



Humane Education Lesson Plans

Lesson Title: The Story Behind Factory Farming (Grades 6-8)

MA Curriculum Strands: (depending on depth of research and grade level)

Comprehensive Health Frameworks

Standard 3 NUTRITION: Students will gain the knowledge and skills to select a diet that supports health and reduces the risk of illness and future chronic diseases.

Standard 8 DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL: Students will learn the signs, symptoms, and treatment of chronic and communicable diseases, and will gain skills related to health promotion, disease prevention, and health maintenance.

Standard 12 CONSUMER HEALTH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain, manage, and evaluate resources to maintain physical and mental health and well being for themselves, their family, and the community.

Standard 13 ECOLOGICAL HEALTH: Students will gain knowledge of the interdependence between the environment and physical health, and will acquire skills to care for the environment.

Standard 14 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH: Students will learn the influence of social factors on health and the contribution of public health, and will gain skills to promote health and to collaborate with others to facilitate healthy, safe, and supportive communities.

Science Frameworks

Biology 6-8 (Changes in Ecosystems Over Time)

17. Identify ways in which ecosystems have changed throughout geologic time in response to physical conditions, interactions among organisms, and the actions of humans. Describe how changes may be catastrophes such as volcanic eruptions or ice storms.

18. Recognize that biological evolution accounts for the diversity of species developed through gradual processes over many generations.

Earth and Space Science 9-12 (Energy Resources in the Earth System)

Energy resources are used to sustain human civilization. The amount and accessibility of these resources influence their use and their impact on the environment.

Social Studies Frameworks

US History II (Industrial America and Its Emerging Role in International Affairs, 1870-1920)

2. Explain the important consequences of the Industrial Revolution. (H, E)

- the growth of big business
- environmental impact

Lesson Summary:

Students will learn about factory farming, including the history of the industry, the concerns for the health and welfare of animals raised for food, and the impact on human health and the environment. Students will learn that consumers educated about factory farming have the power to make healthier and more humane choices. Students will assimilate their findings into a final project designed to share with the public and help educate the community.

Lesson Time:

1-2 class periods to present lesson
2-3 class periods of guided research
2-3 hours independent research
2-3 class periods to synthesize materials and create/
present projects

Materials:

- white board and markers
- list of appropriate books, web pages, and organizations for students to reference
- printed articles for students (optional)
- materials and equipment for creating final projects

Presentation Outline:

Factory farming is a major industry in America, accounting for the vast majority of the meat, milk, and eggs produced in the nation. Factory farming is also responsible for the bulk of waste produced and the hazardous effects on human health and the environment. From the use of antibiotics, growth hormones, and inappropriate feed, many cows, chickens, pigs, and other livestock raised for their meat tend to have questionable nutritional value. Additionally, the industry has questionable standards of care for the animals raised. Many animals are caged in inadequate housing with tight spaces and little to no daylight exposure. Despite all this, factory farming remains a successful industry because the majority of the public is not aware of its harmful effects.

The concerns around factory farming tend to focus around three major issues:

- 1) Animal welfare
- 2) Human health
- 3) Environmental health

This lesson will introduce all students to basic information behind each of these major topics. After a lesson introducing the material, students will be assigned to one of three groups (or several sets of three groups) to learn more in-depth about one aspect of factory farming (the three concerns listed above).

Students will be given a list of appropriate resources, materials, and professional contacts to use as they investigate their theme more closely. After 2-3 class periods of guided research and 2-3 hours of independent research at home, students will assimilate their findings into a project. These projects can include: research article, pamphlet, video-recorded PSA, webpage, poster, kids' book, or short story.

The goal is to create an effective and respectful project with the information they learn, to inform the public about how their consumer choices make a difference.