



Poultry Press

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl

The Wood-Chipper Episode and Avian Flu Epidemics: What's The Connection?

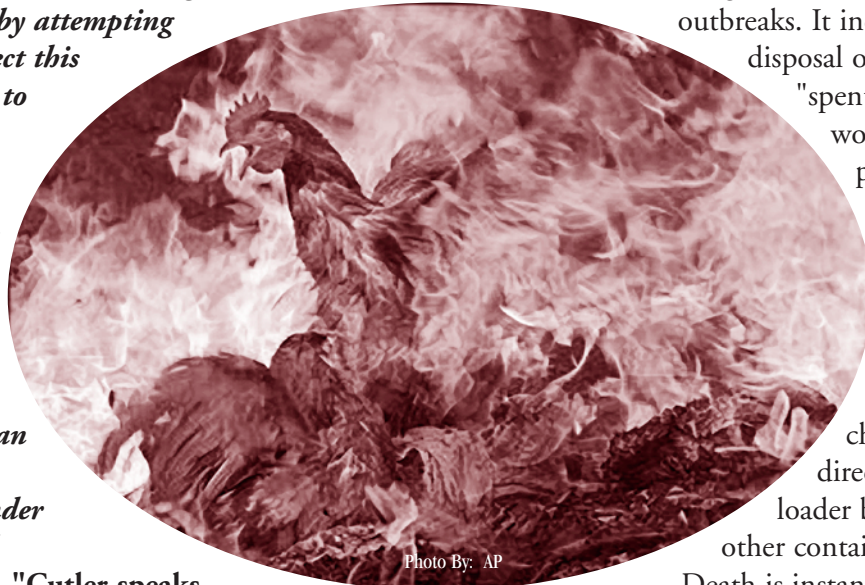
"United Poultry Concerns is demanding my expulsion from the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee position. Their own Web site demonstrates how they are advancing their agenda by attempting to connect this atrocity to AVMA's position on induced molting. I am nothing more than a poster child under attack."

"Cutler speaks out on his own behalf,"
DVM Newsmagazine,
January 2004

The January issues of *Veterinary Practice News* and *DVM Newsmagazine* stress the leadership of United Poultry Concerns in demanding the removal of Dr. Gregg Cutler from the animal welfare committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Cutler authorized the Ward egg ranch, in California, to throw tens of thousands of unwanted live hens into wood-chipping machinery last February.

Cutler did not act alone but was part of a team of veterinarians, poultry producers, and government officials that recommended the procedure in a written guideline for dealing with avian influenza outbreaks. It included the disposal of live "spent hens" in wood chippers - "A large chipper can be rented and set up to discharge directly into a loader bucket or other container. Death is instant and humane."

Photo By: AP
In Indonesia, chickens are burned alive to destroy avian influenza



UPC targeted Cutler

because, in addition to authorizing the wood-chipper killings, he represents poultry on the AVMA's animal welfare committee, where he supports inhumane practices such as forced molting. He epitomizes what is wrong with the AVMA, which, instead of leading the effort to improve the lives of chickens and other farmed animals, blocks every effort to improve their lives, while calling itself, ironically, "the leading voice for humane and proper care of animals."

In January 2004, the AVMA claimed

United Poultry Concerns

P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA
23405-0150
(757) 678-7875
FAX: (757) 678-5070

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



continued from page 1

to be gathering facts for a judicial hearing to decide if Cutler "breached ethical standards and the Veterinarian's Oath" in authorizing the wood-chippers. In addition, the California Veterinary Medical Board is investigating Cutler's role, which could cost him his license to practice veterinary medicine in California.

The Bigger Picture

If instead of wood chippers, Cutler had merely advised the Ward egg ranch to use any of the standard AVMA-approved methods of killing the birds, like breaking and stretching their necks and/or asphyxiating them with carbon dioxide - inhumane methods despite AVMA approval - the episode would not have sparked a San Diego County Department of Animal Services cruelty investigation including a complaint to the California Veterinary Medical Board. Yet even though the AVMA has not formally approved the use of wood-chippers as a form of euthanasia ("merciful death"), wood chippers and other types of grinding machines, called macerators, are being used to kill birds.

Ward egg ranch manager Ken Iryie told the San Diego County Department of Animal Services that **"chipping" chickens is a common practice.** It isn't just a "disease-control emergency" procedure, but a way to dispose of the 22 million to 25 million spent hens in the US each year not purchased by the government for its National School Lunch Program and other meal programs. In addition to being packed in containers, bulldozed, suffocated to death in dumpsters, and gassed with CO², the March 2004 issue of

Animal People says that it is **"increasingly common for spent hens to be killed by live maceration**, long the standard means of killing surplus chicks. The remains are fed to pigs, cattle, or other chickens."

"A macerator is just a fancy name for something that crushes and kills baby chickens. It is ugly and inhumane," veterinarian Peggy Larson told *Animal People.* And while the AVMA's 2000 Report on Euthanasia doesn't say so, *Animal People* reports that live maceration is among the "generally approved and recommended methods of killing both spent hens and surplus chicks, according to guidelines posted by the South Dakota State University Department of Animal and Range Sciences." Likewise, the University of California, Davis Center for Animal Welfare approves grinders "specifically designed for disposal of poultry" noting that they "must not be overloaded, as birds may be incompletely macerated under these conditions."

