

# How did we get here?

## A History of Factory Farming

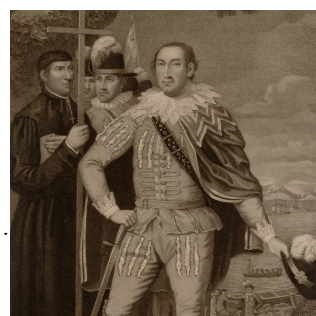
9,000 to 8,000 BCE

After the ice age, humans in the Fertile Crescent began planting crops and domesticating wild animals - the ancestors of the sheep, goats, cows, and pigs that we know today. From there, the world saw a shift from hunter-gatherer to agricultural societies.



1492

Following Christopher Columbus' voyage, European colonists brought the people they enslaved, diseases, and farmed animals to the New World. Within decades, the animal species brought in to be used for farming were bred to become populations of millions.



16th & 17th centuries

The Americas became more dependent on animal-based farming, requiring extensive use of land. The British Agricultural Revolution also began, bringing the adoption intensive crop rotation systems, making it feasible to feed and produce larger numbers of animals.



18th & 19th centuries

The Industrial Revolution inspired technologies used for mass production, including the industrialization of animal agriculture. Selective breeding of farmed animals started; creating sheep who grow unnaturally long wool, cows who produce more milk, turkeys who grow unnaturally large; etc.



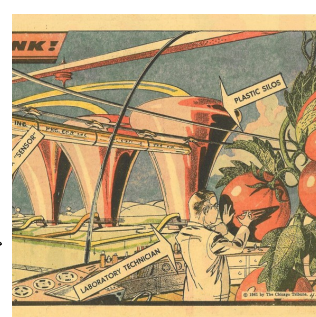
1930's

Use of antibiotics began in the agriculture sector in the US. The ability to drastically reduce the spread of disease in farmed animals led to higher productivity and even greater growth in animal agriculture industry.



1940's to 1960's

As the industry continued to grow in the US, legislation granting federal funds further increased the level of production. Starting with the Agricultural Adjustment Act, agricultural subsidies became disproportionately allocated towards supporting animal agriculture.



The 20th century

By the end of the century, the annual number of animals killed for food neared 10 billion, with 99% of them raised on factory farms. The influence of factory farming had drastically changed our relationship with our food system, agricultural workers, and the animals.



Today

As more people have become aware of the cruelties and inequities with the animal agriculture industry, organizations and individuals have mobilized to shine a light on the dark realities of industrialized farming and advocate for legal and systemic change.



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