

welfare reform and vegan advocacy: the facts

This week, a video blog post takes a data-based look at the impacts of farm animal welfare reforms. The powerpoint is excerpted from a plenary presentation given at the Animal Rights 2012 national conference.

Sources

Data Point 1: Welfare reforms reduce suffering and provide immediate good for animals

Note: the following white papers review the current research and cite dozens of peer-reviewed studies on the welfare of animals in different housing systems.

Shields, S., & Duncan, I. (n.d.). *An HSUS report: A comparison of the welfare of hens in battery cages and alternative systems*. Retrieved

from <http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/farm/hsus-a-comparison-of-the-welfare-of-hens-in-battery-cages-and-alternative-systems.pdf>

The Humane Society of the United States. (2012, July). *An HSUS report: Welfare issues with gestation crates for pregnant sows*. Retrieved from <http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/farm/HSUS-Report-on-Gestation-Crates-for-Pregnant-Sows.pdf>

The Humane Society of the United States. (n.d.). *An HSUS report: The welfare of intensively confined animals in battery cages, gestation crates, and veal crates*. Retrieved from <http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/farm/hsus-the-welfare-of-intensively-confined-animals.pdf>

Data Point 2: The animal ag industry spends millions to oppose welfare reforms, because reforms are bad for the industry

Sethu, H. (2012, July 12). Look who is talking about animal welfare! [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://countinganimals.com/look-who-is-talking-animal-welfare/>

Smith, R. (2011, December 28). Groups urge Congress to reject HSUS-UEP deal. *Feedstuffs*. Retrieved from http://fdsmagissues.feedstuffs.com/fds/PastIssues/FDS8401/fds04_8401.pdf

Data Point 3: Welfare reforms are followed by a reduction in consumption of the affected animal products

(2012, March 12). Egg prices set to rise after EU battery cage hen ban. *BBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-17336478>

(2012, March 13). Food price hike threatens egg sandwich. *The Telegraph*. Retrieved from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/9140925/Food-price-hike-threatens-egg-sandwich.html>

Cooney, N. (2012). European egg consumption and battery cage bans. Retrieved from <http://ccc.farmsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/European-Egg-Consumption-and-Battery-Cage-Bans.xls>

Note: clicking the above link downloads the Microsoft Excel document to your computer; it does not open it in a new browser window.

Doward, J. (2012, August 11). Price of bacon set to soar as producers are hit by new EU animal welfare laws. *The Observer*. Retrieved from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/aug/12/price-of-bacon-to-soar>

Sumner, D. A., et al. (2011, January). Economic and market issues on the sustainability of egg production in the United States: Analysis of alternative production systems. *Poultry Science* 90(1): 241-250. doi: 10.3382/ps.2010-00822. Retrieved from http://www.poultryscience.org/docs/PS_822.pdf

Note: while not mentioned in the video, the above study concludes that banning cages for egg-laying hens in the U.S. would reduce the number of hens raised (anywhere) for U.S. egg consumption by about 3%, meaning 8 million less hens would be raised and killed for egg consumption.

Data Point 4: Media coverage of animal welfare issues causes people to eat less meat

Tonsor, G., & N. Olynk. (2010, September). U.S. Meat Demand: The influence of animal welfare media coverage. Retrieved from <http://www.agmanager.info/livestock/marketing/animalwelfare/MF2951.pdf>

Tonsor, G., & Olynk, N. (2011). Impacts of Animal Well-Being and Welfare Media on Meat Demand. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 62: 59–72. doi: 10.1111/j.1477-9552.2010.00266.x.

Data Point 5: Welfare reforms go hand in hand with decreased meat consumption

Note: for the first graph in this section, a law that bans both gestation crates and veal crates is represented as two practices being banned.

Meyer, S., & Steiner, L. (2011, December 20). Daily Livestock Report. Volume 9, No. 243. Retrieved from http://www.dailylivestockreport.com/documents/dlr_12-20-2011.pdf

Pichler, R., & Blackwell, G. (2007, February). How Many Veggies...? Retrieved from <http://www.euroveg.eu/lang/dk/info/howmany.php>

Sethu, H. (2012, July 12). Look who is talking about animal welfare! [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://countinganimals.com/look-who-is-talking-animal-welfare/>

The Humane Society of the United States. (2012, July 23). Timeline of Major Farm Animal Protection Advancements. Retrieved from

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/confinement_farm/timelines/timeline_farm_animal_protection.html

Vegetarianism by country. (n.d.). Retrieved August 21, 2012 from Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vegetarianism_by_country

Data Point 6: People who make a small change become more likely to make a large change

Burger, J. “The Foot-In-The-Door Compliance Procedure: A Multiple-Process Analysis and Review.” *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 3.4 (1999): 303–325.

Cooney, N. (2011). Foot In The Door. In *Change Of Heart: What Psychology Can Teach Us About Spreading Social Change* (Chapter 5). Retrieved from http://changeofheartbook.com/e_foot.htm

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