



Poultry Press

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl

TELL UNITED EGG PRODUCERS THEY NEED TO DO MORE TO HELP HENS



What the UEP proposes to do for "laying" hens in the U.S. is formulated in a glossy 14-page publication, *ANIMAL HUSBANDRY GUIDELINES FOR U.S. LAYING FLOCKS, 2000 EDITION*. The booklet acknowledges that the egg industry's current attention to its treatment of hens is based solely on the public pressure it has received, and that recent polls "show that consumers regard the humane treatment of farm animals as important and that their ethical perspectives on animal treatment are continuing to evolve."

Problems

While United Poultry Concerns welcomes and works hard to achieve an alleviation of the absolute misery and abuse to which U.S. laying hens are subjected, we are deeply concerned that the industry's new *Guidelines* amount to very little **welfare** advance, including the fact that no requirements have been established, just "guidelines." In particular, we point out the following areas of concern:

- **Cages and Cage Density** Whereas the European Union (EU) announced a Europe-wide ban on battery cages by 2012, the U.S. egg industry shows no plans to phase out battery cages. On the contrary, it has given itself until 2012 merely to increase cage space per individual hen from the standard 48 sq. inches to 67 sq. inches for the smaller white leghorn hens and no more than 86 sq. inches for the larger-sized brown hens. (McDonald's is requiring 72 sq. inches per hen

continued on page 10 ➤

Background

Under intense pressure from United Poultry Concerns, the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, and virtually the entire animal protection community in North America, the United Egg Producers (UEP—the egg industry's primary trade group in the United States.) formed a Scientific Advisory Committee in 1999 to "review current production practices for cage reared laying hens based on scientific knowledge of animal welfare measures." In his 2001 letter to concerned consumers, UEP president Al Pope says the UEP has adopted its Committee's recommendations in full and will now begin to implement them. Specifically, "While the recommended changes include every aspect of hens for the production [of] eggs, the primary changes relate to cages by substantially increasing cage space, beak-trimming guidelines to insure a humane process, and a phase out of the current method of forced molting."

"You are not handling a lump of plastic. You are handling animals with central nervous systems that feel pain and suffering."

— Dr. Janice Swanson, animal behavior specialist, Kansas State University, in a speech to the United Egg Producers (*Feedstuffs*, Jan. 1, 2001, pp. 8, 18: "Consumer views on animal production pushing toward more ethical husbandry")

United Poultry Concerns

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Visit Our Web Site:
www.upc-online.org



Attn: Illinois Voters Support Bill to Ban Forced Molting

HB 0756 needs your strong and immediate support.

Illinois House Bill 0756, **The Safe Egg and Laying Hen Protection Act**, would ban the forced molting of hens used for egg production. As defined in the bill, "Forced molting means the deliberate withholding of food or water from a laying hen in order to induce a loss and regrowth of feathers for the purpose of increasing or extending egg production."

Contact your Illinois State Representative and ask him/her to join the bill's sponsor, Representative John Fritchey, as a co-sponsor of HB 0756.

Write to:

The Honorable (your State House Representative's name)
(A separate thank you letter to the Honorable John Fritchey, sponsor of the bill)
Illinois General Assembly
State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

For more information contact Steve Gross of the Illinois Political Action Committee (HumanePAC, PO Box 197, Mahomet, IL 61853) at 217-897-6716, or email SGross@ais.net.



photo by Carol Gross

Standing, left to right: Gene Bauston, Don Rolla, Bob Nixon, Aaron Gross, Joy Soderman, Karen Davis, Christy Belka, Jim Mason. Seated, left to right: Steve Gross, Freeman Wicklund, Peter Stevenson.

Illinois HumanePAC Historic Farmed Animal Legislative Meeting

"Great conversation and delicious vegan food flowed on this beautiful summer day."

— The Illinois Lobbyist, a Newsletter of the IL Political Action Committee, Fall, 2000

On August 8, 2000, a group of North American and European animal rights leaders met in Harvard, Illinois to discuss Illinois HumanePAC's farm legislative project. Attending the meeting were Gene Bauston (Farm Sanctuary), Christy Belka (Compassionate Action for Animals), Karen Davis (United Poultry Concerns), Aaron Gross (PETA India), Steve Gross (HPAC), Jim Mason (Author, lecturer), Bob Nixon (HPAC), Don Rolla (HPAC), Joy Soderman (HPAC), Peter Stevenson (Compassion In World Farming, Europe), and Freeman Wicklund (Compassionate Action for Animals). The bill to ban forced molting in Illinois—HB 0756—is one result of this productive meeting.

