

OPEN LETTER

Dear Mayors and Councillors:

Re: Eat Healthy and Protect People, Animals and the Environment

The Vancouver-based ecology organization, Lifestance, is asking you to promote eating healthy by supplying more vegetarian and vegan items on menus in your public facilities. Trying to use “green” dairy and meat products does not protect people, animals and the environment.

You can reduce the animal suffering, health hazards, and Green House Warming by promoting eating non-dairy and non-meat products - a vegan diet. The intensive production of animals for dairy and meat contribute to 18% of Global Warming as compared to the more publicized transportation issue that is a 13% factor. We must reduce and phase out the 60 billion animals who are killed every year worldwide.

Ban Farm Animal Cruelty

There are anti-cruelty laws against confining and chaining dogs so the meat and dairy industries must not stopped from confining and chaining calves and pigs for months and longer. I was shocked to see the way animals are mistreated on farms in BC and the rest of Canada. Other countries are phasing out these barbaric practises and Canada must follow.

Governments and farm businesses market meat and dairy products as being from happy animals that live idyllic lives. They attempt to desensitize people. The animals are not treated like pets or companion animals living happily with farmers. If they want to act humanely they should support legislation.

Little Doggies

Calves are taken from their moms within 1 or 2 days after birth and are confined alone in tiny pens. Common practises include veal crates and huts. In veal crates the calves are kept on chains as short as 3 feet for months. In huts they are chained or fenced in. In some huts the short chains do not permit them to leave the hut.

See Video “Why be Cruel to These Little Doggies?” <http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/doggies.php>

Little Piggies

The gestation period of pigs is approximately 4 months and during this time they are chained in 2’ x 7’ gestation stalls. Just before the sow is due to give birth, she is moved to another restraining device – the farrowing crate – where she gives birth and nurses her young through metal bars. After anywhere from 10 to 21 days of nursing, her piglets are removed and the process is repeated all over again, pregnancy after pregnancy for 24 to 30 months.

See Video “Why Be Cruel to These Little Piggies?” <http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/piggies.php>

We have urged the Federal Government to implement legislation re:

1. Calves: Ban chaining, veal crates and restrictive huts practises.
2. Pigs: Ban chaining, gestation crates and farrowing crates.
3. Chickens: Ban battery cages.

4. Provide all animals with large clean indoor areas with access to large outdoor areas where they are free to run and socialize with others of their kind.
5. Require that all animals be given the basic freedoms to freely lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around.

We Must Reduce the Billions of Animals Killed Annually

The old way of farming – less cruel treatment - won't return if people continue to maintain or increase consumption of dairy and meat. People are getting sick from eating too much meat. We cannot eat the present amount of meat and be kind to animals too.

Eating animals means:

1. Direct suffering and cruelty in raising the animals continues in many ways such as overcrowding, filthy conditions, and darkness. It can be a hell filled with crippled, sick, and dead animals.
2. Basic freedoms are still restricted. In many situations the animals are not free to stand up, turn around, sit down and run freely.
3. Wild animal are still trapped or shot and killed as "pests" under farm management plans.
4. No protection of environment. Disastrous effects of manure systems, surface water pollution, resistant pathogens and more continues. Habitats are devastated by clearing forest for grazing, animal feed and factory farms. Not enough pastures for the annual 60 billion animals who are raised for slaughter.
5. The continuance of the shedding of E. coli 157 bacteria from cattle feces, which can contaminate the environment and, in particular, fresh produce.
6. People will starve or suffer malnutrition because grain is fed to fatten animals
7. Workers at slaughter houses and factory farms are psychologically harmed by killing billions of animals and physically harmed by the exposure to noxious gasses/numerous health hazards.
8. Those who live by slaughter houses and factory farms also suffer from the stench, clouds of flies, eye and skin infections, respiratory infections and dysentery, irreversible pulmonary and brain damage.
Note: The lagoons and sprayed fields emit hydrogen sulfide. And there is mounting evidence that shows severe or lethal neurological damage from this gas.
9. Farming pollution creates medical nightmares. The pollution contributing to health problems will be worse than the asbestos issue of past decades.
10. Ecosystems and wildlife are devastated by pollution, global warming and other impacts from continuing the production of billions of animals annually.
11. The billions of animals would consume land/deforestation and increase wastes dumped directly into the environment.
12. Inhumane transport would continue.
13. Sale of animals at auctions will continue. (See Fraser Valley Auction abuses such as sick, injured and dead animals <http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/newsitem.php?id=85>)
14. Inhumane slaughter would continue.
15. The corruption between industrial agribusiness and officials/politicians would continue and burden the tax system.
16. Alternative farming does not inhibit the expansion of the dairy and meat industries.

Chickens



Egg and chicken friendly businesses? Often the no cage barns are side-by-side conventional battery – caged barns. So the buyers are still supporting factory farms. These “compassionate choices” are unknowingly financially supporting and perpetuating the inhumane systems. When it comes to animal agriculture neither are acceptable.

Buyers are not aware of the difference between “free range” and “free run” in which the latter are not given access to the outdoors. Even “free range” are maintained inside the barn for the first four weeks with outdoor access for the last 2 weeks before being sent to same slaughter plants as intensively farm chickens.

The chicks come from the same Animal Factory Hatcheries where most unwanted male chicks are suffocated or eviscerated. And the females are still debeaked. They still pose the same biohazard risks too. Echo Hatchery and Poultry Breeding Farm in Aldergrove, BC wouldn't provide numbers. But apparently Western Hatchery produces 250,000 chicks a day.



Eggs produced and marketed as “organic” or “cage-free” may not meet Risk Management food safety rules. HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) certified, which is something that most food services providers requires from any supplier of a potentially hazardous food.

Goats



This operator was cashing in on the “range” egg business being promoted by animal welfare groups and at the same time selling goats for meat.

Turkey



This farm's store was open to the public but not the turkey barns.

Just what does “specialty turkey” mean? Well it doesn’t mean any specialty treatment for turkeys confined in the Animal Factory barns. Does the turkey really care if they are getting

organic grain when they are raised under these conditions? And it is usually “nonmedicated” - no antibiotics if there are no health problems. If antibiotics are used then the birds are still slaughtered.

Beef Cattle

“Certified organic” beef does not necessarily mean the animals are raised more humanely. Most are still sent to feedlots and/or auctions. Though some certified organic bodies have minimum space requirements, others do not, and most allow procedures like castration, branding and dehorning.

Good Intentions and Good Health for All

Lifeforce acknowledges your good intentions to help animals. As stated in this letter you can do a lot more can be done by just eating a lot less meat.

It is scientifically proven that meat is a risk factor for many diseases such as cancer, heart, and diabetes. These illnesses are the most frequent cause for illnesses and death in humans. This represents a growing financial burden for health care service.

There is a wonderful selection of vegetarian/vegan products on the market. The more we get off the shelf and into government run facilities the more likelihood there will be time to reduce Global Warming.

I look forward to your response.

In Respect for All Life,
Peter Hamilton
Lifeforce
lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com

SAVE OUR SPECIES

