

Investigation topic: **Are farm animals being abused to an unreasonable standard?** (1)

What I already know: Farm animals are treated badly. Unclean troughs, not enough food, no shade.

What I need to find out: **How many animals a year are affected by this? Meat consumption.** (1)

Key questions: **how? What protections are in place?** (1)

Locating and processing information (2)

Printouts of several internet pages about animal farming practices submitted (not included in this exemplar).

Evaluating the reliability and usefulness of selected information (2)

Some printouts included a student comment: 'very useful', 'true/fairly useful', 'not that useful'

Forming developed conclusions

Are commercial farm animals being abused to an unreasonable standard in NZ? (1)

Animal abuse in commercial and factory farms is a growing problem on New Zealand and I believe people need to be made aware of this. Cows, pigs, chickens, lambs, goats, rabbits, bees, deer, horses and many more are being crammed into small cages and pens where they are unable to move around and get the freedom they deserve.

About a 6th of New Zealand's export earnings come from the dairy industry and a 10th from meat exports. Deer velvet and wool also contribute to a part of the export market. Over half the animals in the industry alone are being treated poorly, all to satisfy our appetites for meat. In 2006 (Animal protection society book by Catherine Amey) on average each person ate at least 37 kg of poultry, 34 kg of beef and 20 kg of pork, in NZ. It is now 2013 and the average amount of meat being consumed by each person a year is (ref by charts bin.com) between 93-138 kg in NZ. That is over a 200% increase in meat consumption within the last 7 years.

Over 100,000,000 animals are being slaughtered every year just to satisfy humans need to eat meat. Most humans believe that meat is our best source of food to get protein from ... *information from Wikipedia about protein levels of different foods* ... Now, I'm not saying we can't eat meat but **cutting down the amount 1 person eats every year by one half would help to show the meat industry does not need to kill animals so quickly in a way that is fast but inhumane. More commercial farmed animals would see the light of day and have more room to move in their pens, because the focus to mass produce meat products would lessen therefore more focus can be spent on the animals welfare and care.** (4)

The life of a dairy cow consists of a continuous cycle of pregnancy and lactation. They walk up to the milking shed which is generally 2-3 km away, twice a day and stand in the yard.... *Student gives information of the life cycle of a dairy cow and the treatment of them in NZ* ... This may sound bad for NZ but in some other countries (www.animalfreedom.org) such as Germany, Denmark and Spain cows are kept inside big sheds ... This also happens in New Zealand but is not seen as much as in other countries.

In 2005 the total amount of pigs killed at the end of the year was 765,000 (Animal protection society book). Around 60% of these pigs were confined in farrowing crates... *Student gives information about pig farming practices*

In New Zealand food products do not have to be labelled with their country of origin, and the pork that consumers buy may come from countries where the animal welfare standards are even worse than New Zealand's. In April 2007 Sue Kedgley the Green MP criticised Wairarapa Company Premier Bacon for selling bacon under the logo "Country goodness from the heart of Wairarapa". When in fact the bacon was actually imported from overseas.

Broiler chickens are chickens only bred for meat consumption. 77 million broiler chickens are farmed in NZ every year (animal protection society book). 90% of these are owned by just 3 cooperations ... *student gives information about chicken farming practices*

Factory farming in NZ is a growing problem (www.aspca.org). ASPCA is an organisation out there to help stop animal cruelty happening on farms. ASPCA.org is a website you can go to, to find out more about factory farming and how you can help the animals being mistreated on them ... Another NZ protection unit is the NZ Animal welfare organization (www.animalsandus.org.nz) ... *Student lists animal welfare organisations and gives some information about them.*

In conclusion, as it points out in the introduction, commercial and factory farming is a growing issue in New Zealand. **Animals such as, cows, pigs, chickens and many more are being treated inhumanly and cramped into tiny cages.** (3) If NZ does not open it's eyes to the fact that we are eating abused and chemically enhanced meat, then factory and commercial farming in NZ is only going to get worse.