Mass-Extermination of Birds

In addition to the global slaughter of over 40 billion chickens exploited for food each year, tens of millions of birds are exterminated to dispose of those who are unwanted (like male chicks born to the egg industry) and no longer wanted (like "spent" hens in the egg industry), and to control the diseases that spread in captive flocks. For example, between 1971 and 1973, California killed 12 million chickens to stop the spread of Newcastle disease, a type of avian influenza. In 1997, Hong Kong killed 1.4 million chickens to

continued on page 4

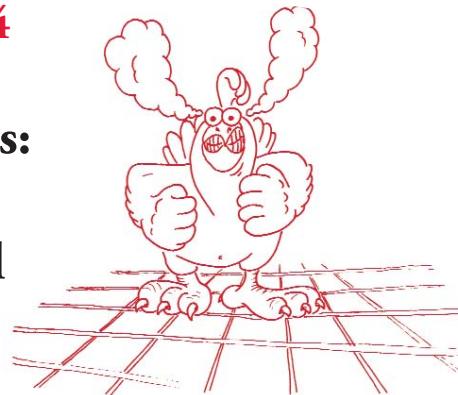
<p><i>PoultryPress</i> is published quarterly by United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. Federal I.D.: 52-1705678</p> <p>EDITOR: Karen Davis</p> <p>GRAPHIC DESIGN: Gary Kaplan/ GK Graphic Designs</p> <p>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR: Gary Kaplan/ GK Graphic Designs</p>	<p>UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS, INC.</p> <p><u>OFFICERS:</u> KAREN DAVIS, PhD, <i>President-Director</i> GEORGE ALLAN CATE, PhD, <i>Vice President-Director</i> JOAN MEANOR HOLTGRAVER, MA, <i>Secretary Treasurer-Director</i></p> <hr/> <p><u>ADVISORS:</u> Carol J. Adams, <i>Author</i> Nedim C. Buyukmihci, <i>VMD</i> Sean Day, <i>Attorney</i> Jim Mason, <i>Author</i></p>	<p><u>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:</u> GARY KAPLAN</p> <p><u>GRAPHIC DESIGNER:</u> GARY KAPLAN</p> <p><u>OFFICE MANAGER:</u> SUSAN RAYFIELD</p>	<p><u>CONSULTANTS & INTERNET</u> <u>RESEARCHERS:</u> MARY FINELLI PATTRICE JONES</p> <p><u>SANCTUARY ASSISTANTS:</u> CAROL BAKER CINDY RODRIGUEZ</p> <hr/> <p>Ingrid Newkirk, <i>PETA</i> Sheila Schwartz, PhD, Humane Education Committee of NYC Kim Sturla, Animal Place</p> <p>Deborah Tanzer, PhD, Psychologist In Memoriam: Henry Spira, Animal Rights International</p>
--	--	---	--

UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS FIFTH ANNUAL FORUM 2004

Saturday, August 21 – Sunday August 22, 2004



**Mad Cows to Mad Chickens:
What Insiders Can Tell You
About Agribusiness, Animal
Liberation, and Your Diet**



Meet the eyewitnesses and hear their testimony from “behind the scenes” of the meat, poultry, egg, dairy, medical, and “alternative” animal production industries.

Including special guest Virgil Butler

Hilton Airport Norfolk Hotel
Norfolk, VA 23502
Toll Free: 800-422-7474

Vegan Luncheons and morning coffee service provided.

Registration: \$75 per person. Students & seniors: \$40.

Speakers:

Sarahjane Blum, Foie Gras investigator,
GourmetCruelty.com.

Virgil Butler, former Tyson chicken slaughterhouse worker in Grannis, Arkansas.

Terry Cummings, codirector of Poplar Spring Farm Animal Sanctuary.

Cheri Ezell-Vandersluis, former dairy cow farmer.

Mary Finelli, editor of Farmed Animal Watch.

Lester Friedlander, DVM, former chief veterinary USDA Meat Inspector.

Michael Greger, M.D., Mad Cow Coordinator for the Organic Consumers Association.

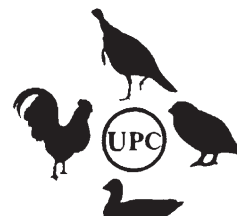
Patrice Jones, co-director of the Eastern Shore Sanctuary & Education Center.

Jim Mason, co-author of *Animal Factories* and author of *An Unnatural Order*.

Paul Shapiro, campaigns director for Compassion Over Killing.

Register Now! Bring a Friend!
Send check or money order to:

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
PO Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150
757-678-7875
FAX: 757-678-5070
www.upc-online.org



continued from page 2

control a strain of avian influenza that infected and killed humans and birds (repeated unsuccessfully in 2001 and 2002). Between 1997 and 2000 Italy killed 13 million birds in an attempt to control avian influenza; and in 2002, Virginia killed 4.7 million turkeys and chickens to halt a mild form of the virus. **These exterminations are paid for by taxpayers.** For example, the extermination of over 3 million birds to block the Exotic Newcastle disease epidemic that threatened California's poultry and egg industry last year cost US taxpayers more than \$160 million including indemnities to cockfighters. The 2002 avian flu epidemic in Virginia cost taxpayers \$135 million to \$150 million.

Such crises are now taking place around the world, from Delaware to Indonesia. To protect the global animal food industry and save people from the avian influenza epidemics brought on by humans (the 1918 bird-human flu pandemic killed 20 million people), millions of chickens, turkeys, ducks, pigs, and other animals are being buried alive, gassed, drowned, beaten to death, and burned to death. By mid-February Delaware had killed 89,000 chickens at just two farms; in Southeast Asia, to contain a virulent strain of the H5N1 avian influenza that can infect and kill humans, 80 million chickens had been exterminated, according to *The Denver Post* (Feb. 15, 2004).

While the atrocities committed in other countries have been shown on American television, **the cameras aren't showing the massacres being conducted here at home.** Here, to give you an idea, is an eyewitness account of one such episode that took place in Maryland, in 1993, during an avian influenza outbreak that, according to *The Washington Post* (Feb. 12, 2004), resulted in "the destruction of tens of thousands of birds, according to state officials."

Eyewitness Report

"On November 26 and 27, 1993, there was a holocaust on a game farm operated by John L. Tuttle near Centreville, Maryland. Over 30,000 captive game birds [pheasants, chukars, and quails raised and sold for hunting in Maryland and surrounding states] were gassed, burned alive, clubbed, swung by the neck or shot to death by a joint United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS) Maryland Department of

Agriculture task force. This operation was supervised by Drs. Hortentia Harris and David Henzler of USDA-APHIS [Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service] and Drs. Archibald Park and Henry Virts of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.



"Approximately half of the game birds (17,000) were housed in buildings. The remaining birds were housed in outside flight pens. On Friday, November 26, large tank trucks brought in carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) which was pumped into the buildings which housed a variety of game bird species some of which were suspected of harboring a pathogenic avian influenza virus. The plan was to asphyxiate the birds with the CO₂ gas, then carry them to a trench in a front end loader where they would be sprayed with an accelerant and burned.

