

# The impacts of factory farming in relation to human, nonhuman and environmental interests

*by Faith Howell-Morgan, 2004161*



Fig. 1. Cows in a field (te Strake, 2017)

# *Roadmap*

- Why I Do Not Eat Meat
  - Mullin
- What is factory farming?
  - Turner
- What is ecology?
  - Callicott
  - Sessions & Devall
  - Naess
- How the mistreatment of animals affects not only animals, but also humans and the environment
  - Callicott



Fig. 2 Animal rights protest (Maya, 2021)

'Already more than one third of the world's grain is used to feed livestock. As a way of feeding billions it is highly inefficient. China, which used to be an exporter of grain, now imports it. It also uses up a lot of water. Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute has calculated that it takes around 180 litres of water to produce one battery egg and around 25,000 litres per kilogramme of beef. I find these figures astonishing and I suspect many people will. If they, or anything resembling them, are accurate, how much water does it cost to rear the 20 million more pigs born each year in China?' (Chris Mullin, 'Why I Do Not Eat Meat', in *The Meat Business*, eds. Geoff Tansey and Joyce D'Silva (London: Earthscan Publications Ltd, 1999), p.64.)

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# *What is factory farming?*

- Also known as intensive rearing
- Animal produce produced in inhumane ways; mass produced
- Intensive and industrialised animal husbandry (Turner, 1999)



Fig. 3 Chicken in cage (McArthur, 2020)

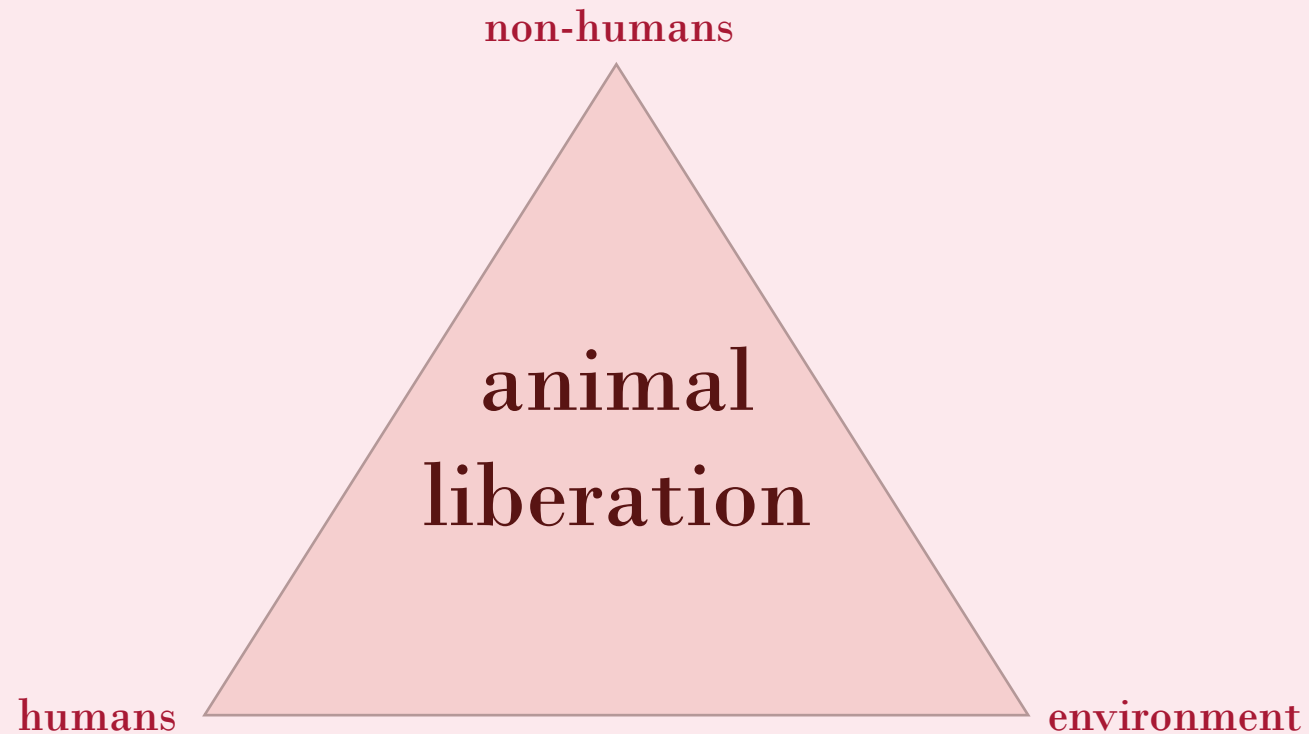
# *What is ecology?*

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- Considers the systems of relationships in the environment
- Encourages biocentrism
- Rejects anthropocentrism
- Humans are part of nature and the environment, we should not be separated from other animals
- Rejects master/slave relationship



# *Callicott's theory of triangulation*



(Callicott, 1980)

# *Impact on the environment*

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- Deforestation to create room for factory farms
  - 26% of earth's land (Poore and Nemecek, 2018), and 27% of earth's water (Where is Earth's Water?, 2018) consumption is used for livestock
  - The same amount of land would produce far greater quantities of plant-based foods to sustain many more people
- Many animals produce greenhouse gases that on a large scale, can have a negative impact on the environment
- Pollution (Callicott, 1980) (Turner, 1999)
  - Water
  - Air
  - Soil
- Huge carbon footprint (Turner, 1999)
  - Lots of travelling
  - Energy costs



Fig. 5. Crop fields (Bandura, 2019)

# *Impact on non-human animals*

- Animals are more likely to develop sickness or disease
- Negative impact on biodiversity
  - 200,000,000 farm animals in UK (Turner, 1999)
- Cows are bred continuously in order to keep them producing milk ('The Social, Contemplative Cow', 2019)
- Pigs never get to see sunlight. ('The Intelligent, Emotional Pig', 2019)
- Male chickens, which cannot lay eggs or used for meat, are immediately slaughtered. ('The Thinking, Feeling Chicken', 2019)

# *Impact on humans*

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- More cheap meat for humans
- Poorer quality produce
  - Humans may develop disease from diseased meat
  - Immunity to antibiotics (Ventola, 2015)
  - Reduction of nutrients, omega 3, fatty acids
- Exploitation of other humans
- Moral harm
  - More people reduce meat intake?



Fig. 6, Crosswalk (Mora, 2016)



# *Alternatives to supporting factory farming*

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- Veganism
- Vegetarianism
- Pescatarianism
- Eating less meat
- Supporting local farms
- Greater respect for meat

Fig. 7. Baby goat nuzzle (Dennis, 2020)

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