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See Page 14 to order.**

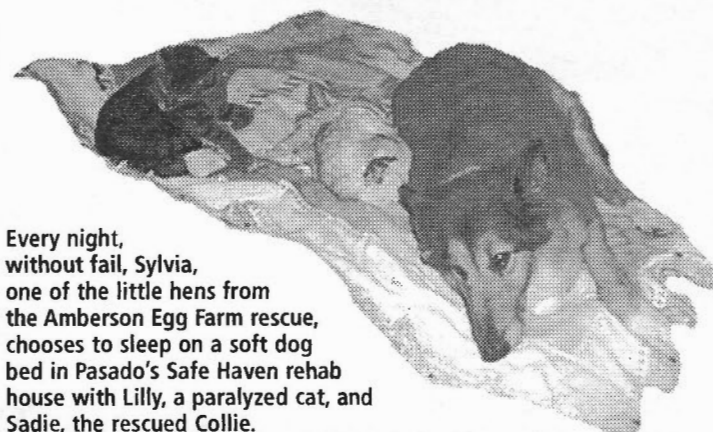
HEN ABUSING FARMER KEITH AMBERSON PLEADS GUILTY

Snohomish County, WA—Based on videotapes, photos, and necropsies of starved hens supplied by Pasado's Safe Haven of Monroe, Washington, Amberson Farm owner Keith Amberson pled guilty to one count of cruelty to animals for abandoning thousands of caged hens to starve to death rather than comply with Washington's environmental laws. On Dec. 8, 2000, Everett District Court Judge Tom Kelly ruled that Amberson must pay a \$500 fine, perform 200 hours of community service, and not keep animals for 2 years. While true justice would have sentenced the miserable Amberson to life in prison without parole, his conviction is a victory for prosecutors of the first egg farmer in Washington State history ever to be charged with cruelty to chickens. "This is a really crucial victory for the millions of hens in Washington who are forced to live their lives caged up in little, tiny, cramped cages where they are never allowed to smell fresh air and stretch their wings," Mark Steinway, cofounder with Susan Michaels of Pasado's Safe Haven, told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

"What Can I Do?"

In January, representatives from Pasado's Safe Haven met with Rep. Sandra Romero to write legislation demanding more humane (less inhumane) treatment of hens used for egg production. For information about contacting your legislators to support this legislation, visit Pasado's website at www.pasadosafehaven.org/egg_hen_legislation.htm. Phone: 360-793-9393.

What Friends are For . . .



Every night, without fail, Sylvia, one of the little hens from the Amberson Egg Farm rescue, chooses to sleep on a soft dog bed in Pasado's Safe Haven rehab house with Lilly, a paralyzed cat, and Sadie, the rescued Collie.

Attn: Washington State Voters Support Bills To Protect Hens in Washington State

Two bills need your strong and immediate support.

Washington State Senate bill 5730 would ban the forced molting of hens by food and water deprivation: Specifically, no egg handler could deprive any bird used for egg-laying purposes of clean water or nutritious food or otherwise cause an induced or forced molt that results in harm to the hen.

Contact:

The Honorable (your State Senator's name)
Legislative Building
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

Washington State House Bill 1726 would ban battery cages for egg-laying hens, the debeaking of hens, and the forced molting of hens to manipulate egg production. Debeaking is a cruel and

painful mutilation of hens' sensitive beaks; forced molting by food and water deprivation is so cruel and inhumane it impairs hens' immune systems, predisposing them and their eggs to *Salmonella* infection; and battery cages deprive hens of normal movement and living space and of all natural activities including foraging, dustbathing, sunbathing, and perching.

Contact:

The Honorable (your State House Representative's name)
Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

For more information contact Jennifer Hillman of PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Society, PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98046) at 425-787-2500, Ext. 259; or email JenniferH@paws.org.

Washington State Poll Shows Consumer Attitudes about Egg Farming Practices

In a January telephone poll conducted for the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), The Gilmore Research Group showed that 91% of respondents find it acceptable for hens to have access to natural light and the opportunity to engage in natural behaviors, including walking, perching, scratching, stretching their wings and dustbathing. 69% found tiny wire cages for hens unacceptable, 58% found debeaking unacceptable, and 82% found forced molting by food deprivation unacceptable. 81% of those surveyed said they would be consider paying 2 to 4 cents more per egg from hens who were not caged, force molted, debeaked, or kept on antibiotics.

What Wings Are For



Dear UPC,

I thought you might like to have this picture I took last summer of a wonderful hen, Sno-Pea, who lovingly raised this abandoned baby peacock, Luv-Bug. With foster father, Lincoln.

Mary Kelly,
New Ashford MA

Photo: Mary Kelly

See UPC on TV! – Video Available!