"Unfortunately, we learned that CO₂ is not lethal. As soon as the unconscious birds were exposed to fresh air they began to revive. Many of these birds were burned alive. A fruitless attempt was made to asphyxiate the remaining birds with exhaust gasses from an automobile. It did not work. Many more birds were burned alive that day.

"The remaining 17,000 birds, which were housed in outdoor flight pens, were dispatched in a similar cruel and inhumane manner. Many birds were clubbed until unconscious and then burned alive. Finally, over 500 rounds of shotgun shells were used to wound, maim and kill the remaining game birds that could not be captured. Many of these birds were burned alive. I always thought veterinarians were supposed to relieve animals' pain and suffering, not inflict it."

- Letter from a "remorseful participant" to the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, March 24, 1996.

What Can I Do?

-  Please go vegan and encourage others to join you.
-  Make your voice - and the voices of the birds - heard: Write letters to the editor, get videos on public access, and leaflet. Urge your local media to devote quality time to the many benefits of an animal friendly, vegetarian diet.

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Contact the AVMA and voice your concerns about the AVMA to the media. Veterinarian Holly Cheever says that "the AVMA is increasingly aware of and concerned by their potentially increasing negative public image in the press, and they are also aware that the pressure to change no longer comes from animal activists alone, but is now coming from their own well-regarded members."

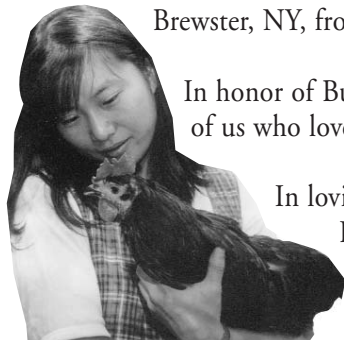
Dr. Bruce Little
Executive Vice President
AVMA
1931 North Meacham Rd, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360
Phone: 847-925-8070. Fax: 847-925-1329
Email: Blittle@avma.org

Freddaflower Memorial Fund

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

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent donations *In Loving Memory and in Honor and Appreciation* of the following beloved family members and friends:

Please accept this donation on behalf of the Bradfords and their friend Miss Chicken, saved from a Brooklyn slaughterhouse and now residing at Green Chimneys, Brewster, NY, from Liz Bradford.



In honor of Bud, who is much missed by all of us who loved him, from Tara Sparkman.

In loving memory of sweet Henrietta, my son Robert's rescued hen for 11 years, from Leita M. Wucher.



UPC member and chicken sponsor, David Jones, holds a rooster in his youth

In memory of my cherished hens, Savannah and Penny, from Edna-Ann Senecal.

Please use this memorial donation to get a holiday treat for our feathered friends at your sanctuary, in memory of Tai Jen Kou, my special dog, from Linda A. Morello.

In memory of Harpo, my loving companion (1985-2003), from Sandra Herman

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will. Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150
(757) 678-7875



Photo by Tal Ronnen

Foie Gras Production Under Attack in California, New York

"These people are cramming huge amounts of food down the throats of ducks while children are starving." - Animal Protection & Rescue League

"Forcing food down a bird's gullet beyond the limits of its appetite will cause pain and suffering. Force feeding quickly results in birds that are obese and in a pathological state, called hepatic lipidosis or fatty liver disease." - Professor Ian Duncan, Poultry Welfare Specialist, University of Guelph, Ontario.

A lawsuit by the Animal Protection & Rescue League (APRL) and In Defense of Animals (IDA) alleges that the force-feeding of ducks results in "extreme, unmitigated pain and suffering as well as crippling injuries to the ducks, and that the owners of Sonoma Foie Gras are in violation of several sections of the California penal code on animal welfare. An APRL investigation of the farm last year revealed ducks too weak and overweight to defend themselves as rats gnawed on their wounds, documented at www.APRL.org" (APRL press release, March 2, 2004).

To get rid of foie gras, **California lawmaker, Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, has introduced a bill, SB 1520, that would ban foie gras from being produced and consumed in California.**

Burton told to the *Sacramento Bee* (March 1, 2004), "We just shouldn't be cramming a tube down a duck's throat and forcing in food to make foie gras."

California and New York are the only US states that produce foie gras; force feeding ducks and geese to make "fattened liver" is banned in Israel (effective March 2005), Germany, and several other European countries. For information: www.APRL.org,

www.gourmetcruelty.com, and www.aavar.org/foiegras2.html. For more information on bills to ban foie gras in California and New York: www.nofogiegras.org.



What Can I Do?

🐔 **California residents:** Write to your California State Senator and ask him or her to support SB 1520. Senators can be mailed at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you don't know who your state senator is, call 916-322-9900.

For updates, contact

www.aavar.org/foiegras2.html or call 530-759-8106.

🐔 **New York residents:** Write to your New York State Assembly member and state Senator, and ask them to cosponsor AB 1821 and SB 5153, respectively. Assembly Bill 1821 and Senate Bill 5153 would amend the state animal cruelty law to make it "unlawful to force feed a bird, by hand or machine, for the purpose of fatty enlargement of the bird's liver." For more information, contact campaign@farmsanctuary.org or visit www.nofogiegras.org or call 607-583-2225 ext. 247.

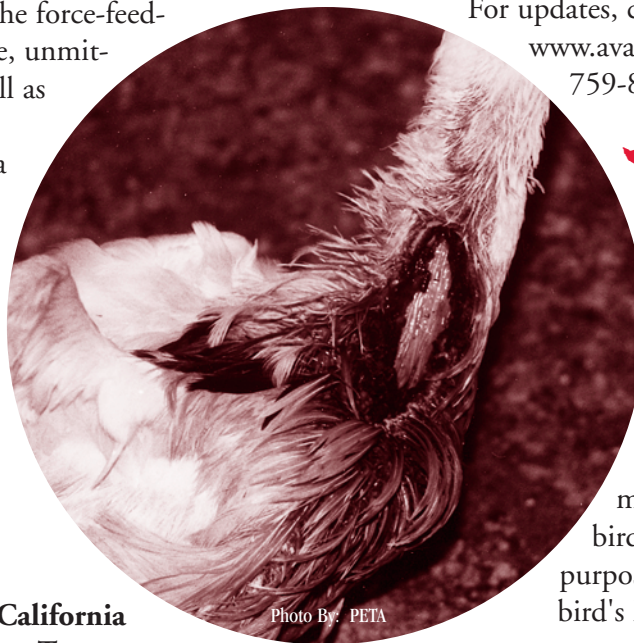


Photo By: PETA

Duck with maggot-infested neck wound caused by force-feeding.

