



WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY 2001

"Fighting World Hunger and Factory Farming"

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HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS, PROCLAMATIONS MARK FARM ANIMALS DAY

Nearly 200 communities throughout the US and a dozen other countries are affirming their dedication to nonviolence to all beings through festivals, marches, vigils, picketing, leafleting, information tables, lectures, and exhibits. Thirty governors and large city mayors are issuing special proclamations. Hundreds of billboards and bus display cards are calling for an end to human and animal suffering.

The occasion is the 19th annual observance of **World Farm Animals Day**. The purpose is to expose, memorialize, and mitigate animal suffering and death in the world's factory farms and slaughterhouses, as well as human suffering and death from hunger and diseases associated with raising and consuming animals. The date (October 2) honors the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, a champion of humane farming.

Special proclamations are being issued by the governors of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia. **Additional proclamations are coming from the mayors** of Albuquerque, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Memphis, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, and Seattle. The proclamations request that animals raised for food be treated humanely and that farming practices protect our environment and natural resources.

TV and film stars Casey Kasem, James Cromwell, Bill Maher, Cassandra Peterson, and Ed Asner, have joined the World Farm Animals Day National Council and are available for media interviews.

Hundreds of highway billboards and bus display cards in Baltimore, Cleveland, District of Columbia, Houston, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia juxtapose pictures of a starving mother and child and a caged farm animal, with the legend "Stop Human and Animal Suffering – Go Vegan!"

Community events throughout the US are using a variety of methods to raise public awareness (see www.wfad.org/wfad_events.html). The Los Angeles World Fest is treating thousands of visitors to musical entertainment, prominent speakers, information tables, cooking demonstrations, and meatless food samplings. Similar festivals are planned in Boston, Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Washington (DC).

The nation's capital observance begins with participation by animal contingents in two massive rallies advocating nonviolence. It continues with leafleting at Metro stops, signs greeting commuters, and vigils at USDA Headquarters and a local supermarket. A day of seminars is planned.

New York activists are holding exhibits, leafleting, several marches, and street theater throughout the state. Exhibits, leafleting, and a supermarket vigil are planned in several **New Jersey** communities. A festival in Pittsburgh and a number of college and school events are planned in **Pennsylvania**.

Virginia is hosting a festival in Charlottesville, tabling, food tasting, dinner, and lecture in Richmond, and a memorial vigil and exhibits in Harrisonburg. **Florida** activists are holding exhibits and lectures and collecting signatures for a statewide initiative. A dozen **Ohio** communities are planning information tables and other activities. **Kentucky** activists are fasting, leafleting, and conducting a memorial service.

Two large mobile educational exhibits are touring **Minnesota**, on their way to the state capitol. Five **Colorado** communities are planning exhibits and meatless food tasting. **Texas** is hosting the 13th annual Vegetarian Chili Cook-off in Austin. **New Mexico**, is holding a memorial service for farmed animals in downtown Santa Fe, with tombstones, crosses, and animal angels.

California is hosting the largest number of events in the nation, including major festivals in Los Angeles and San Francisco. **Washington** activists are distributing 500 vegan lunches in Seattle.

Universities taking part, with lectures, information tables, and meatless meals, include American, California (Irvine and San Diego), Columbia, Cornell, Hawaii, Montana, New York (New Palz), North Carolina, Oberlin, Penn State, Purdue, Southern Illinois, Temple, Texas (El Paso), and West Virginia.

Foreign events include exhibits, and lectures in **Canada** and **Mexico** and a display of hundreds of black animal silhouettes in **Australia**. There will be leafleting, exhibits, and street theater in **Croatia**, **France**, and **Germany** and extensive activities around the World Food Summit in **Italy**. Three **Indian** groups are arranging leafleting, exhibits, lectures, rallies, street theater, and a slaughterhouse vigil.

The broad participation in **World Farm Animals Day** reflects a deep concern with excesses of animal agriculture. Rural residents are outraged by pollution of their water and air by discharges from massive feedlots and factory farms. Independent producers and farm workers are being displaced by large conglomerates. City residents are competing with factory farms for water supplies. Consumers are increasingly concerned about the safety of meat products and switching to plant-based alternatives.

The annual observance is coordinated by FARM, a nonprofit public interest organization operating from our nation's capital. Community events are planned and arranged by local groups.