Virginia Public Television aired a great segment about United Poultry Concerns on its weekly program *Virginia Currents* on November 17, 2000. Filmed on location at UPC, the segment features UPC's chicken sanctuary, including former battery-caged hens being placed on the grass for the first time in their lives and hens who fell off a truck on a Virginia Beach highway on their way to slaughter, who are now safe and happy. You'll see our happy rescued roosters, and more. UPC president Karen Davis talks about UPC's view of the role of animal sanctuaries, and the effect of debeaking on a hen is illustrated by a narrated close up. The episode, which was featured on a half-hour show that also includes a segment about a Virginia resident who rescues Siamese cats, can be ordered as follows: Send check or money order (no credit cards) for \$21.95 (this includes shipping) to:

Virginia Currents Tape Order
C/o Gloria Larus
Community Idea Stations
23 Sesame Street
Richmond, VA 23235

Direct questions to Gloria Larus at 804-560-8121 or Shawn Freude at 804-560-8216.

Freddaflower Memorial Fund

*The pain of losing them is the price we pay for the privilege
of knowing them and sharing their lives. . . .*

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent contributions *In Loving Memory* of the following beloved birds:

- ❖ My little pet hen Jenny, who died December 31, 2000. I took her in 5 years ago when she was just a few weeks old. She was an abandoned "Easter-Toy," cold, sick, and almost featherless. After much loving care Jenny slowly recovered and lived a very good life with me. She was such a quiet, gentle hen. I loved her dearly, from Eileen Ann Field.
- ❖ My beloved little Robbie, a Rhode Island Red bantam rooster whom I rescued from a "trader" and who came into our kitchen every evening for 5 years to eat canned corn from his own bowl. Also, in memory of Heidi, a beautiful white silky hen who was killed by a hawk one week before Robbie passed away. Both are greatly missed! From Barbara Moffit.
- ❖ My sweet Plymouth Rock hen, Penny, who is very much missed, by Edna Ann Senecal.
- ❖ My Rhode Island Red hen Precious, whom I shall always love and never forget. She replied to my voice with soft coos. She died of shock when the local SPCA put her in their truck by mistake. Violet Aharonian.
- ❖ My rooster, Brewster, who brought zest and beauty into our lives, from Lila Cantor.
- ❖ My cockatiel Corky, whose death still makes me sad. I feel blessed for having known him for 5 years. He had a "smart spirit." He was a loving bird and I miss him deeply. Karen Ball.

Denver County Jury Convicts DJ of Animal Cruelty for Instigating Chicken Abuse

Throwing a hen out a window is cruel, Jury tells Denver Disc Jockey

"They were their own worse witnesses."

—a juror quoted in the *Rocky Mountain News*, Feb. 1, 2001

On January 31st, the Denver County District Attorney's Office successfully prosecuted KBPI radio announcer Steven Meade ("Willie B"), who plays to a teenage crowd, for cruelty to animals, for making a station intern drop a hen from a 30-foot high studio balcony to see if she could fly and to broadcast her reaction on the air. The hen, dropped on Meade's orders, suffered leg and foot injuries and was unresponsive following the second drop, though apparently she survived, thanks to her rescue by the shelter director of the Denver Dumb Friends League, which filed the cruelty charges against Meade that led to his conviction. A 6-member jury convicted Meade of cruelty to animals for his sadistic stunt, which carries a potential penalty of six to eighteen months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000. Meade was scheduled for sentencing on March 12th.

The jury and prosecutor sent a message, not only to the unrepentant Meade, but to his colleagues around the country,

that cruelty to an animal for fun, be she a chicken or a chimpanzee, invites prosecution.

United Poultry Concerns is grateful to the Denver County jury and to prosecutor Balkin for their conviction of Steven Meade for sadistically abusing a hen.

"What Can I Do?"

Urge KBPI-FM to fire Steven Meade. He is morally unfit for his job. Contact:

Bob Trigilio, Program Director
KBPI-FM
1380 Lawrence, Suite 1300
Denver, CO 80204
Ph: 303-893-8500
Fax: 303-892-4700

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Animal Rights International

CHICKEN RUN WINS ARK TRUST GENESIS AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE FILM 2000

Award Ceremony to be held in Beverly Hills, CA March 10, 2001

(818) 501-2ARK genesis@arktrust.org www.arktrust.org



United Poultry Concerns is pleased to announce that the animated feature film *Chicken Run* has won the coveted Fifteenth Annual Ark Trust Genesis Award for Best Feature Film of 2000. For 15 years, the Genesis Awards have honored selected members of the media for exemplary accomplishment in spotlighting animal issues with creativity and integrity. (United Poultry Concerns is responsible for two additional nominations for this year's Awards: the April 30th *Washington Post* article "Cracks in the Egg Industry," by Marc Kaufman, concerning the forced molting of hens, and the November 14th show by Emmy winner John Kastner, "Chickens are People Too," which featured United Poultry Concerns opposite the poultry industry on the primetime Canadian television program *Witness*. Last year, *The Washington Post* won the Genesis Award for Outstanding National Feature for its November 14, 1999 article about United Poultry Concerns, "For the Birds," by Tamara Jones.)

