

# Most hour and 340 million hens are raised

[Business](#), [Industries](#)



Most people don't ponder about the journey their food takes.

Some people might believe that the milk they drink came from a cow grazing on a grassy pasture with an idyllic life, or eggs from a chicken that lives in a sanitary environment. The reality can be very different, in fact quite shocking. The food production process is unethical because it abuses and tortures farm animals, they are raised in unhealthy living conditions, and produce and distribute unhealthy foods leading to health problems. In the article "The welfare of animals" by the Humane Society of America, the author describes the cruelty animals face in farms by stating "animals are viewed by industrialized agriculture as commodities and suffer myriad assaults to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, typically denied the ability to engage in their species-specific behavioral needs" (1). Each year in the United States, approximately 11 billion animals are raised and killed for meat, eggs and milk. 86% are birds and 98% of cattle in agriculture, majority of those animals are chickens that are raised only for consumption. About 1 million killed each hour and 340 million hens are raised in the industry.

Every year in the United States, approximately 35 million cattle are raised for beef and more than 116 million pigs get slaughtered for their meat.

Poultry are confined in their grower houses by the thousand and spend most of their days in a poorly lit room with little to no space to move. They live and die in enclosed spaces with terrible living conditions and genetic modifications to increase growth and size. In the beginning, naturally some poultry do not have the qualities of size that we see when we eat them. To get around this problem, major breeders rely on artificial breeding, which often takes place at separate artificial insemination facilities. After 2 or 3

<https://assignbuster.com/most-hour-and-340-million-hens-are-raised/>

days of a hen laying her eggs, the same process occurs multiple times for about 25 weeks.

Right when the eggs are laid, they are shipped to a hatching facility. At the hatchery, thousands of eggs are put in large incubators, set for high speeds with bright lights and optimal heat and humidity, the eggs hatch in less than a month. Once the hatchlings leave their shells, their life has only begun through the industrial process.

Chicks are exposed to high-intensity light and partially microwaved to prepare for a routine surgery to have their beaks and talons removed. This prevents them from fighting one another in their tight living space. They are stuck in one space, unable to move because of the amount of food they are being forced to eat is making them fat, meaning less space.

Once the chicks reach optimal size they are sent to the slaughter house, where they are hung on a conveyor belt to be killed. Cattle are equally abused, in the article "cows used for food" by PETA, the author states, "When still very young, many cows are branded (burned with hot irons), dehorned (their horns are gouged out or cut or burned off), and castrated (male cattle have their testicles ripped out of their scrotums)—all without painkillers. Once they have grown large enough, cows raised for beef are sent to massive, filthy outdoor feedlots, where they are fattened for slaughter. Cows on dairy farms are repeatedly artificially impregnated (to keep their milk flowing) and then traumatically separated from their newborn calves until finally their bodies wear out and they are sent to be killed, too." (1)

These animals are highly intelligent and understanding, therefore they feel pain and discomfort from the food production process.

Theirentire lives are spent being tortured just to be slaughtered.

Theconditions that farm animals face are more than brutal and unsanitary. In thearticle " The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-intellectuals" by Blake Hurst, the author describes the living conditions of farm animals by saying " I warnedyou that farming is still dirty and bloody, and I wasn't kidding" (7).

Theauthor shows that he was not speaking figurately, but literally. Animals areforced to sit on their own waste due to the space and contract diseases andbacteria that eventually spreads to the different animals. The areas are rarelycleaned and only causes more health problems. Inthe article " factory farming and human health" by farm sanctuary, the authorreinforces unsanitary practices by stating " Sincethe 1950s, antibiotics have been used on factory farms to increase the rate ofgrowth in animals.

Today, an expected 70 percent of the anti-microbialsutilized as a part of the U. S. are given to cultivate animals for non-therapeuticpurposes. Using antibiotics in this way can lead to drug-resistant bacteria; asa result, certain bacterial infections have already become or are on their wayto becoming untreatable in humans.

Antibiotic resistant infections kill 90, 000Americans every year. Poor sanitation and waste management on factory farms andthe poor management of animal waste can lead to the contamination of the foodsupply by bacteria like E. coli and salmonella. Each year 76 million Americansbecome sick from food borne illness, and thousands die.

