



Instructor Introduction

The Story Behind Factory Farming (Grades 6-8)

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 of factory farming 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 for themselves. Students will assimilate their findings into a final project designed to share with the public and help educate the community.

Excerpts from the MSPCA's *Statements of Belief*:

“The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals believes that farm animals are creatures of intrinsic value, complexity and dignity. The MSPCA further believes that the billions of animals raised each year in the United States for food, clothing, and other products are entitled to live their lives free of unnecessary pain, suffering and stress, as well as to a humane death.

While the MSPCA recognizes the need to find economic and efficient means of raising livestock, the Society condemns those practices--many of which are associated with intensive confinement systems--that cause needless pain, suffering and stress to the animals involved.

The MSPCA believes, instead, that good animal husbandry should be based on humane stewardship of livestock. The Society believes the humane ethic should be applied to all farm animals.”

Educating students about factory farming empowers them with knowledge to make healthier and more humane consumer choices for themselves and their family. The goal of this lesson is NOT to convince students to become vegetarian or vegan, but to consider all aspects of the factory farming industry when choosing their foods. There are many smart choices consumers can make to help raise awareness about factory farming practices, therefore facilitating positive change within the industry, such as:

- eating less meat, eggs, and dairy
- choosing free-range and organic meat, eggs, and dairy
- supporting local farmers by choosing their products
- educating others about factory farming practices and the available alternatives
- choosing to adopt a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle

The MSPCA believes that the most successful strategies to facilitate change are carried out through education with a respect for others and the law. We understand that there are organizations and individuals who condone unlawful activities and use shock as their primary means of teaching others about inhumane practices. As an organization, the MSPCA believes that the best and most successful strategies are respectful.