The following review of *Chicken Run* by UPC president Karen Davis appeared in newspapers around the country including the *Daily News* in Los Angeles, July 13, 2000. We urge everyone to take their kids to see the movie—again! and to rent this year's "most rented" video, *Chicken Run*!

CHICKEN RUN

Reviewed by Karen Davis, President
United Poultry Concerns

During the Animal Rights 2000 conference in Washington DC, several of us left for a couple of hours to see *Chicken Run*. Activists who had seen the movie praised it, and we'd leafleted at theater openings in San Francisco, Atlanta, and Washington, DC. So I was excited, but leery. While one of the directors, Nick Park, was telling interviewers about his horrible job at a chicken slaughterhouse and about his pet chicken at the time named Penny, the other director, Peter Lord, was making it his business to denigrate chickens in interviews, and Burger King was messing with the movie by having the *Chicken Run* chickens tell people to "Eat more beef and save the chickens" in collusion with Aardman, the movie's production company.

The chickens in *Chicken Run* live in a 1930s style "free-range" operation in scattered huts enclosed inside a barbed wire fence that evokes, with effective expressionist imagery, a Nazi concentration camp. It is the world of "No light, but rather darkness visible" of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Being kept only to lay eggs and then be killed, every morning the hens must line up while Mrs. Tweedy, the owner of Tweedy's Egg Farm, examines each hen to decide which

one of them, having become useless, will get the ax today. Mrs. Tweedy is a cruel and vicious Cinderella's stepmother type of woman. Mr. Tweedy, her husband, is the everyman type who follows orders. He sniffs around the barbed wire with his slinking mad-eyed junkyard hounds slaving at the end of their leashes looking for signs of rebellion. Mr. Tweedy slams 'bad' hens into the trash bin. Mrs. Tweedy plots to make more money by installing a mass production chicken-pie factory for the 'spent' hens. Learning about this, the hens redouble their efforts to escape, because as one hen says for all the chickens, "I don't want to be a pie."

The hens are locked up with a blustering old rooster who identifies ludicrously with his captors. Wearing a military uniform, he barks out orders at the hens and imagines himself to have been a flying ace in World War One. In this dystopia one individual stands out among the rest, a hen named Ginger. She is the true leader of the flock, the embodiment of their desire to be free. Her mind and will are focused on a Great Escape, on how to sail over the barbed wire and get back to the green world that chickens were meant to be in. She and the other chickens have an ancestral memory of life outside the henitentiary.

In the midst of Ginger's plots, repeated frustrations and refusals to give up, along comes Rocky the "Flying" Rooster, a refugee from the circus who with his hotshot American-style breeziness attempts to reinvent himself and hide his fear of recapture. Rocky brings things to a head at the camp, but he is not the Hero of the Hen Huts. Ginger is. It is her initiative and brooding consciousness, her great sad eyes viewing the spectacle of the world, her burden of having to keep everyone focused on the escape and not degenerate into fragments of illusion and hopeless acceptance of fate, which constitute the moral core of the movie. Ginger must grit her teeth—in this movie the chickens have the signature teeth of the filmmakers—and refuse to let human evil, the centrifugal forces and attrition of everyday life, and her own despair destroy her or her plan to get herself and the rest of the flock safe to the world of green grass. Ginger is a true Chickens' Libber, and we identify with her and with the plight of the chickens completely. Neither Peter Lord's perfidious gibberish about chickens to the media nor Aardman's sellout to Burger King changes the content of *Chicken Run*, which rises above its creators and crummy circumstances as do the hens at Tweedy's Egg Farm. Unfortunately, the filmmakers have more in common with Mrs. and Mr. Tweedy than they have with the prisoned chickens. And they hide behind "art" and "entertainment" to give themselves an alibi to betray the meaning of their own movie. But *Chicken Run* should be seen by everyone and actively used to promote a vegan world and animal rights.



The True Story of My Chucky

By Harriet Stoller

The continuous crowing of a rooster awakened me about 5 a.m. one morning in the spring of 1998, and like it or not, there was a repeat performance every morning thereafter. The puzzling aspect was the absence of a farm for miles around my apartment complex, which is next to a wooded park and a lake. Just by chance, while approaching my car one morning, out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a moving object a few yards away. Getting closer, to my amazement, there stood a jet black hen, and alongside her was my 5 a.m. troubadour, a striking, colorful, statuesque rooster.

After seeing them for a few days scrounging for food, bugs, or whatever they could find, my concern for their welfare deepened. Children frightened them throwing objects, and meaning well, left popcorn and other foods perhaps unsuitable for chickens. So I began to leave corn kernels and a fresh bowl of water every day. Gaining their confidence was a good feeling, as upon my approach, these inseparable birds would trail behind me. After a few days of searching for a secluded safe area, I successfully guided them to where they could not be seen from any side, it was so well hidden.

