



# WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY 2001

*"Fighting World Hunger and Factory Farming"*

**MEDIA ADVISORY 10/1/01**

**CONTACT: Norbert, 301-530-1737**

## **USDA VIGIL TO PROTEST WORLD HUNGER AND FARM ANIMAL ABUSE**

**WHAT: Vigil, exhibit, and leafleting**

**WHEN: Tuesday, October 2; 7 am – 7 pm**

**WHERE: In front of USDA Headquarters, Jefferson Drive at 14th St NW and nearby areas**

**WHY: To relieve world hunger and to expose and memorialize farmed animals abuse**

**SCHEDULE: 7-8am: Leafleting at USDA Metro station at Independence Ave and 14<sup>th</sup> St  
8-9am: Vigil with banners greeting DC commuters along 14<sup>th</sup> St at Indep. Av  
9am –3pm: Vigil in front of USDA Headquarters on Jefferson Dr at 14<sup>th</sup> St  
3-7pm: Vigil with banners for DC commuters along 14<sup>th</sup> St at Independence Av  
5:30-7pm: Leafleting at five DC and Maryland Metro stations  
7-8:30pm: Vigil at Giant Foods at Arlington Rd and Bethesda Ave, Bethesda**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**The occasion is the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 (see [www.wfad.org/wfad\\_events.html](http://www.wfad.org/wfad_events.html)).

**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 admonition "Stop Human and Animal Suffering – Go Vegan!"

The broad public 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. Fast food chains are requiring their suppliers to improve treatment of animals. 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.