

What's Wrong With Dairy?



She loves her new baby and Mother Nature intended her milk for her calf. But at just one day old, her calf will be taken away forever, so that humans can drink her milk instead... milk that people don't even need to stay healthy.

**Find out what's wrong with dairy
& what you can do to help**

THE TASTE OF MILK HAS SOURED

Australians annually consume 100 litres of milk and 13 kilograms of cheese per capita.¹ The consumption of these and other dairy products comes at a huge cost to the welfare of Australia's 1.6 million dairy herd.

Many consumers mistakenly believe that dairy cattle lead happy lives, but it can easily be argued that dairy cattle suffer much more during their lives than beef cattle.

What's wrong with dairy?

THE ANGUISH OF LOSING YOUR BABY

After giving birth to a calf, dairy cows produce milk which nature intended to feed the calf for several months. Human intervention prevents this and the calf is removed from its mother when it is just one day old, so that the mother's milk is immediately available for human consumption.²

The removal of her calf is extremely distressing for the mother cow who typically bellows for days afterwards. Even farmers readily acknowledge that all cows yearn for their calves.³ The day-old calves likewise appear upset and bewildered at the disappearance of their mothers.

Mother cows give birth once a year and they must endure these separations from their newborn babies numerous times during their lives.

MALE CALVES KILLED AT 5 DAYS OLD

Male dairy calves known as 'bobby' calves are the unwanted 'by products' of the dairy industry.

700 000 bobby calves are slaughtered annually in Australia usually at 5 days of age.⁴ Their meat is usually turned into protein supplements for the American and Middle Eastern markets.⁵

Whilst being transported from the farm to the abattoir, bobby calves are legally able to be deprived of food for up to 30 hours before slaughter. If these calves were still with their mothers, they would have been fed 5 times during this period.⁴





Many consumers mistakenly believe that dairy cattle lead happy lives

PHYSICAL STRESSES

The average annual milk yield per Australian dairy cow has doubled from 2850L to 5700L over the past 30 years.¹

This dramatic increase in yield through selective breeding has contributed to many health problems including mastitis (painful infection of teats and udder)². It is estimated that between 5% and 20% of a dairy herd will be affected by mastitis.⁷

Intensively farmed dairy cows who stand on concrete floors for long periods of milking also commonly suffer from laminitis, a disease causing inflammation of the foot.

To assist ease of handling, young dairy cows undergo 'disbudding' of their horn buds. The horn growth tissue is removed by heat cauterisation, knives or scoop tools. Analgesia or sedation is not legally required for this painful procedure.²

By the age of 5 or 6 years most dairy cows are no longer producing as much milk as required to remain economically viable. Considered "spent", these animals are then sent for slaughter. A cow's natural lifespan can be 20 years or more.¹⁰

PREGNANT DAIRY COWS INDUCED PREMATURELY

Some Australian dairy farmers engage vets to induce pregnant cows up to one month early so the cow starts lactating. They consider this preferable to the cow being economically unproductive and just 'standing in the paddock' for a few weeks.³

These prematurely induced calves are born weak and have no chance of survival.³

Some farmers then kill these calves with a sledgehammer or the back of an axe.³

Australian dairy industry representatives publicly condoned calving induction in 2012 stating it is, "...one practice as part of the spectrum of reproductive management."⁶



ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The dairy industry requires very large amounts of water and uses 25% of all water allocated for industry irrigation in Australia.⁸

One million litres of water is needed to produce just 1200 litres of milk.⁸

VEAL INDUSTRY

Male calves that are not slaughtered within the first week and unwanted female calves are often used in the veal industry.

Calves used for veal are kept for around 12 to 16 weeks of age before slaughter.

Given little or no access to the outdoors, veal calves are usually kept in groups of 4 or 5 in small pens, or alone in much smaller individual pens.

The veal industry prizes meat that is very pale in colour and to achieve this colour the diet of the calf is restricted.



What can you do?

- ✓ The best way to stop supporting this cruel industry is to stop drinking milk and stop consuming dairy products.
- ✓ Join Animal Liberation Queensland: alq.org.au, 'like' us on Facebook, or contact us to learn more about this issue and our other campaigns to help animals.
- ✓ Learn more about healthy vegan nutrition at whyveg.com (Even Harvard researchers have stated, "Calcium is important. But milk isn't the only, or even the best, source."⁹ A balanced vegan diet can easily provide enough calcium for strong bones, without the animal protein that can contribute to many health problems.)
- ✓ Spread the word about the dairy industry to friends, family and work colleagues.
- ✓ Take the Ditch Dairy pledge at: ditchdairy.com.au

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