Weeks later, a thrilling and heartwarming sight came into view in the form of 14 black and white baby chicks, with momma and papa at their side. As I left extra food and water, a new fear arose. Chickens can escape predators by flying into trees for safety, but the chicks were in great danger. Often during the day the family would strut close to the walkway areas, which put them in danger.

My calls to rescue groups led only to other rescue groups. In my mind, there had to be a place willing to make a home for this family, but so far, nothing emerged. Now these birds were my responsibility, and I was determined to find them a home. They were my adoptees and I gave the rooster the name Chucky and his mate, since she was jet black, I called Midnight.

Weeks went by and then a tragedy hit. My heart filled with sadness to find that someone was seen taking the hen and several of her chicks but failed to catch Chucky. A few days later the rest of the chicks were gone, perhaps taken by the same thief, or by crows or cats. During the following weeks, my Chucky wandered lonesome and forlorn, looking for his mate, crowing more than usual, calling for her return.

As the summer came to a close, Chucky and I bonded in friendship. He followed me, ran to me, and waited for my presence every day. Seeing a stranger he disappeared into the brush, and returned when they left. Chucky walked alongside me to our hideaway, gratefully accepting his meal and replenished water. I made more phone calls, spoke to people, and repeated this procedure over and over again.

Eureka! Finally I located a home for my boy Chucky. We

were approaching the second week of October and the end of good weather. After some difficulty I found a large cage. Chucky would not allow anyone, even me, to touch him, but since I was his friend and protector, the responsibility was mine to gently cage him. My plan was as follows: I attached one end of a 9 foot string to the fully opened cage door, let it dangle loosely and held the other end while walking to my car. Then I would wait for my pal to walk into the cage.

Chucky refused to enter but tried poking his beak into the cage and reaching underneath it to reach the food. He walked around and around, coming back to me for the food. After I'd spent over an hour holding the other end of the string 7 feet away, he got his way—I fed him and gave up for the day.

We repeated this scenario a second time, but once again I gave in to him and took his food from the cage to the ground outside. A few days later, October 14th, I felt lucky about luring him into the cage. I camouflaged the string with brown leaves that had fallen from the trees. Leaning against my car holding the end of the string, I prayed he would enter.

After repeating his walk around the cage several times, he walked to the opening. He leaned in, then put one foot in and the other followed. He took the final step in and the door slammed shut. I cannot measure the happiness I felt knowing that he would now be safe and happy. As I spoke to him softly, "Good Chucky, you're going to be okay," he gurgled to me and I felt that my words of consolation to my friend were accepted. Through the grating I poured chicken feed, which he proceeded to devour, "chooking" his pleasure.

I am delighted to say that Chucky now resides on a 4-acre property. His living quarters are in a large barn which he shares with his harem of seven hens. I have a bittersweet feeling being so happy for him and, at the same time, forever missing my pal.

Acknowledgement This true story is dedicated to all animal lovers, people who take time out of their lives to help in any way they can to prevent the abuse of birds, dogs, cats, and other creatures who need help. I sent this essay to radio host Suzanne Dragan, whose show *The Pet House* airs on WCTC News Talk Radio, 1450 AM, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, each Sunday from 10 a.m. to Noon. — Harriet Stoller

(UPC Editors Note: Suzanne sent Harriet Stoller's "Story of My Chucky" to United Poultry Concerns' president Karen Davis, who has been a frequent guest on Suzanne's weekly program dedicated to educating listeners to love and better understand their fellow creatures with feathers, fins, and fur. UPC is grateful for the opportunity to share this story.)



You are cordially invited to attend

FARMED ANIMAL WELL-BEING CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 28 – FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2001

ALUMNI CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
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Sponsored by:

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Purpose: To address welfare concerns regarding animals raised for food production. The target audience will be animal agribusiness, animal protectionists, scientists, students, and the general public. The speakers' presentations will be taped & transcribed for later distribution.

Animals to be Addressed: Chickens, Cattle, Pigs, and Fish

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"Welfare Problems of 'Meat-type' Chickens" – Ian J.H. Duncan, PhD, University of Guelph, Ontario

"Changing Our Views About the Domestic Chicken" – Lesley J. Rogers, D.Sc., University of New England, Australia

"Emotions and Awareness in Birds," Gisela Kaplan, PhD, University of New England, Australia

Topics & Speakers About Cattle:

"Downed Cattle" – Jim Reynolds, DVM, University of California, Davis

"Dehorning, Castration, and Tail Docking in Cattle" – Pamela Hullinger, DVM, California Department of Food and Agriculture

"Calf Operations – Where Changes Can Be Made" – Mike Anderson, DVM, Bovine Practitioner, Lynden, Washington

