

Don't Let Cows Eat Poop!

We need your help to end the dirty, disgusting and inhumane practice of feeding chicken manure (and other dangerous materials) to cows. Please visit us at www.filthyfeed.org to learn about how you can take action and make a difference in the lives of these farm animals. Support FACT's petition to the FDA, write letters to policy makers, and make your voice heard! We are up against strong forces within agribusiness that prioritize profit over safety. FACT is committed to protecting the health of animals and consumers but we can't do so alone. **Please support our efforts!**




About FACT

Our mission is to improve the welfare of food producing animals. We seek to broaden opportunities for humane farmers, and address the public health problems that come from the production of meat, milk, and eggs.

FACT regards factory farming as not only inhumane for animals but also as a major factor behind important public health problems, the deterioration of rural communities, and environmental pollution. Founded in 1982, FACT was the first U.S. organization devoted exclusively to addressing and alleviating farm animal problems. We rely on on-farm research to make science-based recommendations to federal regulatory agencies and as the basis for organizing a broad public response. FACT's commitment to humane farming and public health has made us a leader in addressing these issues for over twenty-five years.

Food Animal Concerns Trust

PO Box 14599
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 525-4952
www.foodanimalconcerns.org
www.filthyfeed.org

 Printed on recycled paper.

Filthy Feed

is this
what you want
your dinner
to be eating?



FACT
food animal concerns trust

Regulatory History of Poultry Litter in the United States

2009

Final feed rule effective as of April 27, but mandatory implementation delayed until October 26, due to requests from industry

2008

FDA failed to include poultry litter among the substances prohibited as cattle feed when strengthening rules to prevent Mad Cow Disease

2005

FDA's proposed rule to address Mad Cow Disease did not include a ban on poultry litter as cattle feed

2004

FDA announced it would consider banning poultry litter due to the risk of Mad Cow Disease transmission

2003

First case of Mad Cow Disease found

1980

FDA revoked its previous ban on poultry litter; gave regulatory authority over to the states' Departments of Agriculture

1967

FDA banned the use of poultry litter as animal feed

Would you feed animal waste to your dog or cat?

Probably not. It's dirty, disgusting, and just seems wrong. Unfortunately, not all animals are so lucky. In areas of the United States where large cattle and poultry operations coexist, chicken waste is routinely fed to cows. Poultry litter consists primarily of manure, feathers, spilled feed and bedding material that accumulate on the floors of the buildings that house chickens and turkeys.

It can contain disease-causing bacteria, antibiotics, toxic heavy metals, feed ingredients normally prohibited for cattle, and even foreign objects such as dead rodents, rocks, nails and glass. Few of these hazards are eliminated by any composting that might occur before use as feed. Surprisingly, this unhealthy and inhumane practice is legal, therefore creating unacceptable risks to human and animal health.

“Surprisingly, this **unhealthy** and **inhumane** practice is legal.”



Ban that poop!

Finding it hard to believe that cows eat chicken poop for breakfast? Confused about why our government allows such a risky and filthy product to be fed to animals used for food? Back in the 1960s, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—the federal agency responsible for protecting public health—banned the use of poultry litter as cattle feed. In 1980, though, the FDA lifted the ban and decided to let the state Departments of Agriculture regulate it. This decision was made decades before Mad Cow outbreaks started to occur and long before the risks of feeding poultry litter were fully understood.

Sadly for cows across the country, the states fared worse than the FDA in reigning in this risky business. After the FDA relinquished its authority, the states did not take up the task of monitoring and regulating the ill effects of the practice. Currently no one is keeping an eye on the practice, so no one is aware of the many problems it is causing. To learn more about these health threats, check out the chart on the next page!

“Currently **no one** is keeping an eye on the practice.”



The disease-causing bacteria and other toxic substances in the litter are dangerous to cows. Farmers compost the litter to remove some of the risky materials. However, composting and other processing methods are only effective if done properly. University extension services are frequently the only source of information on poultry litter processing—and they just don't agree on how to do it. Without uniform and mandatory processing regulations, there is no guarantee that the nasty bacteria inherent to litter will be safely removed. Is this what you want your dinner to be eating?

Unfortunately, no amount of processing will remove the infectious proteins that are responsible for Mad Cow Disease. Even if processing guidelines were more accurate and mandatory, the risk for Mad Cow Disease and its human form (vCJD) remain. Now that you know what our country's cows are forced to swallow, it's time to take action. Since the states are not regulating this filthy feed, the FDA must step in and ban poultry litter as cattle feed once and for all. **We need your help to convince the government to reinstate the litter feeding ban NOW!**



Don't Let Cows Eat Poop!

See back cover. Take action today!

“FDA must step in and **ban poultry litter** as cattle feed once and for all.”

Health Threats

CATTLE

Mad Cow Disease: Poultry litter contains brain and spinal cord tissue from dead cows, which is added to the feed as a protein source for the birds. Prions, the infective agents for Mad Cow Disease, can be found in this tissue which is ultimately fed back to cattle.

Botulism and other diseases: Outbreaks of botulism have been reported in cattle fed poultry litter. Botulism is caused by a very toxic bacterium and leads to severe cases of paralysis and even death. There are numerous other types of disease-causing bacteria present in poultry litter, as well as fungi and viruses.

Antibiotic resistance: Resistant bacteria can cause serious infections in animals. Antibiotic use on livestock farms leads to increased resistance in bacteria in farm environments, farm animals, and in food. These resistant 'super bugs' make it more difficult for veterinarians to treat sick cows.

Fatal Neurological Diseases

Microbial Illness

Antibiotic Resistance

HUMANS

Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD): Litter feeding can potentially spread the human form of Mad Cow Disease (vCJD) as humans eat contaminated meat. Both diseases are slowly progressive, fatal, and affect the central nervous system.

Foodborne illness: The manure in poultry litter contains disease-causing bacteria, including highly virulent strains of *Salmonella*. These bacteria pose risks to the humans who consume contaminated meat. Seventy-six million Americans contract a foodborne illness each year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

Antibiotic resistance: Antibiotic resistance bacteria from the farm can be transferred to humans through contaminated food, water, and infected farm workers. Resistant infections are harder to treat and increasingly lethal.