🐔 Write letters to the editor against foie gras and against cruelty in all areas of animal food production. Urge people to buy the delicious vegan pates available at progressive grocery stores.

🐔 Order from UPC the video *Delicacy of Despair: Behind The Closed Doors of The Foie Gras Industry*. By GourmetCruelty.com \$10 🐔

UPC Sanctuary Needs Your Help



Photo By UPC

Our chicken-house porch must be rebuilt

United Poultry Concerns provides a permanent loving home for chickens and other rescued birds. When we moved from Maryland to our Machipongo, Virginia headquarters in 1998, we brought with us 65 rescued chickens and two rescued ducks. Right now we have 189 chickens, four ducks, and two turkeys, plus three peacocks who joined us serendipitously in November. Most recently, we adopted 20 chickens from a PETA cockfighting cruelty case in Alabama.

Since coming to Machipongo, we've constructed five chicken houses and several fenced yards. We turned a leaky old garage into a comfy chicken haven. We just completed a sixth house, and we are having our L-shaped porch, a strawy predator-proof chicken house, torn down and rebuilt from scratch. The cost of this job is \$10,000. For UPC, this is a huge expenditure, but we have no choice. When the roof leaks and the floor crumbles under a chicken's foot, it's time to rebuild!

UPC needs your help to rebuild our chicken-house porch and maintain our sanctuary without having to draw on funds demanded by our many other projects. We need substantial donations, but any amount you can give will help us complete this building project.

Yes! I want to help UPC's Important Sanctuary Building Project. Please accept my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

- \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 \$1000
 \$2500
 \$5000
 Other

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone No. _____

(You don't need to tear out this coupon. If you prefer, simply note on your check or money order that your donation is for UPC's Sanctuary Building Project. Thanks!)

Would you like to do more to help the birds?
To receive our news updates, actions alerts, and learn about upcoming events
BECOME A UPC E-SUBSCRIBER!
Just go to our website <http://www.upc-online.org> and click on Subscribe.
That's all there is to it!

Earth's Best Friend is Vegetarian

In "The Oil We Eat" (*Harper's Magazine*, Feb. 2004), Richard Manning laments the effects of factory farming. But while noting that "Eighty percent of the grain the United States produces goes to livestock," he dismisses vegetarianism and ends his essay by shooting an elk "to save the earth," with this excuse: "I killed, but then so did you even when you bought that package of tofu burger." **UPC President Karen Davis responds in the April issue of *Harper's*** along with philosopher Michael Allen Fox, author of *Deep Vegetarianism* (Temple UP, 1999). Here is Karen's letter followed by an excerpt from *Deep Vegetarianism*.

Karen Davis, *Harper's*, p. 4:

According to Richard Manning, "vegetarians claim their habits are kinder to animals, though it is difficult to see how wiping out 99 percent of wildlife's habitat, as farming has done in Iowa, is a kindness."

In the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, thousands of football-field-long buildings containing thousands of chickens occupy the land where wildlife once thrived. Millions of soybean bushels are produced in this region just to feed these chickens, supplementing their dumping-ground diet of feather meal and cattle brains. Cancer rates among poultry workers are abnormally high, and chicken diseases are rampant.

Yet Manning implies that turning soybeans into tofu burgers for vegetarians is little more than a dreamer's idea of making the earth a better place compared with the "heft" of shooting an elk. This descent into personal violence weakens his otherwise credible argument.

From *Deep Vegetarianism* by Michael Allen Fox (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999), pp. 181-183:

Richard Manning has recently argued that vegetarianism is a "city-bred" phenomenon, a "product of distance" or of lack of contact with animals and the land. He concedes that vegetarians "assert - correctly and importantly - a vital message: Eating grain and vegetables in general is simply a way of conserving existing solar energy." [In spite of this, he] goes on to propose a nostalgic alternative scenario for our time of the solitary hunter killing his or her own animals and living off grassland yields. This, he asserts, is a more energy-efficient way of life than (generally) supermarket-dependent vegetarianism.

That vegetarianism is an urban-generated movement should come as no surprise. An increasing proportion of the world's population is located in cities, and it would be natural to expect ever-greater moral direction to emerge from this context. In addition, past moral and social reform movements have sprung most often from urban settings, where improved education



Illustration by Nigel Burroughs

and greater awareness of issues are present. That city-dwellers are less in contact with animals and the land is no doubt true, for the most part, but this kind of proximity seems less important as a factor in moral progress than a desire to be well informed, an inclination to be reflective about the consequences of individual and collective human behavior, and a strong sense of responsibility. Urbanites are no less likely to be *caring* towards animals and ecologically sensitized than rural-dwellers

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

are to be *uncaring* toward animals and alienated from nature.

Finally, ethical issues other than mere energy efficiency are involved in the assessment of hunting; nor is it at all plausible that an entire population of millions could sustain itself by returning to a lonely and outmoded hunter-gatherer form of existence. In addition, many vegetarians are now enjoying the options of shifting their business from supermarkets to farmers' markets, cooperative farms, and market gardens, or else cultivating their own small plots of land.

The vegetarian way of life actually offers many the chance to reestablish contact with the land and with nature, the loss of which Manning and many others rightly lament. We may hope that this process will continue and broaden in the future, as more and more people come to realize that vegetarianism, rather than being confining, is liberating as it frees us from the exploitation of animals, the domination of nature, and the oppression of one another, and frees us to discover ourselves in more positive, life-affirming ways. . . .