"Welfare Issues Related to Slaughter and Transportation of Cattle" – Temple Grandin, PhD, Colorado State University

"Welfare Implications for Lameness in 'Dairy' Cattle" – John Kirk, DVM, University of California, Davis

Topics & Speakers About Pigs:

"Alternative Housing Systems" – Ed Pajor, PhD, Purdue University

"A Comparison of European and American Policies on Pig Production" – Donald C. Lay, Jr., PhD, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, West Lafayette, Indiana

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Conference Registration Form

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For more information: Contact AVAR at 530-759-8106 or AVAR@igc.org; Animal Place at 707-449-4814 or AnimalPlace@aol.com; or United Poultry Concerns at 757-678-7875 or Karen@UPC-online.org.

Lodging: Best Western University Lodge has blocked rooms at \$67/night single and \$75/night double. Reservations must be made by 5/27/01 to receive this rate. Call: 530-756-7890 or e-mail: UniversityLodgeUCD@SoliSys.com. Tell them you are attending the conference; rooms are reserved under the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference

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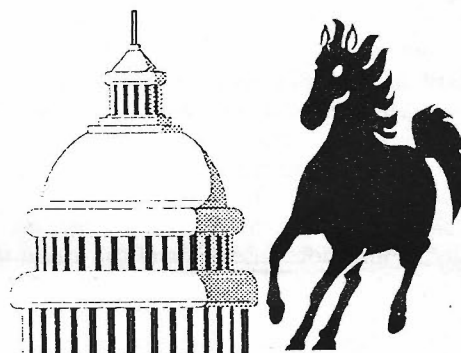
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Tom Regan (Culture & Animals Foundation)
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ACTION ALERT

► *continued from page 1*

from its egg suppliers.) The United Egg Producers' commitment to cages and to a tiny space increase for each caged hen by 2012 does not meet welfare standards.

• **Cage Environment** Although poultry scientists and welfareists have been arguing for decades what any fool can see, that chickens' behavioral repertoire and overall health require opportunities to perch, dustbathe, sunbathe, exercise, and socialize normally, and that hens need a quiet secluded place in which to lay their eggs, the *Guidelines* provide for none of these needs. If it is up to the industry the hens will continue to have nothing to do but to live behaviorally frustrated, physically miserable lives entombed in barren wire. This is unacceptable.

• **Excretory Ammonia Concentration and Other Toxic Gas Allowances** Caged hen houses, like all modern poultry houses, are loaded with dust and toxic gases including ammonia from the decomposing uric acid in the mountains of manure in these houses, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide. The *Guidelines* specify that "Ammonia concentration to which the birds are exposed should ideally be less than 25 ppm [parts per million] and should not exceed 50 ppm for a 24 hour" [period], but temporary excesses [?] should not adversely affect bird health." Studies show, however, that chickens exposed to 20 ppm of ammonia for 42 days develop pulmonary congestion, swelling, and hemorrhage, and that continuous exposure to ammonia thickens arterial walls and shrinks the air capillaries in exposed birds. Ammonia concentration harms birds' immune systems and increases their susceptibility to infectious diseases and can cause them to go blind. As UPC president Karen Davis can testify, the ammonia concentration in modern hen and poultry houses is unbearable. It burns straight into your eyes and lungs, and makes you sick in your stomach. The *Guidelines* allowance of 25 - 50 ppm, plus undefined "temporary excesses," of ammonia gases condemns the hens to continue to live and lay their

eggs (which absorb ammonia gases) in a toxic waste environment, inhaling, without relief, poisonous excremental fumes. This is not acceptable.

• **Debeaking** Regarding what the industry calls "beak trimming," the *Guidelines* merely rehash 3 decades worth of advice to debeaking machine operators about how to debeak newborn and 10-day old chicks so as to reduce mortality and starveouts in the mutilated birds: "The beaks of chicks should be trimmed at 10 days of age or younger with a precision automated cam-activated beak trimmer with a heated blade." The cruelty of debeaking is evident in the *Guidelines*' instructions on how "to facilitate clotting, to alleviate stress, and reduce dehydration." "The levels of feed and water should be increased until beaks are healed" (so the birds don't painfully bang their freshly injured beaks against the hard bottom of the feeder or waterer, thus preventing them from trying to eat or drink again, and so dying). "When avoidable, birds should not be subjected to stressful conditions such as handling, moving, vaccination, etc. for two weeks following beak trimming." All of these instructions, plus the loopholes to accommodate normal industry practices, bear witness to the trauma and pain of "beak trimming."

Furthermore, the *Guidelines* recommend putting many debeaked birds through the same ordeal again: "If the trimmed beak grows back, a second trim may be needed. A second trimming is more permanent in that the beak does not grow back as easily."

