Food Animals Suffer For People

Years ago most farmers raised a small number of animals. They gave each one lots of personal attention. The farmer had a special interest in keeping his animals healthy and contented — for it was his own family that benefited.

Today the one-family farm has almost disappeared. Farming has become big business. The Agribusiness farm employs machines for much of its work. The corporate farm uses hand labor only in cases where a machine has not yet been invented.

Farming techniques are governed by economics. To make a farm pay, animals must be raised by mass production methods. Broiler chickens are housed in large flocks. Lights burn at night so they will eat more and grow faster.
Beef cattle, herded into huge feed lots, are fed nothing but grain just before slaughter. This results in a 'marbling' of fat in the meat and better flavor. But cattle are ruminants and need grass roughage for proper digestion. Virtually every steak or roast you buy from the meat counter comes from an animal that was suffering diarrhea when it was slaughtered.

Production of milk and eggs is mechanized, too. Row upon row of cages are used to confine laying hens. And they must stand on wire for their entire lifetimes. When a hen lays an egg it rolls across the sloped wire floor into a trough outside her cell. When a hen is a mother. When a hen lays an egg it rolls across the sloped wire floor into a trough outside her cell. It's all dictated by economics. If enough consumers will come to the rescue of factory farms? Only if enough consumers learn how food animals? Only if enough consumers learn how food the food they put on their tables is raised. And, then, only if they care enough to demand better treatment for food animals.
Spray Cans Might Doom the Earth

That 'Great Modern Convenience,' the Spray Can, may yet turn out to be a greater villain than the H-bomb. Knowing the bomb's potential for destroying the Earth and all life forms on it, we're all just a little fearful of its consequences. Thus, we are reluctant to see anyone use this lethal source of power.

Not long ago liquids we now shoot from a spray can were applied with a brush, or squirted from a atomizer, or pumped from a special spray bottle. Then all of a sudden, we had the spray can. Everything from paint to cheese came coming out of those little plastic valves we know so well. Now that we've adopted the spray can and its place in our culture seems firmly established, we're told that it's dangerous. Not, no not the can, not the cheese — it's the gas propelling that's dangerous.

The most common gas in spray cans is freon. It is a gas that isn't flammable, won't unite with other gases or elements to form a dangerous product, and dissipates readily. It's called an inert gas because it doesn't react readily with other chemicals. It also isn't soluble with water, so it doesn't get washed out by rains. It just stays in the atmosphere.

Eventually this freon diffuses upwards, above the layer of ozone that surrounds the Earth. It may go up as high as 20 miles. There, exposed to the direct ultraviolet rays of the sun, it is broken down. Chlorine gas is formed. The chlorine sinks to the ozone layer, where the chlorine destroys the ozone.

Ozone is a gas that filters the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. These rays can cause cancer. No plant or animal could survive these rays if the ozone didn't filter them out before the sunlight reached the Earth. We assume the ozone had to be there before there was life on Earth.

Scientists aren't completely sure of all this, but they're certain enough to be worried. They know for sure that freon doesn't go anywhere but up. They know ultraviolet rays can break it down to form chlorine. They know chlorine destroys ozone. They know the layer of ozone protects us from these harmful rays. They know this ozone is being destroyed. Obviously they think freon is the villain. The only thing they're not really sure about is how long it will be before we feel the effects.

The next time you use a spray deodorant, hair spray, oven cleaner, air freshener, insecticide, or other product that comes in a spray can, think about that ozone layer. Is it possible that some product you're using could be bought in another form and applied without releasing freon? You'll probably want to watch for more news on this theory, to learn if more facts are uncovered.

Help Save Whales

The International Whaling Commission meets again soon. They will set quotas on the number of whales to be killed next year. We must persuade them to be kinder to their fellow mammals. They're in danger of being over killed. We will save the largest mammal on earth from the brink of extinction.

Equine Infectious Anemia

The horse fly is the primary vector of Equine Infectious Anemia, otherwise known as swamp fever. Diagnosis is by a blood test. Seriological procedures have been prescribed for detecting antibodies. But no specific treatment or vaccine is available. Supportive therapy may help an individual case, but an infected animal may also serve as a source of infection of other horses.

When a diagnosis is positive the infected horse should be promptly isolated from other horses and maintained forever in isolation. Since total isolation is so difficult when it must also prevent cross contamination via the horse fly, the recommendation is usually humane euthanasia. USDA officials have been urging more extensive testing procedures in each state, and it is expected that more states will require such testing in the future. But for now, all you horse owners should know this is a dreadfully serious situation and your horses should be tested to be sure they haven't contracted it. --Ed.
Celebrate Be Kind To Animals Week

Help your classmates learn the importance of being kind to animals by telling them about this special week of May 4-10. Put up posters. Ask the teacher to assign an essay project. See if you can arrange for a representative of your local humane society to present an assembly program. There are many ways you can celebrate. Let's hear how you did it — we'll share the best ideas with KIND members for next year's celebration.

Vote for America’s Bicentennial Animal

America’s Bicentennial comes up next year. Our country will officially be 200 years old. Already many organizations are planning and preparing, and even already celebrating this great event. KIND wants to participate, too. So we’ll help celebrate by electing the animal we think contributed the most to the growth and development of America. The animals we think are worthy for such an honor are listed. The final decision is up to you. Review each one, and list the reasons each helped America grow. Send us your choice, postmarked no later than July 4, 1975. The animal selected by KIND members as America’s Bicentennial Animal will be announced in your September newsletter.

Vote for One — Cut Out And Return to KIND

- Bald Eagle
- Beaver
- Buffalo
- Cattle (both dairy and beef)
- Coyote
- Deer (White-Tailed)
- Grizzly Bear
- Horse (Both wild and domestic)
- Mule
- Passenger Pigeon
- Salmon
- Whale
- Wild Turkey
- Wolf
- Other