It is easy to feel that one's personal efforts are insignificant - a mere drop in the bucket - in the face of large-scale injustices or social ills that cry out for a remedy. But to begin, if any practice - such as meat-eating - is wrong, then it is right for each of us not to engage in it, even if this does not by itself change the world. We are better in ourselves for making this decision. We must also remember that every revolutionary social movement begins with a dedicated few who push it forward and act as the surrogate conscience of others, helping them gain a greater awareness and acquire the courage of new convictions. 🐔

ANIMAL RIGHTS 2004



National Convention

July 8-12; Sheraton Hotel, Vienna, VA
New venue with superb amenities & rates

Featuring more than 100 speakers representing 60 national and local organizations

- ➔ Grassroots organizing & outreach skills
- ➔ 'Rap' sessions on controversial issues
- ➔ Newcomer orientation; Strategy meetings
- ➔ Merchandise, literature, and video expo
- ➔ Employment Clearinghouse
- ➔ Networking Receptions; Awards Banquet
- ➔ Delicious vegan meals; Entertainment

www.AR2004.org
1-888-FARM USA

STOCK CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Friends,

Several of our members have made financial contributions in the form of stock to United Poultry Concerns through our securities account. We are deeply grateful for these gifts, and anticipate more in the future. There are two obvious benefits in making stock contributions. Please consider these advantages in making your future gifts to United Poultry Concerns.

Donors may give as much stock as they want to a nonprofit organization without impinging upon their estate. By giving this way, they avoid paying a capital gains tax on their assets, because they are gifting their assets.

The benefits to the nonprofit are obvious. In giving a gift of stock, you enable the nonprofit of your choice to grow and do more. It's as simple and important as that. Everyone wins.

United Poultry Concerns has a securities account with **Paine-Webber**. For information on how you can donate to us this way, please call our financial advisor, **Claudia Puopolo**, at Paine-Webber at **757-490-5639** or **800-368-4070**.

From United Poultry Concerns and all our Feathered Friends, we thank you for helping to ensure our future!

Sincerely,
 Karen Davis, Ph.D.
 President



Photo by Tal Ronnen

Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation

"Slaughter is different from processing in that the raw material is alive, has a central nervous system, can express emotional states, and has biological components like humans." - Dr. Janice Swanson, Kansas State University

"Do you think the birds have a sense of what is going to happen to them?"

"Yes. They try everything in their power to get away from the killing machine and to get away from you. . . . They have been stunned [paralyzed], so their muscles don't work, but their eyes do, and you can tell by them looking at you, they're scared to death." - Virgil Butler, former Tyson slaughterhouse worker, Press Conference, Feb. 19, 2003.



These chickens were paralyzed, not stunned, in electrified water.

Photo By: L. Parascandola

Norfolk, VA August 21-22), show how cruelly chickens, turkeys, and ducks are treated by the poultry industry.

In July 2001, **Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia** told the Senate: "The American people are becoming increasingly sensitive to the treatment of animals. Reports of cruelty to animals through improper livestock production and slaughter practices have hit a nerve."

In current US slaughter practice, birds are hung upside down in shackles and their heads and upper bodies are dragged through a splashing electrified water trough that paralyzes the muscles of their feather follicles. Every day in this country, 25 million birds are being tortured in this manner before their throats are

partially cut and they are hung upside down in a bleed-out tunnel, then plunged into a scald tank, often while they are still alive. When this happens, **Virgil Butler explains, "the chickens flop, scream, kick, and their eyeballs pop out of their heads. They often come out of the other end with broken bones and disfigured and missing body parts because they've struggled so much in the tank."**

Poultry welfare specialists say this torture can be replaced by an argon-based gas-stun/kill technology that kills the birds in the transport crates prior to shackling, thus sparing them the pain and stress of live shackling, electrical paralysis, neck cutting, and, for millions of birds each year, being scalded alive. **Poultry welfare specialist Dr. Ian Duncan of the University of Guelph in Ontario** considers this method "the most stress-free, humane method of killing poultry ever developed."

United Poultry Concerns is renewing our effort to extend federal humane slaughter protective legislation to poultry. Our full-color booklet *Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation* is now available in hardcopy, and online at www.upc-online.org/slaughter/slaughter3web.pdf. In May, all of our members will receive a free copy.

The need for a law to cover poultry

Birds represent 99 percent of animals slaughtered for food in the United States - 25 million birds a day, 9 billion birds each year, and climbing. **Shocking revelations by former chicken slaughter plant worker, Virgil Butler (who will be speaking at our Forum in**

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

At a Georgetown University Law School Symposium on the Humane Slaughter Act, in February, attended by UPC, Joby Warrick, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author of The Washington Post investigative report on US slaughterhouses, "They Die Piece By Piece" (April 10, 2001), said the press normally pays attention to animal cruelty issues only when a law is being broken or ignored. As long as birds are outside the law, and no legislation is pending, their suffering won't gain significant media attention.

While United Poultry Concerns opposes the use of birds and other animals for food and promotes a vegan diet, we support laws and practices that could reduce suffering. The absence of a law for poultry conveys the false notion that these birds do not suffer, or that their suffering doesn't matter, and that humans have no merciful obligation to birds. We urge our members to join our campaign to get poultry covered by the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and to replace the inhumane electrical shock technology with the gas-stun/kill procedure advocated by poultry welfare specialists.

extend humane slaughter protective legislation to birds

Also, please write a letter to Senator Robert C. Byrd. Thank him for speaking out on behalf of animals raised for food, and against cruel slaughter practices, and respectfully urge him to introduce a bill that would include poultry under the federal Humane Slaughter Act. Always request a written response to your letters.

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____:

To learn your Members of Congress, call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Or visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov.

What Can I Do?

Please contact your Members of Congress (your two Senators and your House Representative) and urge them to sponsor and support a bill that would

PLEASE, JOIN US TODAY!

We NEED Your Strong and Continuing Financial Support

New Membership \$35 2004 Membership Renewal \$30

Membership includes our quarterly PoultryPress Newsletter to keep you informed of current issues, and how you can get involved in many other ways. If you would like to become a monthly supporter, go to our website at www.upc-online.org and click on the link to set up your account. It's that easy!

Additional Tax-deductible Contribution:

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$

Name

Address

City State Zip

Please make your check payable to United Poultry Concerns. THANK YOU!

Are you moving? Please send us your new address before the next newsletter.

Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Please tell us now. The U.S. Postal Service charges \$.70 for every returned mailing. Remailing the newsletter costs UPC an additional \$1.06. Due to the enormous cost of remailing newsletters including the time it takes, we can no longer provide this service. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep up your membership. We need your continuing financial support.