Debeaking is a barbaric facial mutilation that cannot possibly be made "humane." Decades of "partial beak amputation" research have proven this beyond a doubt. The beak is full of nerves to the very tip, and the only reason chickens are debeaked in the first place is to reduce the injuries and mortality that result in fewer eggs when birds whose nature it is to peck at the environment are deprived of an environment in which the birds' inherent nature makes any sense. In no

continued on page 11 ►

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► continued from page 10

way can the egg industry's beak-trimming guidelines be supported.

• **Forced Molting** Thanks to the groundbreaking and persistent effort of United Poultry Concerns to agitate the animal protection community and the general public about the egg industry's use of food deprivation to force hens to molt unnaturally, "Consumer concerns about agricultural production practices and the impact of these practices on the welfare of the animal have caused producers to reconsider the use of induced molting in laying strains of birds." Acknowledging that "Welfare problems reside with the methods used to induce the molt, namely feed restriction or deprivation," and that "Producers and researchers are encouraged to work together to develop alternatives to feed withdrawal for molting," the *Guidelines* show that the egg industry is merely looking for other ways than 2 weeks of total food deprivation to **force hens to drop their feathers, temporarily stop laying eggs, then be forced to resume a relentless egg-laying schedule before being sent to the slaughterhouse hundreds or thousands of miles away.** In the meantime, egg producers are given the usual instructions on how to starve their hens so as to keep mortality levels compatible with profits and force a 30% loss of body weight in the hen. While over a decade of taxpayer-supported government research shows that force molting by food deprivation impairs hens' immune systems, predisposing them and their eggs to *Salmonella* poisoning, the *Guidelines* lie that "Insufficient research has been conducted to develop a conclusive decision on the impact [forced] molting may contribute to food safety risks."

• **Cheap Tricks** The egg industry has, at any given time, at least 4 million to 7 million caged hens producing millions of eggs for which there is no market (which is why you see eggs and egg whites listed among the ingredients in processed foods as unlikely as "elite" popsicles, all of which serve as dumping grounds for chronic overproduction). Yet the industry is trying to make animal protectionists feel guilty for opposing force molting by telling us that if they can't force molt a flock and reuse the survivors, they'll have to breed millions more birds to maintain flock size and kill millions more male chicks at the hatchery than they already smother to death and grind up alive each year. But as veterinarian Holly Cheever wrote in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (July 1, 2000), speaking on behalf of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (AVAR): "The public knows more and more about forced molting. AVAR and United Poultry Concerns have brought it to the public's attention," and we will not "be jockeyed into having to respond to the industry by saying, okay, let's select this evil over that evil."

• **Lighting** The harsh, inhumane lighting regime to which commercial laying hens are subjected is a primary reason why their reproductive systems are depleted by the time they are just over a year old, "requiring" a "rest" by being starved in their cages for 2 weeks. The hen's biology by nature is synchronized with the length of day and the seasons of the year. Egg industry practice disrupts this natural harmony with destructive effects on the hen. In nature, hens start laying eggs in the spring and cease laying eggs in the fall. Egg production

is a function of increasing and decreasing length of day, which corresponds to the optimum times of the year for hens to brood, hatch, and raise chicks. Forcing hens to sit for an entire year under artificial lighting that simulates the longest days of summer—15 to 17 hour days—is sheer biological punishment, without any natural counterpart. This punitive lighting arrangement has been causally linked, along with forced molting, to the high prevalence of *Salmonella* in hens and their eggs because of its harmful effect on the hens' immune systems. The *Guidelines* do not address this stressful artificial lighting except to say that inside the buildings, with their grim darkness and continuously burning light bulbs to artificially stimulate egg production, "Lights should be provided to allow effective inspection of all birds." In reality, however, effective inspection of all birds is not possible in caged layer buildings holding 50,000 to 100,000+ birds.

Hell is where "farm fresh" eggs come from. Picture the lively young hen in her strawy warm bowl of a nest with its lovely clutch of eggs and compare that image to this "Guideline": "Birds should not be exposed to disturbing noises or visual stimuli or strong vibrations, whether originating inside or outside the house. Visitors should not be allowed without proper supervision, because they could cause birds to panic and injure themselves in their rush to escape" from their mental cages.

"What Can I Do?"

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Contact United Egg Producers concerning their "new" *Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg Laying Flocks*. State your views and concerns clearly and concisely.

