

FIRST SOURCE:

“Farm Animal Welfare.” *ASPCA*, www.asPCA.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare.

As an organization dedicated to the protection of animals, it likely will not look at industrial farming from an economical standpoint and instead the moral point of view on the practice. However, as one of the largest humane societies in the world, it cannot afford to advertise false information on its website as it would come under great scrutiny by the public, and is therefore an extremely reliable source. Although the main focus of this organization seems to be on more domestic house pets such as dogs and cats and likely will not be able to provide a complete insight into the issue. By an economical standpoint, I mean that factory farming - while a terrible practice - does provide a great economic boost to our country and results in the majority of food eaten in the United States. Sadly, while America's insane meat consumption is biologically unnecessary - many Americans believe it to be.

1. “In polling, 94% of Americans agree that animals raised for food deserve to live free from abuse and cruelty. Yet the majority of the nearly 10 billion farm animals raised each year in the U.S. suffer in conditions that consumers would not accept if they could see them. Most of our meat, milk and eggs come from industrial farms where efficiency trumps welfare—and animals are paying the price.”

Americans know of the conditions in which their food is being raised, however they are not given the ability to step away from the practice due to the lack of cheaply priced, cruelty free options. This makes it much more difficult to try and create a change in the industry when you are economically unable to do so.

2. “Farms that are not properly maintained can be breeding grounds for Salmonella, E. coli and other pathogens that can be passed to humans through meat, dairy and eggs, as well as through person-to-person contact. To combat unsanitary conditions, animals are fed large doses of antibiotics—but bacteria is constantly adapting and evolving. Misuse, overuse and dependence on antibiotics in our food system creates the potential for dangerous, drug-resistant strains of bacteria to develop and spread among people and animals.”

It is incorrectly assumed that industrial farming only harms animals, however as proven by this quote and multiple other resources, the inhumane practices used in the industry also negatively affect the people who eat the byproducts.

SECOND SOURCE:

“Industrial Agriculture.” *Union of Concerned Scientists*,
www.ucsusa.org/our-work/food-agriculture/our-failing-food-system/industrial-agriculture#.WoHuKyinG0Q.

This article is written by the Union of Concerned Scientists who are a group of, as they say, concerned scientists and engineers who are working to create and implement solutions in relation to current global

issues. While their research addresses a wide spectrum, they have also taken the time to research industrial farming, an issue that is important both nationally and globally.

1. In this specific article they address 4 of the largest issues surrounding industrial farming by providing a basic description of each as well as links to more descriptive articles on each topic. The 4 issues are: monocultures, meat production/animal welfare, environmental damage, and “evolutionary wars”. By evolutionary wars, they mean how the continual use of antibiotics in meat production and herbicides in crop production gives opportunities for the bacteria and weeds to evolve and become virtually indestructible in the face of said “solutions”. From there the strength of the antibiotics and herbicides is raised - solving the issue for a short amount of time but in the long run creating terrible environmental consequences.
2. “Monoculture farming relies heavily on chemical inputs such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. The fertilizers are needed because growing the same plant (and nothing else) in the same place year after year quickly depletes the nutrients that the plant relies on, and these nutrients have to be replenished somehow. The pesticides are needed because monoculture fields are highly attractive to certain weeds and insect pests.”
3. “In the industrial system of meat production, meat animals are “finished”—prepared for slaughter—at large-scale facilities called CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations), where their mobility is restricted and they are fed a high-calorie, grain-based diet, often supplemented with antibiotics and hormones, to maximize their weight gain. Their waste is concentrated and becomes an environmental problem, not the convenient source of fertilizer that manure can be for more diverse, less massively scaled farms.”
4. “Intensive monoculture depletes soil and leaves it vulnerable to erosion. Chemical fertilizer runoff and CAFO wastes add to global warming emissions and create oxygen-deprived “dead zones” at the mouths of major waterways. Herbicides and insecticides harm wildlife and can pose human health risks as well. Biodiversity in and near monoculture fields takes a hit, as populations of birds and beneficial insects decline.”
5. “Overuse of antibiotics in meat production (in the U.S., more antibiotics are consumed each year by healthy animals than by sick humans) has contributed to a growing problem of antibiotic resistance that is having a serious impact on the treatment of infectious diseases. And a similar over-reliance on the herbicide glyphosate (marketed by Monsanto Co. as Roundup) has spawned a burgeoning population of Roundup-resistant “superweeds” that has become a scourge for farmers in many areas of the U.S., especially the South and Midwest.”

THIRD SOURCE:

“5 Ways Factory Farming Is Killing the Environment.” *One Green Planet*, 16 Sept. 2017, www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/factory-farming-is-killing-the-environment/.

As an independent publishing platform, *One Green Planet* is not necessarily the most reliable source, however, the scientific research surrounding each and every one of the issues in this article are undeniable and have been proven time and time again. This article simply provides an important and necessary overview of the issues that not nearly enough people know about.

FOURTH SOURCE:

“Fast Facts About Health Risks of Pesticides in Food.” *The Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health, University of Washington*, Jan. 2013, pp. 1–2.,
https://depts.washington.edu/ceeh/downloads/FF_Pesticides.pdf.

FIFTH SOURCE:

Lu, Chensheng, et al. “Organic Diets Significantly Lower Children’s Dietary Exposure to Organophosphorus Pesticides.” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 1 Sept. 2005, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1367841/.

SIXTH SOURCE:

Robbins, Jim. “Opinion | Deforestation and Drought.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 9 Oct. 2015, www.nytimes.com/2015/10/11/opinion/sunday/deforestation-and-drought.html.

SEVENTH SOURCE:

Epa.gov. (2018). *Organophosphate Insecticides*. [online] Available at:
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/rmpp_6thed_ch5_organophosphates.pdf [Accessed 14 Feb. 2018].