



Farmed Animal	Production & Welfare	Examples of disease	Other	Slaughter*
Beef cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 2 million adult beef cattle in UK. 15-20% British Beef comes from intensively reared cattle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot & Mouth - an infectious disease caused by a virus. The disease is not normally fatal to adult animals but it does cause debilitation and loss of productivity for farmers. The virus causes a fever and the development of blisters (mostly mouth and feet). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSE - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy is a neurological disorder occurring in adult animals of 5 years old or older. Over 180,000 cases of BSE have now been confirmed in the UK alone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2.6 million cattle killed in 2009. Natural lifespan 20-25 years, cattle normally slaughtered at 1-2 years, veal 4-5 months. Killed by stunning first (captive bolt – destroys brain tissue) followed by throat slitting.
Dairy cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 2 million adult dairy cows in UK. Cows first bred at around 15mths and then simultaneously pregnant and being milked for 6-8months each gestation with a 2month period between lactating and giving birth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastitis – affects 30% of cows, painful bacterial infection of the mammary glands. Lameness – affects 10-50% of cows, most commonly due to abnormal size of udder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calves – most are taken away from their mothers at birth or after 1-2 days. Milking – cows would usually only need to produce 1,000 litres per calf but are milked for up to 6,500 litres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2.6 million cattle killed in 2009. Natural lifespan 20-25 years, slaughtered at 5 years due to being worn out and of no further use to the industry. Killed by stunning first (captive bolt – destroys brain tissue) followed by throat slitting.

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Pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently 5 million in UK. 70% are intensively reared. Sows spend 2-3yrs of their lives in pregnancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lameness – around 15% of pigs suffer due to rapid weight gain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farrowing crates -A week before intensively kept sows give birth they are moved into these metal crates barely larger than the sow. The sow's movement is therefore severely restricted and she is unable to turn around or suckle her piglets. Any attempt at movement means the sow will unavoidably rub herself against the crate bars causing sores, abrasions and swellings. Sows will remain in these crates for 3-4 weeks until the piglets are weaned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 9.5 million killed in 2009. Natural lifespan is 10-15 years but slaughtered at 4-7 months. Killed by stunning first (usually tongs either side of head which pass an electric current into brain), they are then shackled and have their throats slit. Some pigs may be stunned using exposure to gas (around 1/3 stunned in this way).
Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 36 million in UK. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lameness – one of the most widespread welfare problems, can be caused by foot rot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wool –this accounts for 5-10% of the total value of a sheep. Nearly 1/3 of British wool is from slaughtered sheep. Transport - Sheep may be transported considerable distances to slaughter, with some journeys lasting 24 hours or more. Millions of sheep are exported each year from Australia to the Middle East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 15.5 million killed in 2009. Natural lifespan is 15 years but most slaughtered as lambs (under 6 months old). Killed by stunning first (usually tongs either side of head which pass an electric current into brain), they are then shackled and have their throats slit.

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Broiler Chickens (meat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 116 million in UK. Majority intensively housed in windowless sheds with 20-50,000 in each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A DEFRA commissioned study showed that over a ¼ of birds raised for their meat had poor locomotion and just over 3% were almost unable to walk. This was due to their rapid growth rates which have increased 300% in the past 50 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surplus chicks produced in the industry (known as hatchery waste) are killed by homogenisation, exposure to gas or neck dislocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost 800 million killed in 2009. Natural lifespan is 7 years old but slaughtered at 6-7wks old. Killed mostly on automated slaughter lines, shackled and stunned through electrically charged water then throats slit, estimated that 50 million throughout the EU are killed whilst still fully conscious.
Laying hens (eggs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 29 million in UK. 63% live in battery cages. 5% live in barns. 32% free-range (5% of which organic). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial infections - Many hens are infected with salmonella and campylobacter which cause severe food poisoning in humans from contaminated eggs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surplus 'male' chicks produced in the industry (known as hatchery waste) are killed at 1-3 days old by homogenisation, exposure to gas or neck dislocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 28 million 'spent layers' killed in 2008 at around 1 year old. Killed mostly on automated slaughter lines, shackled and stunned through electrically charged water then throats slit.
Turkeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 6 million in UK. 90% intensively reared in sheds which can contain up to 25,000 birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lameness – due to rapid weight gain and also a result of standing on wet, soiled litter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal slaughterhouses - used to cope with the extra 10 million turkeys killed in this period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 15 million killed in 2009. Natural lifespan 10 years old but slaughtered at 9-21wks old. Killed mostly on automated slaughter lines, shackled & stunned through electrically charged water then throats slit. Large wingspans cause wings to hang lower than their heads which may reach the stunning bath first before heads.

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Goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are farmed for their milk, meat, hair and hide. Currently around 88,000 in UK. Half are adults used for breeding and 33,000 for milk production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastitis – this is an important disease in milking goats. Severe infections cause swelling of the udder, fever and sometimes death. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9,500 slaughtered in 2009. Natural lifespan is 10-12 years with most slaughter for meat from kids at around 12 weeks old. Killed by stunning first then shackled to have their throats slit.
Farmed Deer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently around 30,000 in the UK In 2003 there were around 300 deer farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer can suffer from many of the same diseases as cattle. Poor farming management can also lead to injuries and diseases through inappropriate handling and transportation. Inexperienced deer (such as wild/newly introduced stock) are particularly prone to panic which can result in a rapid rise in body temperature, i.e. hyperthermia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 4,595 slaughtered in 2009. Usually slaughtered around 16 months of age. Farmers will slaughter their deer by shooting them in the field, transporting to a multi-species slaughterhouse/specialist deer slaughterhouse or using a specialist slaughterhouse facility onsite.
Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish are cold blooded vertebrates, they have a nervous system and pain receptors like all other animals, they therefore have the capacity to suffer. Over the last century the world's annual fish catch has risen from 18 million to over 90 million tonnes. Almost ½ fish consumed as food worldwide are now intensively raised on fish farms (aquaculture). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-catch is the incidental capture of non target species such as mammals, birds, turtles, fish and other marine animals. It is recognized as a major problem in many parts of the world and estimated that 23% of global fisheries' catch is thrown back into the sea dead. For example; Cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises) - an estimated 300,000 die in fishing nets every year. Seals/sea-lions - An estimated 3,500 seals are killed each year in Scotland alone because farmers consider them a threat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK caught 588,000 tonnes (including shellfish) in 2008. Wild caught fish, when hauled up from the depths, undergo excruciating decompression. There are a number of methods used to kill farmed fish (mostly salmon and trout). These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide stunning. Suffocation on air / ice. Gill Cutting and Percussive Stunning.

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