United Poultry Concerns

PO Box 150 • Machipongo, VA 23405-0150

Forced Molting Campaign Update: Keep Up the Pressure!



Photo By: Mercy for Animals

Since we were founded in 1990, a key campaign of United Poultry Concerns has been to expose and eliminate the cruel egg industry practice of depriving hens of food for up to three weeks to manipulate the economics of egg production, known as forced molting. Until we began our campaign, this cruelty was buried in poultry industry literature. There, the link between starving the hens and *Salmonella* in hens and their eggs was acknowledged; but it wasn't until we launched a major publicity effort that the egg industry reacted.

In January 2004, UPC mailed 2072 petition signatures to United Egg Producers, the US industry's trade group, urging producers to stop starving their hens, making a total of 9528 signatures that we have gathered and mailed from people who are appalled by the practice of depriving hens of food and of falsely comparing this blatant cruelty to the natural molting of birds to maintain good plumage. Naturally molting birds do not stop eating.

Forced molting is done to extend the "economically useful life" of laying hens to cut the cost of having to replace existing flocks with new birds. Despite the huge mortality that results, the egg industry finds it cheaper to "recycle" the survivors of a forced molt than to raise new groups of hens each time the existing flocks, exhausted from relentless egg laying, start to

break down. When force-molted hens start laying again, they lay fewer but larger eggs, causing them even more pain and misery in having to expel those huge eggs. A "Jumbo" or "Extra Large" egg embodies the utmost cruelty and misery inflicted on hens exploited for their eggs.

In response to our letter and signatures, United Egg Producers president Al Pope replied in February 2004 that, based on the recommendations of its scientific Advisory Committee, UEP has urged its members to "change their molting practices to the non-feed withdrawal method as quickly as possible."

What Can I Do?

- Please go vegan, and write to United Egg Producers. Explain that while you are pleased that they are responding to public outrage over forced molting, you request written assurance that the US egg industry is eliminating the starvation of hens once and for all, and is feeding the hens nourishing food at all times. **In addition, you want to know what effort the industry is making to replace battery cages with cage-free living conditions for hens.** Urge them not to invest in "enriched cages" (see our review of *How Switzerland Got Rid of Battery Cages* in this issue) but to invest in cage-free keeping systems that allow hens to walk, perch, sun bathe, dustbathe, nest and socialize comfortably. Request a written response to your questions and concerns.

Albert E. Pope, President
 United Egg Producers
 1720 Windward Concourse, Suite 230
 Alpharetta, GA 30005
 Ph: 770-360-9220. Fax: 770-360-7058
 Email: info@unitedegg.org 🐔

Book Review

How Switzerland Got Rid of Battery Hen Cages

By Heinzpeter Studer

60 pages including text, graphs, charts & 5 color photos

Reviewed by Karen Davis, PhD

Available online at: http://www.upc-online.org/battery_hens/SwissHens.pdf

"Who when eating eggs remembers that animals must die for it?" - Heinzpeter Studer, p. 44.

United Poultry Concerns is pleased to announce the online availability, in English, funded by UPC, of *How Switzerland Got*

Rid of Battery Cages.

Published in German in 2001, this 60-page book by Heinzpeter Studer traces the history of the battery cage in Switzerland from its first installation in 1935, through the "swirls of vehement discussions about the appropriateness of hen batteries" in the 1970s, to the abolition of battery cages in 1991.

Studer, a social psychologist actively involved in the campaign, explains step by step how "[i]n contrast to widespread worldwide belief, **Switzerland didn't generally prohibit batteries. It simply defined higher standards** and hasn't authorized any more cage systems."

Starting with a national Animal Welfare Act in 1978 that set basic welfare standards with the approval of 81% of the Swiss popular vote - despite fierce opposition from egg farmers, whose arguments Studer presents - the campaign proceeded to a 1981 Animal Welfare Ordinance with regulations stipulating that "hens must be provided with at least 800 sq.cm [124 sq. in] accessible floor area per bird, with protected and shaded nests as well as with perches or gratings. Thus, the usual

unstructured cage keeping was in fact prohibited; however, a scope for 'furnished' cage systems remained."

Studer's discussion of the furnished, or "enriched," battery cage is important to all efforts to end battery cages. **An "enriched" cage has a tiny perch and nest box and a little bit of litter (sand or wood shavings) for pecking and scratching. The crowded hens have "extra" space the size of a postcard. They must still stretch their heads through bars to eat mash from a trough. Thousands of teensy "sandboxes" will increase the airborne debris in the caged environment, already mired in floating filth.** The cost of maintaining and cleaning the intricately tiny "furniture," Studer says, is so big that "in most cases it will be omitted."



"Enriched" cage

Photo By: Farm Animal Voice

Pressure to abolish cages totally must prevail, because "even 'improved' cages lead to massive behavioral disturbances as they offer the hens only a little more space but no possibilities to withdraw" from aggressive cagemates. **Aviaries - buildings with additional levels of platforms and perches interconnected by ladders** - proved most successful in combining the basic needs of the hens with economics,

Studer says. With color photographs and charts, he shows how aviaries "give the hens access to the third dimension appropriate to their species and allow the farmers to have a stocking density up to three times higher at a given base, which is nearly as high as in the former batteries, but with incomparably more freedom of movement for the hens."

This is not an ideal solution. **Aviaries can be overcrowded, too**, and the birds don't necessarily have access to sun, fresh air, grass, and litter, let alone the quality and depth of litter chickens need to encourage normal pecking and dustbathing behavior. There is no

continued on page 14

continued from page 13

solution short of consumer rejection of eggs or keeping a few chickens oneself. **Even free-range hen-keeping includes killing baby male chicks, slaughtering the hens, and disease outbreaks if hens are crowded and husbandry is poor.** Asking "Is considering life too expensive?" Studer answers with a sketch of the ethical, economic and pleasurable benefits of keeping a few chickens naturally.