<https://assignbuster.com/most-hour-and-340-million-hens-are-raised/>

Some diseases, like H1N1(Swine Flu) and Avian Flu, are communicable from animals to humans. These " zoonotic" diseases have the potential to become pandemics. Experts believe that the outbreak of H1N1 was likely caused by the overcrowding of pigs on factory farms and the storage of their waste in huge manure lagoons" (1). This shows the issues with hygiene in facilities, resulting in issues for the livestock. The issue with gruesome farming practices don't only affect the livestock but the people eating it as well. The food production industry leads to inadequate quality foods for people and results in negative health effects, leading to low quality life. In " Michael pollen" by Bill Moyers, the author explains the food crisis by saying " And if you do hope to make progress in all these other areas, you must make sure that if the Surgeon General is, you know, going on about the epidemic of type 2 diabetes, you don't want to be signing farm bills that subsidize high fructose corn syrup at the same time.

So, you have to kind of align. A day. A day. We've gone from 2, 000 or 2, 300 to 2, 600, something like that. We all weigh on average ten pounds more.

And lo and behold, we have a serious epidemic of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, diet-related cancers. All these chronic diseases which is now what kills us basically reliably in America are adding more than \$250 billion a year to healthcare costs. They are the reason that this generation just being born now is expected to have a shorter lifespan than their parents, that one in three Americans born in the year 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control, will have type 2 diabetes, which is a serious sentence. It takes several years off your life. It gives you an 80 percent chance of heart

disease. It means you are going to be spending \$14, 000 a year in added health costs.

So, this is about how we're eating". (5) Food industries focus on certain products that are used in many fast food places like corn, oils, etc. farms and food industries make more money the healthier you get. In the article "too much of too little" by Eli Saslow the author states "instead of trying to regulate the estimated \$2 billion in junk-food purchases enabled each year by food stamps, he wrote a bill to ban the food-stamp purchase of only one product. That was energy drinks — high in caffeine and higher in sugar, expensive and marketed to children despite offering little nutritional value. "A no-brainer," he explained as he introduced the bill in a committee meeting last summer.

Then he yielded the microphone and waited for rebuttals. The first critic was one he had anticipated, a lobbyist for the Texas Beverage Association, which desperately wanted all its drinks available for sale to the fastest-growing market in America: the food-stamp market, which has quadrupled from \$20 billion to \$80 billion in the past 12 years. Companies such as Coca-Cola, Kraft and Mars have spent more than \$10 million in the past several years lobbying Congress to keep their products available to those using food stamps.

"No clear standards exist for defining foods as good or bad," the lobbyist said" (3). This shows that because of the original unhealthy actions of the food industry, they make buying foods, high in fats and oils cheap and accessible. Leaving the healthier foods harder to buy, so people that are not financially stable spend their food stamps on cheaper foods that end up being

their demise and causing health problems like highcholesterol and diabetes. The food industry that create unhealthy foods, createa problem for some people because they get trapped in a dilemma where the onlyfood they can get are low in nutrition and cause major problems regardinghealth. In the article “ How industrial foods impact your health” by the gracecommunications foundation, the author says “ Americans spend about ninety percent of theirfood budget on processed foods, which, unlike whole foods, have been treated insome way after being harvested or butchered. Almost these processed foodscontain additives, substances intended to change the food in some way before itis sold to consumers.

Bacteria are everywhere, including on the skin and in thedigestive system of humans. While bacteria are critical to normal bodilyfunctions, some types can cause illness. In humans, antibiotics are used totreat health conditions caused by bacteria, including ear and skin infections, food poisoning, pneumonia, meningitis and other serious illnesses. Antibioticsare also used to treat or prevent infections that can complicate criticalmedical procedures including surgery, cancer therapy, and transplants” (1) Foods are also genetically modifiedGenetically engineered to be able to transmit different traits from animals orplants to make a better product. The resulting organism is called transgenic ora GMO (genetically modified organism). 70% of processed foods in Americansupermarkets now contain genetically modified ingredients. 32. 5 million cattlere were slaughtered to provide beef for US consumers.

Cattle are injected with hormones to make them grow faster, meaning higher profits for the food production companies. Everyday the food production process harms and abuses animals to make more product to improve profits, using methods like poor spacing, brutal treatment and additives like steroids and antibiotics to keep their products in line. The result of these foods affects the health of people by giving them unsanitary and poisonous produce. Making cheap and mal nutritious foods available, sabotaging many Americans daily.