

February 1, 2007

UPDATE:

As stated, female pigs are kept in “sow stalls” or “gestation stalls” for their entire lives since they are continuously impregnated. They are kept for at least 2 years leaving only to give birth and to be impregnated. When they are “spent” they are sent to slaughter. After the births the mom is put into a farrowing pen to allegedly prevent the mom from crushing any piglets – she is in a modified sow stall and the piglets are in an adjacent pen.

This is done because it maximizes profits (a large number of animals can be kept in a small space, labour is reduced by enabling automated feeding and watering and it prevents pigs from fighting).

Maple Leaf’s plan will only apply only to pigs raised in company-owned plants, not those it buys from other farmers. Consumers will have no way of knowing whether the food on their tables came from a Maple Leaf farm or an independent producer.

January 31, 2007

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

Re: Pigs Will Suffer for 10 More Years?

Canadian Maple Leaf’s and US Smithfield Foods announcement that they will phase out “sow stalls” over the next decade is bad news for animals and people. The Vancouver-based Lifeforce Foundation is disappointed at the announcements that they will continue the abuses only over the next ten years.

"Meat producers should immediately stop this cruel practise and phase out killing animals," stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Founding Director.

“Animals raised and killed for food will continue to suffer as long as people eat other sentient creatures with whom we share this planet, stated Peter Hamilton, “To protect these vegetarian animals people should be vegetarians. A vegetarian diet is healthier for humans, Even meat producers are beginning to sell delicious veggie burgers, mock chicken nuggets and other non-animal products. Animal “products” can and should be phased out for the sake of people, animals and the environment”

People

Hardly a month passes without a report of another study linking consumption of animal fat and meat with elevated risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and other killer diseases that cripple then kill millions of people annually. Estimated costs of associated medical care and lost productivity in the US run as high as \$300 billion.

We must promote a wholesome diet of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and grains.

Animals

In Canada, there are over 1.5 million mother pigs who are confined for their entire lives in sow stalls. These small pens measure approximately two feet wide by seven feet long. The mother pigs are cannot turn around. They are immobilized so they won't step on their babies.

In order to produce millions of animals annually for human consumption chickens, cows and other species also suffer.

Environment

In addition to health hazards and animal cruelty, the factory farming industry contributes to environmental degradation such as Green House Warming and land/water pollution from animal wastes.

Animal agriculture contributes carbon dioxide from burning forestland to create animal pastures and from combustion of fossil fuels to operate farm machinery, factory farms, animal transport vehicles, and slaughterhouses. It contributes methane from the digestive tracts of cattle and nitrous oxide from animal waste cesspools.

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