Effective use of mass psychology is what ended battery cages in Switzerland, including a reduction of imported battery eggs from other countries, Studer argues. "Those who are to change their behavior must be motivated to do so," he explains. The Swiss government, the two biggest Swiss food retailers, animal and environmental activists, the media, and the Swiss Egg Producers Association pulled together to create a positive image of the Swiss consumer proud to pay a little more for a healthier, more ethically-obtained egg. Alois Mettler, head of the egg producers association, is quoted: "We said over and over again that people want Swiss eggs, and we praised them for it. That increased the demand, since

everybody wants what is demanded."

Problems including the use of processed eggs "where ethical aspects of production methods hardly attract any interest" remain. Yet progress has been, can and must be, made. Switzerland is not a "special case," Studer says. "As long as battery keeping was allowed in Switzerland, the demand for eggs from animal-friendly keeping remained modest. It only increased on a grand scale when politics and the market implemented the virtual ban on cage keeping."

The book includes a moving Prologue "For a Hen"; a look at the EU, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand; an appendix that compares the Swiss animal welfare ordinance with the EU directive for the protection of laying hens; contact information; recommended reading; and a 10-point "Swiss recipe for the abolition of battery keeping of laying hens."

How Switzerland Got Rid of Battery Cages was translated by Anja Schmidtke and adapted for this publication by Pattrice Jones for United Poultry Concerns. 🐔



Photo By: Kagfreiland Archive

Cageless indoor housing

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will.
Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150
(757) 678-7875



Photo by Tal Ronnen

Don't Plants Have Feelings Too?

Responding Effectively to 13 Frequently Asked Questions About Food, Fiber, Farmed Animals, and the Ethics of Diet

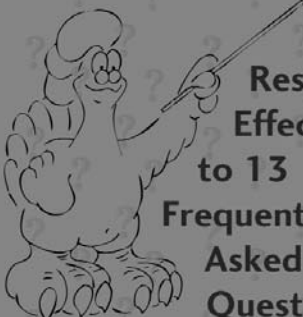



Illustration by Nigel Burroughs

United Poultry Concerns
 P.O. Box 150
 Machipongo, VA 23405-0150
 (757) 678-7875
 www.upc-online.org

Get answers to many of the common questions people ask you about a vegan diet with UPC's new brochure:

Don't Plants Have Feelings Too? Responding Effectively to 13 Frequently Asked Questions About Food, Fiber, Farmed Animals, and the Ethics of Diet. 20 for \$3

Turkeys
 Are Too Neat To Eat



United Poultry Concerns, Inc.

Great Turkeys Poster!

The posters are in color, and come in two sizes; 11.5" x 16", and 18" x 27".
 1 for \$4 2 fro \$5 3 for \$7

POSTERS

A Heart Beats in Us the Same as in You

Photo by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Full-color poster vividly captures the truth about factory chickens for the public. Vegetarian message. 18"x22".



Friends, Not Food

Photo by Franklin Wade
 Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower.
 Full color 19"x27" poster.



What Wings are For: Chicks Need Their Mothers

Photos by Kay Evans & Karen Davis
 Great educational tool. Full color 11-1/2"x16" poster.



Walking to Freedom After a Year in Cages

Photo by Dave Clegg
 Full color, 18 "x 22" poster.



"Battery Hens"

Photo by Susan Rayfield
Roosting in Branches After Rotting in Cages
 This beautiful color poster shows the rescued Cypress hens at UPC. Perfect for your office, your home, your school — Size 11.5 inches
 \$1 for \$4 • \$2 for \$5 • \$3 for \$7 — Prepaid

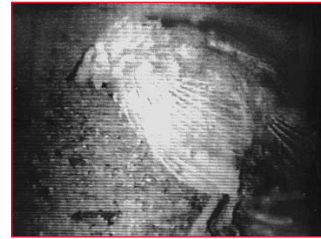


All 4 UPC posters in any mix: One for \$4. Two for \$5. Three for \$7.

Raw Footage, Raw Pain

By Rocky Mountain Animal Defense

This powerful 12-min. video takes you inside Boulder Valley Egg Farms in Colorado. \$10.00



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. \$17.95

Humane Slaughter?

By Farm Sanctuary

HUMANE SLAUGHTER takes the viewer into poultry slaughterhouses to witness the horrendous suffering endured by chickens and turkeys. 9 min. \$17.95



Egg-ribusiness

By Farm Sanctuary

This fully narrated video illuminates the intolerable conditions imposed on egg laying hens and unwanted male chicks by the US egg industry. 14 minutes. \$17.95



The Dignity, Beauty & Abuse of Chickens

By United Poultry Concerns

Our video shows chickens at UPC's sanctuary doing things that chickens like to do! 16:07 min. — Color * Music * No Narration. \$10



Ducks Out of Water

By Viva! International Voice for Animals

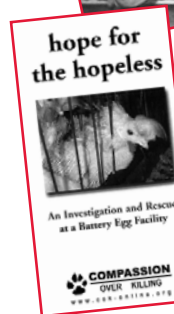
This powerful 5-minute video takes you inside today's factory-farmed duck sheds in the US. \$10



Hope for the Hopeless

By Compassion Over Killing

An Investigation and Rescue at a Battery Egg Facility documents the living conditions of hens at ISE-America in Maryland. www.ISECruelty.com \$10



Silent Suffering

By Mercy For Animals

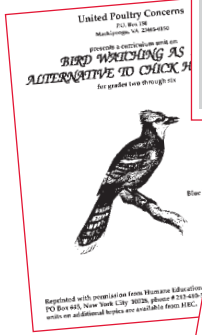
An Investigation and Rescue at Ohio's Largest Egg Farms documents the living conditions of hens at Daylay and Buckeye in Ohio. www.EggCruelty.com \$10



Replacing School Hatching Projects: Alternative Resources & How To Order Them

By Karen Davis

Our stimulating booklet catalog has all the information you need to hatch great new lessons for young students – videos, books, models, and more. \$2.50



Bird Watching as an Alternative to Chick Hatching

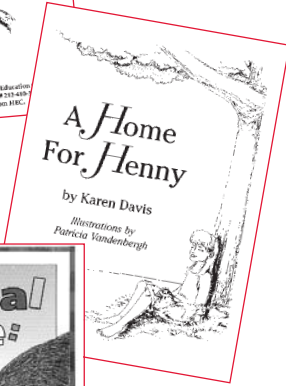
By Karen Davis

More great classroom ideas and outdoor activities. \$2.50

A Home for Henny

By Karen Davis

This wonderful children's book tells the touching story of a little girl, a chicken, and a school hatching project. Beautifully illustrated by Patricia Vandenberg, it's the perfect gift for a child, parents, teachers, your local library. \$4.95



