

THANKSGIVING TRADITION?



NO THANKS!

Every year, more than 300 million turkeys are bred for slaughter in the United States. The vast majority of these birds are crowded into "factory farm" confinement operations, where each turkey is given less than three square feet of space. Disease and suffering are rampant in these filthy and inhumane conditions. Stressed, agitated turkeys are driven to excessive pecking and fighting, and to avoid "economic losses," it is common practice to cut off the birds' beaks and toe tips - both painful mutilations that are done without anaesthesia.

To enhance agribusiness profits, turkeys have been genetically engineered to grow abnormally fast and large. Comparing a turkey's growth rate to that of a human baby, an industry newspaper states; "If a seven-pound baby grew at the same rate that today's turkey grows, when the baby reaches 18 weeks of age, it would weigh 1500 pounds." Every year, millions of turkeys die of heart attacks because their bodies cannot support this irregular growth rate.



As turkeys grow, their legs have increasing difficulty supporting their inordinately heavy bodies. Millions succumb to crippling leg and joint disorders. An agribusiness journal laments; "...turkeys have been bred to grow faster and heavier but their skeletons haven't kept pace, which causes "cowboy legs." Commonly the turkeys have problems standing and fall and are trampled on..."

To meet consumer demand for breast meat, modern turkeys have also been altered to have disproportionately large breasts. This anatomical manipulation contributes to the turkey's difficulty in standing, and makes it impossible for the birds to mount and reproduce naturally. Turkey producers have come to rely on artificial insemination as the sole means of reproduction.



When turkeys reach market weight, they are packed into crates and trucked to the slaughterhouse. Here, fully conscious turkeys are hung upside down by their feet on metal shackles, suffering pain and terror as they are carried on a conveyor belt to the killing blade. Under federal "humane slaughter"

laws, turkeys do not have to be stunned during slaughter. As a result, millions of turkeys are bled to death while conscious. Industry reports also indicate that the slaughter process is often inaccurate. When the blade misses its mark, or the conveyor belt is moving too quickly, the birds are boiled alive in the scalding tank.

**Join a new Thanksgiving tradition and
save a turkey instead of eating one.**

For more information
about the Adopt - A -Turkey Project, along with free
vegetarian recipes and other compassionate
living tips, please contact:

FARM SANCTUARY
P.O. Box 150
WATKINS GLEN, NY 14891
607-583-2225

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