much weight in the shortest time possible. Their immature legs struggle to support their unnatural body weight, and many just collapse. Many drag themselves around to reach food and water, and have no choice but to crouch on filthy, ammonia-soaked floors. As a result, many chickens suffer breast blisters and hock burns such as the example shown here.



Battery Hens

Crammed together, five to a cage measuring just 18"x20" (45cmx50cm) battery hens exist in these barbaric conditions for 18 months until they are slaughtered!



Caged battery hen forced to stand on her decaying companion

We have even found up to eight hens in one cage, often sharing their limited space with the decomposing remains of those birds not strong enough to survive. People who buy cakes, mayonnaise, pasta, quiches or any produce containing 'egg', are contributing to this cruelty often without realising the consequences of their actions!

Heat Stress in Poultry



Millions of birds exist in sheds up and down the country, crammed together by the thousands spending the summer struggling for breath in hot, stifling, ammonia-ridden, windowless sheds. During a heatwave please spare a thought for the millions of birds who will die a slow painful death in the name of duck, chicken and turkey meat production!

Sheep

We have filmed sheep with such severe foot rot that they are barely able to walk. They are regularly left untreated for long periods of time with the infection so advanced that their hooves are eaten away to an unrecognisable state (*a live sheep's infected foot is pictured above*). We have often found flocks of sheep left in the winter with little to eat, their thick woolly coats hiding their emaciated bodies.



Dairy Cattle

A cow's udder will naturally hold about two litres of milk at any one time. However the modern dairy cow can be carrying up to



Dairy cow with distended udder

TEN litres of milk. This distends the udder and because of the unnatural walking pattern, leads to lameness. These stresses along with unhygienic milking conditions means that there is a high incidence of mastitis. The early signs of this disease are often missed and somatic cells from the infection is passed along into the collected milk.

A dairy cow gives birth to a calf every year and then has to undergo the distress of being separated from her offspring, usually within 24 hours. The young male calves are often discarded and killed. Dairy herds are often kept indoors during the winter months, overcrowded and unable to exercise, in cubicles too small for them forcing their feet to remain in the slurry passage and become infected. These appalling practices are brought about by the huge demand for dairy produce, not only in its natural forms of milk, butter, cheese, cream and yoghurt, but also as an 'invisible' ingredient, (often called lactose or whey) in such things as chocolate, cereals and cakes. **Current regulations allow milk sold to the public to contain up to 1% somatic cells - commonly known as 'pus'!!**

Freedom Food Hens

Hillside have exposed the dreadful conditions inside RSPCA 'monitored' Freedom Food, free-



range egg farms. On one free-range organic unit our investigators found hens so badly feather-pecked that some had feathers on only 15% of their body. Dead and decaying hens were left to rot for at least two weeks alongside their living companions. Our vet who examined two of the hens, stated in his report: *"It was my opinion that it is inhumane to keep hens in such a state."*

Turkeys

Like many other intensively farmed animals, turkeys suffer in appalling conditions during their short life.



Thousands of birds are crammed into large windowless sheds and we frequently film turkeys left to suffer with large festering untreated wounds and painful leg deformities. Some are only able to reach food and water by dragging themselves along on their wings. The birds are left to lay in their own waste which, with its high ammonia content, often causes infected flesh burns. During catching, the live birds are often roughly handled, and crammed into crates to be transported to slaughterhouses, where barbaric slaughter practices bring their pitiful lives to a cruel end.

Ducks without water

Ducks, like many other intensively farmed animals, are often genetically selected to gain the



greatest amount of weight in the shortest amount of time in order to maximise the farmer's profits. This unnatural growth rate means their legs cannot support them and they are often left to drag themselves by their **wings through their own excrement**. Ducks find it difficult to right themselves if they end up on their backs and more often than not, unable to reach food and water, will die marooned in this position. The ducks are also denied their most basic instinct - the need to swim!

These pictures were mainly taken in the Norfolk area by Hillside's Investigation team and are just a few examples of the suffering that animals endure in Britain's factory farming industry. (The dairy cow was photographed by Clare Druce of FAWN).