Animal Place: Where Magical Things Happen

By Kim Sturla

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



Clara the Chicken

By Jackie Greene

This endearing children's book tells the story of a rescued hen named Clara and those who love her. \$4.95



Goosie's Story

By Louise Van Der Merwe

A wonderful illustrated children's book about a "battery" hen who is given a chance to lead a normal life – a happy life. This moving book will be warmly welcomed and shared by children, parents and teachers, highlighting as it does the concern and compassion we ought to feel for all our feathered friends on this earth. \$4.95



A Boy, A Chicken and The Lion of Judah – How Ari Became a Vegetarian

By Roberta Kalechofsky

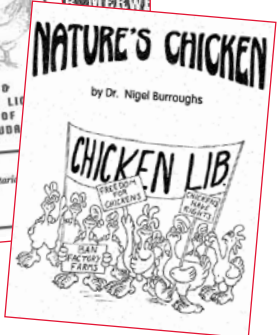
This wonderfully gifted children's story, set in modern Israel, is about a young boy's quest for moral independence. An intelligent book for all ages. Winner of the Fund for Animals "Kind Writers Make Kind Readers Award." \$10.00



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

By Nigel Burroughs

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



BOOKS

More Than a Meal

By Karen Davis

"More Than a Meal challenges all Americans to think about the values that they want their annual family ritual to embody."--Peter Singer, DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University \$23.50

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

Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless "Poultry" Potpourri

By Karen Davis

This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns, Inc. features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95

Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations

Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

"Karen Davis's brilliant essay [Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals and The Feminine Connection] brings together the books' central concepts, leading to conclusions that rightly should disturb feminists and animal advocates alike." -- Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in The Animals' Agenda. \$16.95

Replacing Eggs

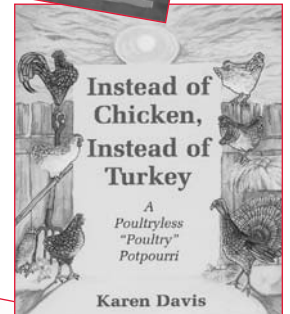
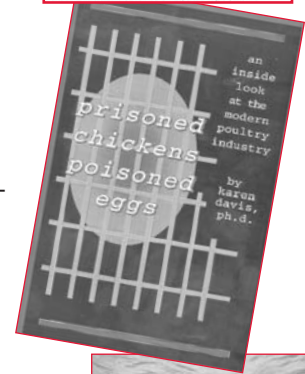
Sick of salmonella? Our exciting booklet invites you to cook and eat happily without eggs! 16 delicious recipes. \$3.50

More Than a Meal

The Turkey in History, Myth,
Ritual, and Reality



Karen Davis, Ph.D.



POSTCARDS

**20 for \$4.00,
40 for \$7.50**



"Love is Best"

Two versions, your choice: postage required, 23¢ or 37¢

"Misery is Not a Health Food"

37¢ version



"Chickens - To Know Them is to Love Them"

37¢ version

"Peaceable Kingdom"

23¢ version



PLUS:

- Re-Searching the Heart
 - Turkey & Child: Friends
- both 23¢ versions

UPC Ordering Information:

All Prices Include Postage

To order indicated items send check or money order to:

United Poultry Concerns
P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150

FACT SHEETS

20 for \$3.00:

- "Debeaking"
- "Starving Poultry for Profit" (forced molting)
- "Starving Birds for Profit Has Got to Stop" (forced molting)
- "Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation"
- "Why Be Concerned About Mr. Perdue?"
- "The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay" (free-range egg production)
- "Intensive Poultry Production: Fouling the Environment"
- "Philosophic Vegetarianism: Acting Affirmatively for Peace"
- "The Rhetoric of Apology in Animal Rights"
- "Providing a Good Home for Chickens"
- "Chicken Talk: The Language of Chickens"
- "Celebrate Easter Without Eggs"
- "Chicken for Dinner: It's Enough To Make You Sick"
- "Say Hi To Health and Bye To Shells"

- From Hell"
- "Guide to Staffing Tables: Do's & Don'ts"
- "It Isn't Just One Mad Cow"
- "Henny's New Friends"

BROCHURES

20 for \$3.00:

- "Don't Plants Have Feelings Too?"
- "Chickens"
- "The Battery Hen"
- "Turkeys"
- "Ostriches & Emus: Nowhere To Hide"
- "Japanese Quail"
- "Ducks: Free as a Bird"
- "The Use of Birds In Agricultural and Biomedical Research"
- "Free-Range' Poultry and Eggs: Not All They're Cracked Up to Be"
- "Live Poultry Markets" (in English, Hispanic, & Chinese)
- "Chicken-Flying Contests"

LEAFLETS (FLYERS)

20 FOR \$1.50

- "Chicken for Dinner?"
- "Food for Thought" (turkeys)
- "Where Do Eggs Come From?"

Bumper Stickers

Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Get the Slaughterhouse out of your kitchen. \$1 each

Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Go Vegan. \$1 each



Fabulous Turkey Button

Full Color! \$2.00 Each

Beautiful Chicken Button

Other Buttons \$1 each

Stick for your Chickens

Be Kind to Turkeys: Don't Gobble Me



T-Shirts IN 2 STYLES!

Too Neat to Eat

Beige or white T-Shirt in full dazzling color.

Specify "Rooster" or "Hen with Egg."

Sizes: S,M,L,XL - \$18.00





Photo by: Susan Rayfield

**Polkadot, Dapple, and Coala
Happy new residents of UPC
Ready for Sponsors!**

UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS, INC.



P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA
23405-0150

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fredrick, MD
Permit # 401

INSIDE

**UPC Forum Aug 21-22 Mad Cows to Mad
Chickens**

Avian Flu, Forced Molting, Wood-Chipper

Poultry Slaughter & Foie Gras Alerts

How Switzerland Got Rid of Battery Cages

Renew Your Membership for 2004!