Albert E. Pope, President

United Egg Producers

1303 Hightower Trail, Suite 200

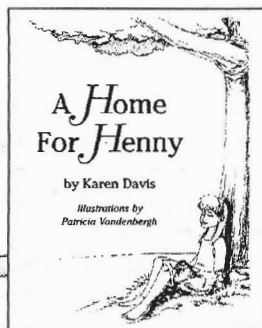
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Educate your community. Every time eggs or "poultry" (dead or alive) are mentioned or promoted in your local newspaper, **please write a short informative letter to the editor.** Have a **pool of activist letter writers.** Create and discover ways to tell the truth about eggs and "poultry" (including how nice chickens and turkeys are) to your friends, neighbors, and workplace colleagues: hang wall posters, have a table at community festivals, write letters to the editor, call talk radio shows and TV stations, arrange library displays and video presentations. Information materials, buttons, bumper stickers & posters are listed in our merchandise pages. We have everything you need to make a difference.

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Nature's Chicken, The Story of Today's Chicken Farms

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With wry humor, this unique children's story book traces the development of today's chicken and egg factory farming in a perfect blend of entertainment and instruction. Wonderful illustrations. Promotes compassion and respect for chickens. \$5.95

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Enchant young children with this charming tale about a stubborn girl who is secretly touched by a cow while visiting a sanctuary for farm animals. \$11.00

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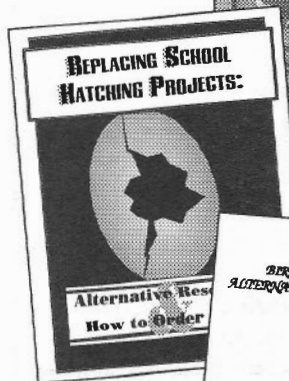
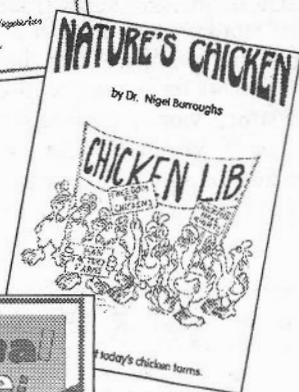
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Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

By Karen Davis

This book is a fully-documented source of up-to-the-minute information about chickens, including everything from how a chick develops inside an egg to the causes of salmonella, and much more. Provides a chilling account of the morally handicapped poultry & egg industry. \$14.95

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By Karen Davis

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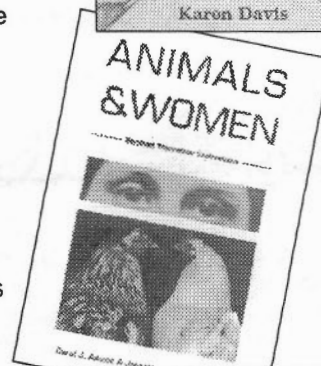
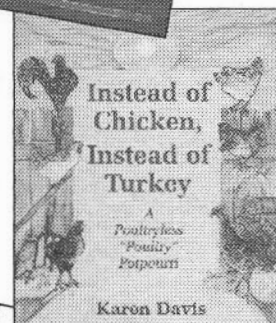
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Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

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Hidden Suffering

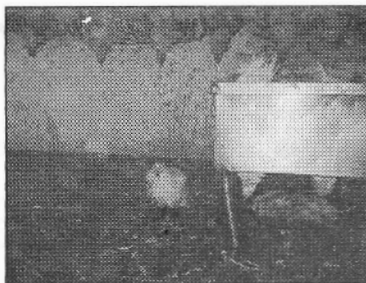
By Chickens' Lib

This vivid half hour video exposes the cruelty of the battery cage system and intensive broiler chicken, turkey and duck production. \$20.00

Humane Slaughter?

By Farm Sanctuary

HUMANE SLAUGHTER takes the viewer into poultry slaughterhouses to witness the horrendous suffering endured by chickens and turkeys. The video contains undercover footage obtained by Farm Sanctuary investigators of poultry slaughter operations, where terrified chickens and turkeys are slowly bled to death – sometimes on the slaughterhouse floor.



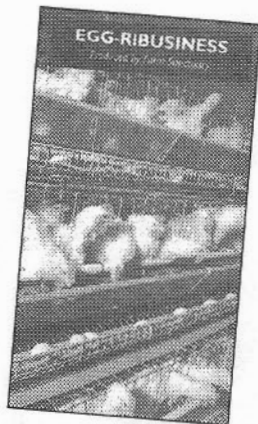
Scenes from HUMANE SLAUGHTER have prompted thousands of people to eliminate poultry from their diets. When you see this video you'll see why. 9 minutes, VHS. Documentary, narration, music, what you can do. \$15.95 + \$2.00 Shipping

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By Farm Sanctuary

With powerful footage taken at locations across the United States between 1988 and 1999, this fully narrated video illuminates the intolerable conditions endured by egg laying hens and unwanted male chicks at the hands of the egg industry. 14 minutes, VHS. \$15.95 + \$2.00 Shipping



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Photo by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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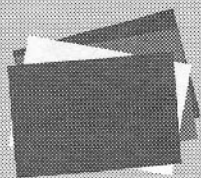


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