



WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY 2001

"Promoting Plant-Based Solutions to World Hunger"

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ANIMAL AGRICULTURE CLAIMS NEARLY TEN BILLION VICTIMS IN 2001

The total number of mammals and birds raised and killed for food in the U.S. this year is expected to reach 9,906 million, according to extrapolation of data published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This represents a 2% increase over the 2000 figure of 9,713.

The 2001 total includes 40 million cattle and calves (down 4% from 2000), 113 million pigs (down 2%), 4 million sheep (down 7%), 308 million turkeys (up 1.3%), 8,967 million 'broilers' (up 2%), 446 million laying hens (up 3.8%), and 25.6 million ducks (up 2.8%).

The total also includes nearly 860 million animals who die from mistreatment before ever reaching the slaughterhouse. It does not include the staggering number of aquatic animals used for food, nor the smaller number of terrestrial animals hunted for food or because they compete with farmed animals.

In 2000, 9,713 million mammals and birds were raised and killed for food in the US. This included 41.7 million cattle and calves, 115.2 million pigs, 4.3 million sheep and lambs, 304 million turkeys, 8,792 million 'broiler' chickens, 429.7 million laying hens, and 26.1 million ducks.

In addition to the 8,856 million animals slaughtered in 2000 according to the NASS, another 857 million, or nearly 9% of the total, suffered lingering deaths from disease, malnutrition, injury, suffocation, stress, extermination, or other deadly factory farming practices. Some of these 'other' deaths were reported by the NASS. But, most had to be deduced from secondary sources, such as hatchery reports and interviews with agricultural experts. Examples of deaths that are not reported include 'broiler' chickens and turkeys who die before they are placed on a farm, male layer chicks suffocated at birth, discarded layer hens, and piglets who die before weaning.

In more personal terms, during a 75-year lifetime, a typical U.S. resident is responsible for the suffering and death of 11 cows, 32 pigs and sheep, 85 turkeys, 2,570 chickens and ducks, and uncounted numbers of fish and other aquatic animals.

The 9,900 million animals raised and killed for food account for 98% of all animals abused and killed annually in the US. Approximately 135 million animals are killed for 'sport', 25 million are used in biomedical research and testing, and 10 million are put down in pounds.

The worldwide number of animals killed for food in 2000 was 45 billion, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. This included 306 million cattle, buffalo, and calves, 1.2 billion pigs, 795 million sheep and goats, and nearly 43 billion chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. The figures exclude some small countries and 'non-slaughter' deaths, which are generally not reported.

The report on the number of victims of animal agriculture is compiled and published each year by FARM in connection with the annual observance of **World Farm Animals Day** on October 2 (Gandhi's birthday). FARM is a public interest organization dedicated to exposing and ending animal abuse and other devastating impacts of today's animal agriculture on environmental quality, food resources, and public health. **World Farm Animals Day** promotes humane, healthful, and sustainable agriculture.

This year's 19th annual observance focuses on preventing the export of devastating factory farming practices to developing countries. Activists in the nation's capital and hundreds of other communities in all 50 states and a dozen other countries are arranging marches, vigils, memorial services, leafleting, lectures, exhibits, and information tables. Scores of governors and mayors are issuing special proclamations.